Navigate360

The Leader in Holistic Safety

The Complete Guide to Effective Detection & Prevention for Schools
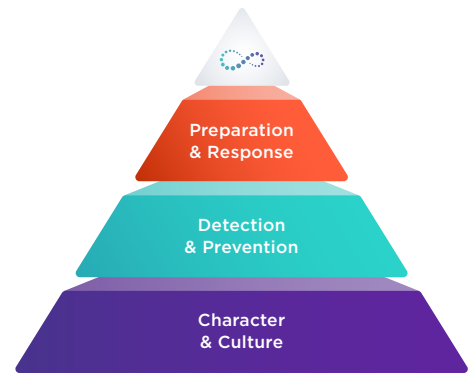
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Setting a Course for Zero Incidents

The Navigate360 Zero Incident Framework includes technology, training, and guidance to help schools plan and implement effective safety, intervention, and character solutions that bring them increasingly closer to a future of zero incidents.

Like you, we at Navigate360 understand that staff and student safety and well-being is complex, multi-faceted, and dynamic. We understand it's not easy, and **we are committed to leading a transformative movement in school safety, redefining the very concept of "safe" to encompass not only physical security, but also the emotional well-being of all people.**

As safety leaders, we must acknowledge the evolving nature of incidents and emergencies taking place in today's world, and take proactive steps to comply, prepare, and respond.

Navigate360 Preparation & Response solutions help maximize your readiness to act.

Navigate360 Detection & Prevention solutions offer a helping hand and bring visibility to the unseen, producing actionable insight to proactively address concerning behaviors, intervene, and mitigate potential harm before incidents occur.

Navigate360 Character & Culture solutions build character, offer supportive interventions, and give everyone a sense of well-being, setting the foundation for student confidence, learning, and a positive school culture.

The Importance of Detection & Prevention in Schools

Threat detection and violence prevention encompass a broad range of concepts that require thoughtful definition. For this guide's purposes, threats are defined as any harmful intention or behavior communicated by an individual or identified by a peer. Harm could be to self or others and include physical, verbal, or emotional abuse.

As you will learn, comprehensive detection and prevention programs build a strong culture of safety by providing safe ways for individuals to report concerns and:

• Establishing and communicating standards for threatening behaviors

• Creating dedicated threat assessment teams to manage cases

• Reinforcing the value of physical, social, and emotional safety for your staff, students, and caregivers

Building a Comprehensive Detection & Prevention Program

Throughout this guide, we will explore the components of a successful threat detection and prevention program. At a minimum, your program should include the following:

- Multidisciplinary team of experts
- Clear school policies and procedures that are available to everyone
- Mechanisms and training to report and identify threats or concerning behaviors
- Education and tools to steer students onto a safer path

Free Threat Assessment Starter Kit

In addition to this guide, we encourage you to use this free Threat Assessment Starter Kit to begin building your program.

Get Your Starter Kit Now

Assemble a Diverse Team of Dedicated Experts

Your threat assessment team is the foundation for your violence prevention program. A diverse threat detection and assessment team allows you to evaluate threats from multiple viewpoints, mitigating bias and ensuring concerns are managed mindfully. At a minimum, the team should include:

- Emergency or safety managers, school resource officers, or local law enforcement
- School psychologists, counselors, or mental health professionals
- School administrators, including principals

Determine Your Threat Assessment Model

Leveraging a consistent, evidence-based process for evaluating, managing, and resolving threats is critical to the success of your threat assessment program. The most-used models include:

• National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC)
• Comprehensive Student Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG)
• Salem-Keizer Threat Assessment System
• State-based custom processes

Be sure to review state and federal policies to determine whether compliance requirements exist for your district before deciding which model to train your team on.

Make Policies & Expectations Clear to Staff, Students, & Families

Once you've determined the procedures your school community will follow, your team should work with your district to validate, solidify, and publish policy updates. These communications should detail:

• Why the policy updates were made and how they will impact existing procedures
• Who crafted the policies and who to contact with questions
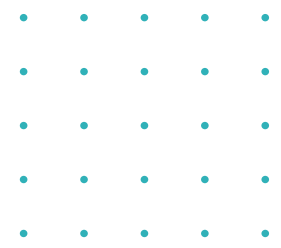• Where and how stakeholders can access the policies

This level of transparency shows your community that school safety is a priority and there are proactive plans in place to keep them safe and thriving.

3 Strategies to Communicate Threat Assessment Policies

1. Digitize your policies for easy access, recognizing their dynamic nature requiring frequent updates.

2. Leverage technology such as Navigate360 Emergency Management to centralize district plans and facilitate quick updates, while automating staff notifications of policy changes.

3. Employ multichannel communications to effectively disseminate updates, integrating digital signatures and mandatory training to ensure awareness and compliance among staff, students, and guardians.

Collecting Reports of Threats or Concerning Behavior

One of the challenges in implementing a detection and prevention program is collecting reliable reports of concern. Research surrounding school violence suggests that indications of threats are often identified but never reported. This is because individuals fear repercussions from those they report, or they are unsure who to report their concerns to.

There are many tools that can help mitigate these hesitations and encourage community members to report concerning behavior.

The Value of an Anonymous Tip Reporting System

Anonymous tip reporting provides your school community with a safe and trusted way to report concerning behaviors. The most effective anonymous reporting programs use 24/7 monitoring services and 2-way communication, ensuring quick routing and effective support for those who pose a threat to themselves or others.

Communicate where and how individuals can file anonymous reports and be transparent about what information you collect and how it is used to keep your community safe.

The Power of Digital Threat Detection

While anonymous tip reporting builds trust and allows individuals to safely report concerns, your team should consider additional proactive tools that monitor and identify threats ethically and accurately.

With millions of online conversations happening across digital channels, critical information can easily slip through the cracks. Scanning school-owned G-Suite and Microsoft platforms and public social media activity for language that indicates a student is considering or experiencing harm provides you with an additional layer of valuable information that could save lives.

Like your anonymous tip reporting system, best practices for digital threat detection involve informing your community of these tools and educating them on their value. Let your community know what information is collected and how this information is used to keep your school community safe.

Managing Reports of Threats or Concerning Behavior

With your system of tools in place to collect reports, your team now faces a bigger question: What do you do when a viable threat is identified?

Your chosen threat assessment model will provide a consistent process for evaluating threats. It also helps to determine who should be involved, what information is shared and with whom, as well as what your path to intervention or resolution should look like.

Following a structured threat detection and management process allows you to determine where roadblocks appear and helps your team refine procedures for best-practice outcomes.

3 Ways to Improve Threat Assessment & Case Management Processes

1. Enhance your team's capabilities through detailed threat assessment training tailored to your chosen model.

2. Implement technology to streamline threat assessment procedures in alignment with your chosen model and district policies to maximize efficiency.

3. Utilize additional systems like digital language analysis to enrich the evaluation process, leveraging multiple data points for more comprehensive assessment.

Summary

We know that the safety of your school community is your top priority. Building a layered, holistic culture of safety is essential to ensure staff and students can thrive. A transparent and comprehensive threat detection and violence prevention program is a powerful addition to this mission.

Defining and communicating new policies, involving dedicated teams and community stakeholders, and reinforcing concepts of social-emotional learning solidify your commitment to safety and empower your people to reach their full potential.

A Layered, Holistic Approach to Safety

Navigate360 stands at the forefront of enhancing staff and student safety and overall well-being by offering schools a layered, holistic platform. In striving for zero incidents, adopting a comprehensive, layered strategy offers the following advantages:

Consistency & Reliability: Guaranteeing coherence and effectiveness throughout your entire district.

Adaptability & Future-Proofing: A single, adaptable solution that caters to your present requirements while being primed for future expansion.

Streamlining & Intelligence: Centralizing your district's suppliers, technology, and data for simplified operations and actionable insights.

Visit www.Navigate360.com to learn more about taking this important step toward a future of zero incidents.