



# National Infrastructure Protection Plan

## Education Facilities Subsector

Education Facilities is a Subsector of the Government Facilities Sector, one of 18 critical infrastructure sectors established under the authority of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7 (HSPD-7). Each sector is managed by a Sector-Specific Agency (SSA) that provides sector-level performance feedback to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to enable assessment of national, cross-sector critical infrastructure protection and resilience programs. In accordance with the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP), each SSA is responsible for developing and implementing a Sector-Specific Plan (SSP), in collaboration with public and private sector partners, and for encouraging the development of appropriate information-sharing and analysis mechanisms. DHS has recognized the Department of Education's (ED) Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools (OSDFS) as the SSA for the Education Facilities Subsector (EFS). In this role, EFS coordinates with Federal and non-Federal partners to help address risk management and enhance resilience for the subsector.

### Subsector Overview

The EFS encompasses pre-kindergarten (preK) through 12th grade (preK–12) and post-secondary public, private, and proprietary education facilities. As the SSA for EFS, OSDFS helps to address critical infrastructure protection efforts in the subsector and works closely with the Federal Protective Service, the overall lead for the Government Facilities Sector.

EFS assets and systems vary dramatically and include rural and urban, public and private education facilities ranging from fewer than a hundred students to many thousands of students. EFS assets also include preK–12 and higher education campus grounds, increasing the number of facilities, the level of complexity, and the challenges to risk mitigation.

All subsector critical infrastructure protective efforts are designed to support the overall EFS vision that all education

facilities are ready to prevent-mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from any natural or manmade hazard, by having a comprehensive, all-hazards plan to enhance safety, minimize disruption, and ensure continuity of the learning environment.

For EFS, comprehensive, all-hazards emergency management plans are the appropriate approach to mitigating risk and enhancing resilience for all of EFS' human (students and staff/faculty), physical (the facilities and associated structures), and cyber (business continuity, security and emergency management, sensitive data) assets. Comprehensive plans are based on the four phases of school emergency management (prevention-mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery). Such plans are practiced and updated regularly, coordinated with appropriate State and local partners, and developed in close

collaboration with first responders and the community. They include written plans for an infectious disease outbreak, support the National Incident Management System (NIMS), contain measures to address food defense, and incorporate students and staff with special needs.

### Subsector Partnerships

To achieve its vision, EFS builds on extant preK–12 and higher education emergency management efforts. EFS also works directly with a variety of Federal partners, in addition to State, local, tribal, and territorial governments, to address emergency management issues for education facilities. Because a comprehensive approach to subsector critical infrastructure protection includes understanding and coordinating protective efforts for cross-sector assets, EFS works closely with additional sectors (the Transportation Systems Sector regarding school buses, the Healthcare and Public Health Sector regarding higher education medical facilities, the Nuclear Sector regarding nuclear research and test reactors, and the Commercial Facilities Sector regarding stadiums and arenas) as appropriate.

### Critical Infrastructure Protection Challenges

There are multiple challenges related to critical infrastructure protection for EFS. For example, the subsector includes millions of students, faculty, and staff housed in over 100,000 facilities. Therefore, given the disparity between a facility's population, size, location, and function, comprehensive plans require each facility to consider its uniqueness while still adhering to the four phases of school emergency management. In addition, a comprehensive, all-hazards approach to emergency management takes into account vulnerability assessment data to help education facilities prioritize and mitigate risks. Therefore, while most education facilities may have emergency management plans, many may not have the capacity to develop and maintain comprehensive, all-hazards plans. When these plans do exist, there is often variability in whether or not the plans are comprehensive, practiced regularly, or written in collaboration with the local community, as education facilities are often overlooked when communities are designing their emergency management plans. Further, metropolitan areas often include multiple school districts, but few have regional plans that coordinate activities among the various districts and jurisdictions of first responders.

### ED's Emergency Management Resources

EFS seeks to address, adapt, and respond to the variety of challenges as they arise in the subsector. Critical infrastructure support for the subsector includes a host of school and higher education emergency management resources, available at the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center's website: <http://rems.ed.gov/> and the ED emergency plan website: <http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/emergencyplan/index.html>.

For questions or more information, please contact [NIPP@dhs.gov](mailto:NIPP@dhs.gov) or visit [www.dhs.gov/nipp](http://www.dhs.gov/nipp).



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