



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 a resource to schools, law enforcement, emergency responders and community partners by providing information, guidance, training and technical assistance for all-hazard safety planning. The MnSSC coordinates its prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery activities with federal, state and local partners.

Governance Structure

The MnSSC was re-established in May, 2013 by the Minnesota 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 appointed advisory board. The MnSSC operates in the Preparedness branch of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) Division of the Department of Public Safety. HSEM is the state coordinating agency for all-hazards emergency preparedness and provides administrative support to the MnSSC.

Operating Principles

The MnSSC strives to embody the following principles:

- Schools are not unsafe, but they can be made safer when schools, law enforcement and communities work together
- Being safe is a key element of learning
- The MnSSC is an essential resource for schools, law enforcement, emergency responders and other partners, offering training and technical assistance as communities prepare to handle any school emergency
- The MnSSC enhances partnerships so that school districts, law enforcement agencies, and communities can be part of a coordinated response

Core Functions

The MnSSC will concentrate on these core functions:

- Form a state agency School Emergency Response/Recovery Team
- Develop two strategies for determining the School Emergency Response/Recovery Team role; based on the nature of the incident (natural disaster or school violence) the team will be available to provide support to an Incident Commander, a school official, or to respond to the scene during emergencies.
- Develop state-coordinated response plans for state agency representatives



- Guide school districts in developing and enhancing emergency plans
- Assist in the development of all hazard safety plans for schools

Key Partners

- Schools (boards, district administrators, school administrators, school staff)
- Law enforcement agencies (local, county, state, federal)
- Associations related to education, law enforcement, community members
- State agencies
 - Minnesota Department of Education
 - Minnesota Department of Health
 - Minnesota Department of Public Safety
 - * Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
 - * State Fire Marshal Division
 - * Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
- Federal Agencies
 - Department of Homeland Security
 - U.S. Department of Education
- Other school safety centers

Organizational Structure, Roles and Responsibilities

The MnSSC will maintain a core group of subject matter experts from HSEM and other state agencies as a decision-making workgroup to guide the MnSSC and its activities. The MnSSC staff will include a School Safety Center Director, a School Emergency Planning Coordinator, a Safe-School Assessment Coordinator and a School Resource Officer Coordinator.

Regional training classes to be conducted will include:

- 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 will:

- Conduct outreach activities (facility assessments, plan reviews)
- Present at professional conferences
- Help design scenarios and evaluate drills and exercises that involve schools