The primary responsibility of every school district is to ensure a safe and secure environment for students, staff, and visitors. Listed below are articles and resources on school safety and crisis management, including emergency preparedness and disaster management. (Items in Bold represent Links.)

Webinars and Videos

In the News

American School Board Journal and School Board News Today Articles
Research and Reports
Resources for School Attorneys
State School Board Associations and Other Resources

Resources on Homeless Students

When students and families are displaced during the emergency, federal law and guidance on homeless students may apply. Following are resources on homeless students from the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education.

U.S. Department of Justice: Q&A on what documentation schools can collect from students

U.S. Departments of Justice and Education: Information on the Rights of All Children to Enroll in School: Questions and Answers for States, School Districts and Parents

U.S. Department of Education: Identifying and Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness from Pre-School to Post-Secondary Ages

Education for Homeless Children and Youths Program Nonregulatory Guidance (2016)

Webinars and Videos

Webinar: Dec. 21, 2012: Planning For and Managing the School Crisis You Hope Never Comes
Sponsored by the National School Boards Association’s Office of General Counsel and the Council of School Attorneys.

Video: Dec. 19, 2012: School Safety following Sandy Hook
Missouri School Boards’ Association interviews Paul Fennewald of the Missouri Center for Education Safety on School Safety following Sandy Hook

American School Board Journal and School Board News Today Articles

School Board News Today Articles on School Safety and Security

School Security After Sandy Hook
Addressing school safety doesn’t mean simply responding to the latest horrific shooting. Districts have to put school shootings in perspective and understand where the threats are more likely to come from. Schools should take an “all-hazards” approach that considers the best responses to a variety of emergencies.
ASBJ December 2013

School Safety Plans
Working together, schools and community partners can focus their emergency planning using time-tested national guidance, including efforts to build a positive school climate to establish relationships of trust and
respect among students and staff in order to encourage them to share information about threatening behavior before an incident occurs.

Preventing a crisis communication plan before a crisis hits (2015)

Research and Reports

School Shootings and Student Mental Health - What Lies Beneath the Tip of the Iceberg
Recommendations created by William Dikel, M.D., Independent Consulting Psychiatrist, for NSBA's Council of School Attorneys.

Student Perceptions of School Safety
Studies show that students who do not feel safe at school stay home. And when students aren't in school, they don't perform academically. The Center for Public Education’s Data First project discusses student perceptions and how school officials can help keep them safe.

Resources for School Attorneys

Available for Council of School Attorneys members: School Law Primer - School Safety: Legal Pointers for Public Schools: September 2012


School Safety and Emergency Preparedness (2013 seminar paper)

State School Board Associations and Other Resources

Connecticut Association of Boards of Education: Dealing with Tragedy

New York State School Boards Association: “Tending to Our Youth”
The report recommends specific actions that school districts can take to increase school safety, including ways to identify possible warning signs of students at-risk and provide support to students who do not feel that they belong in the school community. (March 2013)

Missouri Center for Education Safety
U.S. Department of Education: Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center

Texas Association of School Boards Hurricane Harvey Resources

U.S. Department of Education: Practical Information on Crisis Planning

U.S. Department of Education Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center: Post-Disaster Reunification

U.S. Department of Education Activates Emergency Response Contact Center

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Federal Emergency and Disaster Policies

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Post-Disaster Child Care Needs & Resources Matrix