



Keeping Livingston Public Schools Safe



Livingston Public Schools

Update on School Security: September 12, 2023

*Justin Toomey - District Security Specialist and
Matt Block - Superintendent of Schools*

KEEPING LIVINGSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SAFE

BACKGROUND

KEEPING LIVINGSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SAFE

- **Communication**
- **Drills**
- **Planning and Strategy**
- **Specific Situation Concerns**
- **Training and Professional Development**
- **Collaboration in Problem Solving**
- **Taking a proactive approach to prevention.**

KEEPING LIVINGSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SAFE

Office of School Preparedness & Emergency Planning (OSPEP) and Livingston Police Department (LPD).

- **Training of District Security Specialist**
- **Comprehensive security plan**
- **Audits opportunities for advice and training**
- **Opportunities for professional development**
- **Research and best practices - Monitoring - Feedback.**

KEEPING LIVINGSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SAFE

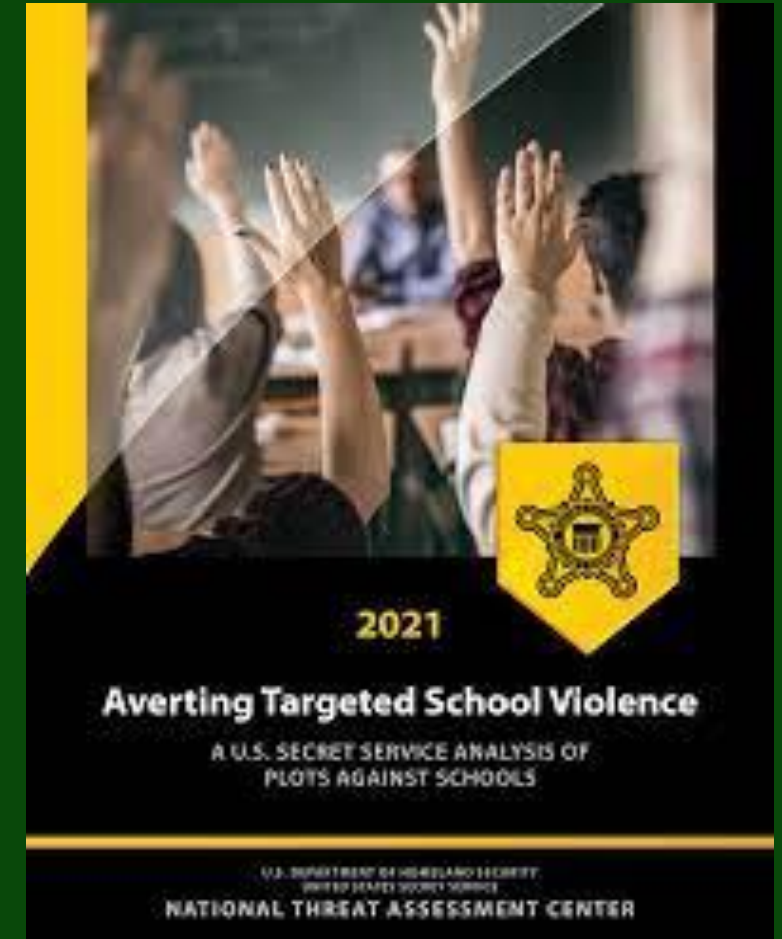
- Security and safety is always our top priority.
- Creating a school and community culture in which we know our students and their families follow up on concerning behavior is paramount.
- Supporting students as they experience troubling events in and out of school is important.
- Parents, family members, and friends need to be full participants in prevention.
- Much gets shared on the internet and social media, so we must be aware and report when something seems threatening.
- We do not share details of our emergency plans publicly, only speak about them in a general fashion. Thank you for understanding.
- Police and fire departments are involved in proactive and active approach to keeping out schools safe.
- There are no 100%s in schools security, but we do know that prevention and mental wellness efforts are essential for keeping schools safe.

KEEPING LIVINGSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SAFE

Proactive Prevention

Averting Targeted School Violence - May 2021 -
US Secret Service / US Department of Homeland Security -
60 page Study on School Violence in America, Studied
actual and averted school shooting plots across the
country:

- 95% - Male
- 87% - High School
- 95% - Current students
- 91% - Experienced severe stressors (Family/ Social)
- 94% - Communicated plot with others**
- 67% - Overtly showed interest in violent themes.
- 33% - Substance Abuse
- 30% - Previous contact with law enforcement
- 21% - Interest in Nazism or similar topics.



KEEPING LIVINGSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SAFE

**THREAT
ASSESSMENT
TEAMS**



“One of the most useful tools a school can develop...is a multidisciplinary school threat assessment team.”

— USDOE & FEMA, 2013

Overview of Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management School-Based Teams

BTAM



01

Background?

Learn more about the policy & components

02

Process?

Explore the steps of the process

03

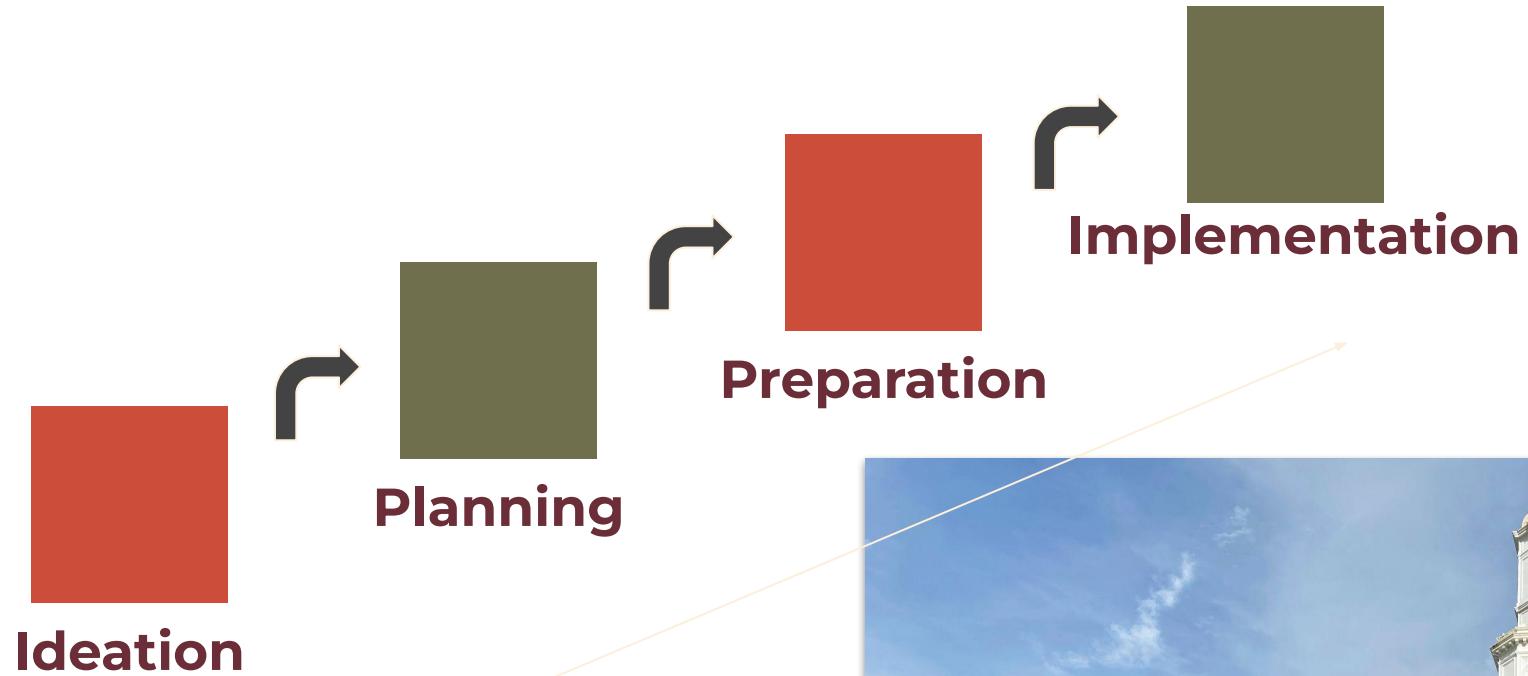
Questions?

Provide feedback and ask any questions



*Developed in accordance with training materials and resources provided by:
US Secret Service, FBI, NJOSPEP, & SIGMA: An Ontic Company, which was the chosen training provider for NJDOE*

Pathway to Violence





Proactively intervene to prevent violent acts of violence

The STAT should provide school teachers and other staff with assistance in:

- identifying students with behaviors of concern
- assessing those students' risk for engaging in violence or other harmful activities
- delivering intervention strategies to manage the risk of harm for students who pose a potential safety risk



Who is on the STAT?



***School
Administrator***



***School Mental
Health
Professional*
School Nurse**



***Law Enforcement*
Security Guard**



**Teachers &
Staff**



What is Threat Assessment?



A

**Identify
Persons of
Concern**

B

**Gather Info
&
Investigate**

C

**Assess
Person &
Situation**

D

**Manage the
Person/
Situation**

FACTS

CONCLUSIONS

STRATEGIES



STAT should meet at least monthly.

1. Meet at least once per month and discuss any scenarios or concerns, as well as review procedures and address any team member questions
1. School administrator will assemble the team whenever a report of concerning behaviors needs to be reviewed as soon as it is safe to do so


What are the steps to follow?



1  **Receive Report**

3  **Gather Information**

2  **Screen Report**

4  **Organize & Analyze Information**

5  **Make Assessment**



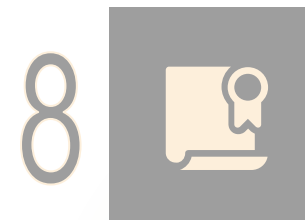
Additional Steps



***Develop &
Implement
Intervention
Strategies**



***Re-Assess**



**Close &
Document
Case**



**complete these only if necessary*

Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management (BTAM) & School-Based Teams

BACKGROUND INFO

- ❖ As per, N.J.S.A. 18A:17-43.4., schools are required to have teams starting in 9.2023
- ❖ Multidisciplinary team made up of School Administrator, Mental Health Professional, and Law Enforcement (at minimum)
- ❖ Reviews and addresses concerning behaviors and threats that are reported

BTAM is NOT...

- ❖ Adversarial or the same as the disciplinary process - although it may lead to discipline
- ❖ A criminal investigation or conviction
- ❖ Profiling based on traits or characteristics
- ❖ Violence prediction



WHAT IS BTAM?

- ❖ Part of a comprehensive approach to school safety
- ❖ A fact-based approach that is case specific
- ❖ Early Intervention & Violence Prevention
- ❖ Compassion-Based & Student-Focused
- ❖ Identifies students on pathway to violence

HOW CAN I HELP?

- ❖ Hear or see something concerning on or off school grounds? Report it to School Administrator(s) in a timely manner!
- ❖ Only report firsthand information & facts
- ❖ Understand this is a confidential process
- ❖ If you feel there is imminent danger and/or it is outside school hours, CALL 911!

TOGETHER, LET'S PROMOTE SAFETY & PREVENT VIOLENCE IN LPS!

KEEPING LIVINGSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SAFE

**LOCKDOWN
TIPS
FOR FAMILIES**

Helpful Lockdown Tips for Families



1. Try not to panic: It is important to remain as calm as possible for you and your child
2. Check texts and emails: Notifications will be sent when a lockdown is enacted, as well as updates, and another notification when it ends
3. Don't share lockdown info on social media: This can be counterproductive to the school's and LPD's efforts
4. Don't call the school: Every staff member has a responsibility, this can distract from those responsibilities getting done
5. Don't go to the school: Schools are not accessible and law enforcement needs to focus on situation and not crowd control



A photograph of four diverse children sitting at a table in a school cafeteria, smiling and eating lunch. A green banner with white text is overlaid at the bottom.

**Together, Let's Promote Safety and
prevent violence in LPS!**



KEEPING LIVINGSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS SAFE

QUESTIONS?