
Minnesota School Safety Center

Vision

All Minnesota K-12 schools will have a safe school environment.

Mission

The mission of the Minnesota School Safety Center (MnSSC) is to serve as an essential school safety resource to schools, law enforcement, emergency responders and community partners by providing information, guidance, training, and technical assistance for all-hazard safety planning for schools. The MnSSC coordinates its preparedness activities of prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery with federal, state and local partners.

Governance Structure

The MnSSC was re-established in May, 2013 by the MN state Legislature with the passage of [Minnesota Session Laws, Chapter 86](#), article 1 (Appropriations), section 12 (Public Safety). The Center is not directly overseen by an official appointed advisory board.

The MnSSC exists within the Preparedness Branch of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) Division of the Department of Public Safety. HSEM, the state coordinating agency for all-hazards emergency preparedness, provides complete administrative support to the MnSSC.

Core Functions

The MnSSC strives to embody the following basic tenets:

- Schools can be made safer when schools, law enforcement and communities work together .
- Being safe is a key element for learning.
- The MnSSC is an essential resource to schools, law enforcement, emergency responders and community partners offering access to comprehensive training and technical assistance in preparing for a school emergency.
- The MnSSC enhances statewide partnerships so that everyone can be part of the coordinated response solution (schools districts, law enforcement agencies, communities).



Embracing best practices, the MnSSC concentrates on several basic functions:

- Establishing and maintaining a **State School Emergency Response Coordination Team** with members from HSEM (MnSSC Director), the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA - investigating agent), DPS Communications (Public Information Officer), Fire Marshal's Office (FMA – school safety inspector), Minnesota Department of Education (MDE – School Climate Specialist, Restorative Practices), and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH - Behavioral Health and Emergency Preparedness).
- Determining response roles of the State School Emergency Response Coordination Team specific to the nature of the incident - natural disaster or school violence. The team will be available to provide guidance or direct support to an Incident Commander or school official, or to respond to the scene during large emergencies when requested.
- Develop and maintain a state coordinated response plan by specific and relevant state agency representatives, pertaining to a specific crisis/emergency/request/need of schools.
- Guide school districts in their emergency planning needs and plan enhancements.
- Develop and provide training, planning and presentations to include:
 - Safe School Assessments
 - Threat Assessment
 - School Resource Officer
 - Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning
 - Active Shooter/Intruder
- Conduct training needs assessment
- Coordinate required training

Key Partners

- Schools (boards/ district administrators/school administrators/school staff)
- Law enforcement agencies (local/county/state/federal)
- Education/law enforcement/community-related associations
- State agencies
 - Minnesota Department of Education
 - Minnesota Department of Health
 - Minnesota Department of Public Safety
 - * Homeland Security and Emergency Management
 - * State Fire Marshal
 - * Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
- Federal Agencies
 - Department of Homeland Security
 - US Department of Education
- Other school safety centers

Training

The MnSSC provides essential training to schools, law enforcement and community partners on relevant topics such as:

- Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools
- Threat Assessment in Schools
- Tools for Schools
- National Incident Management System
- Active Shooter /Intruder
- Bomb Threats
- School Resource Officer
- Crisis Communications

In addition to the formal training classes, staff of the MnSSC also provides:

- Conduct outreach activities (facility assessments, plan reviews)
- Participation at professional conferences
- Assistance in scenario design and the evaluation of drills and exercises involving schools