

Center for Assessment, Research, and Educational Safety SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

2020 TEACHERS' SCHOOL SAFETY SURVEY

Thank you for participating in this important research, led by Sam Houston State University with support from the Office of the Governor. You have been selected as a teacher in your school district to offer valuable insights into school safety and victims' services. Should you voluntarily participate in this research, your participation includes completion of a CONFIDENTIALLY RECORDED online survey estimated to take 20 minutes to complete.

All research involves risks. While the risks associated with this research are minimal, you should be informed of the potential risks of this study and efforts to further minimize these risks. Some participants may perceive questions on this survey as sensitive. Some questions pertain to very challenging topics, such as school safety policies of your district and campus or performance of colleagues and students. These questions may be challenging for some individuals. In addition to this minimal risk, the breach of confidentiality of data is also a present but unlikely risk. Your confidential responses will be maintained and stored on a secure server hosted by the Sam Houston State University Office of Information Technology for a period of 5 years. However, identifying information, though collected, will not be stored in this data file and will be kept in a separate file, thus

minimizing the risk of security and confidentiality breaches. Any information you provide will not be shared and all public or private reports or publications will contain non-identifiable, aggregate data. Participants are not required to answer any questions on the survey and, should a question cause you concern, you may skip any question you feel uncomfortable answering. Likewise, refusal to participate in this survey will not result in any adverse penalty to you.

Participants fully completing this survey may enter their email address in a response field to be notified of reports and publications from this work. If you should have any questions about this survey or the use of your feedback in this research, please contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Matthew B. Fuller, Associate Professor, Department of Educational Leadership, College of Education, Center for Assessment, Research, and Educational Safety, Sam Houston State University, Campus Box 2119, Huntsville, TX 77341-2119, (936).294.1147 or EdSafety@shsu.edu. If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a participant, please contact the Sam Houston State University Institutional Review Board at 936.294.4875. The SHSU IRB has reviewed and approved this research (Reference IRB Protocol 2018-111).

Do you voluntarily consent to participate in this confidentially recorded survey?

O Yes

O No

 \rightarrow

Definitions

The Teachers' Safety Survey relies on the following definitions.

A <u>crisis event</u> is any incident that introduces violent, dangerous, or destructive elements to a school environment.

An <u>active attack</u> is a crisis event wherein a perpetrator(s) attacks a school. The modality of the attack may be a shooting, vehicular attack, explosive device, or other form of attack.

A <u>natural disaster</u> is a crisis event involving a weather or geological incident, such as flooding, hurricanes, blizzards, and earthquakes.

<u>Psychological services</u> are any attempt to provide students counseling, hospitalization, psychiatric services, or other mental health support.

<u>District</u> is the Independent School District which operates separate from municipal, county, or state direction.

A threat is an expression of one's intent to do harm, either through writing, symbols, or verbal threats.

Hardening refers to strengthening the built environment of schools to improve security.

Resilience refers to organizations, communities, or individuals' abilities to prepare, plan for, sustain, and recover from or more successfully adapt to crisis events.

Having read these definitions, is there anything you would like to say or ask about them?



The following statements ask you to indicate the extent to which you agree with the statements about **crisis prevention on your campus**.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Our counselors develop strong relationships with students.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teachers on my campus develop strong relationships with students.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Police/Security officers develop strong relationships with students.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Principals develop strong relationships with students.	0	0	O	0	0	0
Students have ready access to behavioral health services/counseling.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Our school often faces legal repercussions for disciplining students who have threatened violence.	0	0	0	0	0	0
There is no way to completely prevent school violence.	0	0	O	0	0	0
School leaders have not been strict enough in their discipline of potentially threatening students.	0	0	Ο	Ο	0	0

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree		Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
We need to harden our schools.	O	0	0	0	0	0
There is pressure on our school leaders to avoid addressing disciplinary concerns.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Our students are resilient.	O	O	0	0	0	0
The majority of our students face difficult hardships (i.e., bullying, hunger, poverty, instability in the family).	Ο	Ο	0	0	0	0
There are ample ways for our students to be involved in organizations or groups on my campus.	0	0	0	0	0	0
What is the best wa	ay to PRE	EVENT an	active atta	ack on your	camp	us?
						/2

__

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements about **law enforcement** on your campus.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
We need more law enforcement officers to make my school safer.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Students respect school police officers' authority.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Our police have a visible presence throughout my school.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Our campus police officers address safety issues before they are a concern.	0	0	0	Ο	0	0
Police or security officers should be used to enforce student discipline policies.	0	0	Ο	Ο	0	Ο

 \rightarrow

We have a committee or process for assessing threats to our school.







Have you experienced a crisis event in your school in the past 5 calendar years (2015-2020)?

A <u>crisis event</u> is any incident that introduces violent, dangerous, or destructive elements to a school environment.

- O Yes
- O No
- O I am not sure

 \rightarrow

NSE to this crisis event
//

The following questions ask you to indicate the extent to which you agree with a variety of statements about a potential **crisis event and safety** in your school.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
It is clear who is in charge of our school's response to a crisis event.	0	0	0	0	0	0
I can identify a student with escalating safety concerns.	0	0	0	0	0	0
I have been trained how to respond to crisis events.	0	0	0	0	0	0
I have been trained to support students and families following a crisis event.	0	0	0	Ο	0	0
I am familiar with resources from state agencies that would be offered to our school following a crisis event.	0	0	Ο	0	0	0
I am familiar with resources offered by the Office of Victims' Services in the Office of the Governor.	0	0	Ο	Ο	0	0

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Our school has all of the services needed to rebound from a crisis event locally.	0	0	Ο	0	0	0
Safety is the most pressing concern for our school.	0	0	0	0	0	0
There is no way to prevent an active attack on our school.	0	0	0	0	0	0
There is no way to mitigate the effects of a natural disaster on our school.	0	0	0	0	0	0
There are many ways to address crisis events.	0	0	0	0	0	0
I worry about the safety of our school.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Government agencies make it easy to stay upto-date on safety laws.	0	0	Ο	Ο	0	0

How prepared are you to respond to the following crisis events:

	Very Unprepared	Unprepared	Somewhat Unprepared	Somewhat Prepared	Prepared	Ver Prepa
Active attack/shooter	0	0	0	0	0	0
Natural disaster	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chemical attack or explosion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Viral or contagious outbreak	0	0	0	0	0	0
Student mental health needs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Notifying parents about crisis events	0	0	0	0	0	0
Notifying community members about crisis events	0	0	0	0	0	0
Engaging local and state emergency response agencies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reunifying families with students following a crisis situation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Returning to school after a crisis situation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long-term counseling following a crisis event	0	0	0	0	0	0

Please rate YOUR CAPACITY as A TEACHER to respond to the following safety issues or victims' needs.

	Very Unprepared	Unprepared	Somewhat Unprepared		Prepared	Ver Prepa
Responding to crisis events as they arise	0	0	0	0	0	С
Working with law enforcement during a crisis event	0	0	0	0	0	С
Working with victims' services following a crisis event	0	0	0	0	0	С
Assessing school safety goals	0	0	0	0	0	С
Planning for new safety concerns	0	0	0	0	0	С
Understanding government processes pertaining to emergency management funds	0	Ο	Ο	0	0	С
Funding new preventative safety measures	0	Ο	Ο	0	0	С
Renovating older schools	0	Ο	Ο	0	0	С

The following questions ask you to indicate the extent to which the following individuals are prepared to respond to a crisis event by moving UP TO 5 groups/individuals to either the "Very Unprepared" or "Very Prepared" boxes. Please select the 5 most prepared and 5 most

unprepared groups/individuals. The first choice you drag into each box will be ranked as the most prepared/unprepared selection.

Items

Our school board

Superintendent

Assistant
Superintendents
and Other Central
Administrative Staff

School police officers/School resource officers

Local law enforcement and emergency services

Principal(s)

Campus Staff (i.e., secretarial, custodial, academic services staff)

Counselors

Teachers

Coaches

Students with special needs/Disabilities

Very Unprepared

Very Prepared High school students

Middle school students

Elementary school students

Parents

Community leaders (i.e. mayors, council members)

Business owners neighboring our schools

 \rightarrow

The following statements ask you to indicate the extent to which you agree with statements about <u>training and professional development in school safety, threat assessment, and victims' services</u>.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Neither agree nor disagree
Training on school safety in my educator preparation coursework was sufficient.	0	0	0	Ο	0	0	0
Professional development on school safety has met my needs.	Ο	Ο	0	0	0	0	0
I have received effective training in identifying students with mental health concerns.	0	Ο	0	0	0	0	0
I have received effective training in threat assessment models.	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	0	0	0
I can identify a student with mental health concerns before that student acts out.	Ο	Ο	Ο	Ο	0	0	0

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Neither agree nor disagree
0	0	0	Ο	0	0	0
Ο	Ο	0	Ο	0	0	0
Ο	Ο	0	0	0	0	0
				al deve	lopment	you
•	•		evelopment	would	you like	to
	O Disagree O of training	O O ibe the types of trade d to prepare you for training and professors.	Disagree Disagree O O O O O Tibe the types of training and place of the types of tr	Disagree Disagree Agree O O O O O O O O O O ibe the types of training and professional development of training and professional development	Disagree Disagree Disagree Agree Agree O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O	Disagree Disagree Disagree Agree Agree Agree Agree O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O ibe the types of training and professional development d to prepare you for crisis events.

 \rightarrow

The following statements ask you to indicate the extent to which you agree with statements about <u>your school's emergency operations plan</u> and <u>safety audits</u>.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
School safety audits have improved school safety.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Our school is more prepared to respond to crisis events because of our emergency operations plan.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Our emergency operations plan is easily accessible to me.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Our emergency operations plan is thorough.	0	0	Ο	0	0	0
Our emergency operations plan is built upon sound research.	0	0	Ο	Ο	0	Ο

How likely are the following crises to occur in your school community?

	Extremely Unlikely	Moderately Unlikely	Somewhat Unlikely	Somewhat Likely	Moderatel Likely
Wildfires	0	0	0	0	0
Earthquakes	0	0	0	0	0
Active shooter attacks	0	0	0	0	0
Vehicular attacks	0	0	0	0	0
Knife attacks or stabbings	0	0	0	0	0
Chemical spills or attacks	0	0	0	0	0
Intentionally set explosions/Bombs	0	0	0	0	0
Incidental fire outbreak	0	0	0	0	0
Intentional fire/Arson	0	0	0	0	0
Floods	0	0	0	0	0
Tornados/Wind damage	0	0	0	0	0
Hurricanes	0	0	0	0	0
Snow/Winter storm	0	0	0	0	0
Crisis event in the community (not on school campus)	0	0	0	0	Ο
Spread of infectious disease	0	0	0	0	0
Terrorist attack	0	0	0	0	0
Other:	0	0	0	0	0

 \rightarrow

The following statements ask you to indicate the extent to which you agree with statements about **the safety issues in your school's surrounding communities**.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Bullying is a prevalent concern in our community.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Student mental health concerns are prevalent in our community.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drug use is a prevalent issue in our community.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alcohol use is a prevalent issue in our community.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual assault is a prevalent issue in our community.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parental involvement is high in our community.	0	0	0	Ο	0	0
Students adhere to a strict code of silence regarding safety issues (i.e., if they learn of threatening behaviors in classmates they do not tell anyone about it).	0	0	0	0	0	0

Please describe any unique resources your school possesses that could improve its resiliency.

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements about <u>arming teachers and staff members with firearms</u>.

NOTE: Asking your response on these questions is not an indication of the likelihood of any policy implementations related to this topic.

Research is being collected to inform best practices and learn about educators' opinions and needs.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
A majority of teachers in our school would like to carry firearms to school.	0	0	Ο	0	0	0
There are instructional or administrative staff I would trust with carrying a firearm on campus.	0	0	0	0	0	0
I support allowing teachers to carry firearms on campus.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arming teachers or staff will deter a shooter from committing an active attack.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arming teachers or staff will reduce the time it takes to respond to an active attacker.	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Arming teachers or staff will have an adverse effect on the learning environment of our schools.	0	0	Ο	0	0	0
If armed, it is likely that a teacher will be overpowered and have his/her gun used in an active attack.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arming teachers or staff will make it difficult for law enforcement officers and first responders to identify actual shooters.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arming teachers or staff could increase work place violence between teachers/staff.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Every campus should have an armed presence of some sort (i.e., police officers, staff, volunteers).	0	0	Ο	0	0	0

I support allowing teachers or staff members to be armed with firearms while working.

'es



 \rightarrow

For those who support arming teachers or staff...

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
A License to Carry is the only training that should be required to arm teachers.	0	0	Ο	0	0	0
Superintendents should have sole authority to determine who can carry a firearm on their campus.	0	0	Ο	0	0	0
I support the School Marshal Program (i.e., districts may appoint a specially trained staff member on each campus to be armed provided he/she has a license to carry, passes a psychological examination, and has completed 80 hours of specialized training).	0	0	O	0	Ο	0

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree		Somewhat Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I support the School Guardian Program (i.e., districts may designate specific employees who are authorized to carry firearms on school premises).	0	0	Ο	Ο	0	0
Please describe t should be require on campus during	ed for tead	chers or s		•	•	
What criteria do yor staff should be hours?						
Powered by Qualtri	ce [3					$\left(\begin{array}{c} \rightarrow \end{array} \right)$

What is the most concerning area related to your school's safety?
What are some ideas you have for improving your school's safety?
Please describe one policy revision you would like to see implemented by the State of Texas (i.e., Legislature, TEA, other agencies) to support school safety or victims' services.
What ideas do you have for supporting student mental health needs?

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your district's safety?



 \rightarrow

Thank you for providing your perspective on this important topic. Your responses will contribute to the development of practices and recommendations for educational safety in Texas.

The Sam Houston State University Center for Assessment, Research, and Educational Safety will be producing reports and research articles from this study. To stay informed about research from this project, join our listserve by clicking the link below.

https://lists.shsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/CARESlist < https://lists.shsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/CARESlist>

You can also look for updates on our website www.shsu.edu/cares.

Thank you and please let us know if we can support you in any way.

Matthew Fuller, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Assessment, Research, and Educational Safety
Director, Doctoral Program in Higher Education Leadership
Sam Houston State University
EdSafety@shsu.edu
936.294.3975