

Behavioral Threat Assessment

THE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST'S ROLE

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GOAL:

- Prevent school violence through research-based practices, comprehensive school safety practices

Research findings on school climate/SEL

- *"Relying on highly restrictive physical safety measures alone, such as increasing armed security or imposing metal detectors, typically does not objectively improve school safety. In fact, such measures may cause students to feel less safe and more fearful at school, and could undermine the learning environment. "* –*Framework for Safe and Successful Schools, NASP, 2013*

Research findings on school climate/SEL

- Meta-analysis of SEL intervention shows SEL participants later demonstrated:
  - 6% increase in high school graduation rates, and an 11% increase in college graduation rates.
  - Less likely to have a clinical mental health disorder,
  - Less likely to be arrested or become involved with the juvenile justice system
  - Lower rates of sexually transmitted infections, and pregnancies.

Child Development, Volume 88, Issue 4, July/August 2017, Pages 1156–1171, Rebecca D. Taylor (Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning), Eva Oberle (University of British Columbia), Joseph A. Durlak (Loyola University), Roger Weissberg (CASEL, University of Illinois at Chicago)

Best Practices for Creating Safe and Effective Schools

- Improve access to school-based mental health services
  - Universal screening
  - Social-emotional programming
  - Behavioral/Mental Health intervention systems
  - Increase number of school-based mental health professionals (school psychologists, counselors, social workers)/Reduce or eliminate responsibilities not related to direct mental health service delivery

Best Practices for Creating Safe and Effective Schools

- Balance physical and psychological safety
- Employ positive discipline practices
- Incorporate appropriate professional development, training, and practice
- Establish a multidisciplinary school safety and crisis team

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