



Proactive School Crisis Management: A Checklist for K-12 Leaders

1. Build Resilience Across the School Community

- Foster a supportive school climate where students feel safe and valued.
- Promote peer connection programs to encourage inclusivity and belonging.
- Partner with local safety officials to regularly review and update safety protocols.
- Engage staff in safety committees and ensure they understand security procedures.
- Encourage students to develop healthy relationships with peers and trusted adults.

2. Prepare Staff and Students for Potential Crises

- Use universal screening tools to identify at-risk students.
- Train staff to recognize early warning signs of social, emotional, and behavioral distress.
- Incorporate peer mentoring and social-emotional learning into school programs.
- Conduct safety drills and scenario-based training regularly.
- Offer professional development on crisis recognition and response techniques.

3. Establish a Comprehensive Crisis Response Plan

- Create clear communication channels for crisis situations.
- Identify key crisis types (e.g., suicide, natural disasters, violence).
- Assemble school-based, district-level, and regional crisis teams.
- Prepare crisis kits with ready-to-use materials (e.g., letters, templates, press releases).
- Define roles for crisis team members, such as communications and media coordinators.

4. Provide Immediate Support During and After a Crisis

- Make wellness resources easily accessible for staff and students.
- Empower trusted staff to lead during crises to ensure calm and effective management.
- Collaborate with mental health providers to deliver timely interventions.
- Implement defusing sessions to help staff and students process events in a safe environment.

5. Facilitate Reflective Debriefing

- Organize guided post-crisis debriefing sessions for staff and students.
- Encourage open dialogue about the response, identifying successes and areas for improvement.
- Ensure ongoing resources are available to address emotional and operational needs.

6. Offer Follow-Up Support and Resources

- Provide ongoing access to counseling services and support groups.
- Regularly check in with students and staff to assess their emotional well-being.
- Train staff to identify delayed stress reactions and respond appropriately.

7. Strengthen Organizational Support Systems

- Update crisis plans based on lessons learned from past incidents.
- Offer training on stress management and resilience-building for staff.
- Partner with community organizations for additional expertise and resources.

Make Crisis Planning Easier with eLuma

Collaborate with eLuma to strengthen your school's crisis response efforts. From teletherapy services to staff professional development, we're here to help build a resilient, supportive school community.

Contact us today to start improving your crisis management strategies!



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