Risk Management

School Safety

- What is risk management?
    - Risk management is the process of making and taking action on decisions that will minimize the adverse effects of risk on an organization.
    - In schools, possible risks include injury of a student or employee, active shooter, disasters (natural & man made), a lawsuit filed by a parent or community member, or damage to the school's reputation.

- What is School Safety?
  - School safety requires efficient and coordinated information and activities among school staff, first responders, resource officers, and emergency managers.
  - The purpose of the School Risk Management Plan is to document pertinent data and processes that will be used by a school to prevent, mitigate, respond and recovery from different hazards and threats.

- **Why Is Risk Management Important in Schools?**
  - Risk management is important because it can limit exposure to students, faculty, staff, from any harm, while also protecting your financial assets and lowering your legal liability.
  - Not only will developing a risk management plan for your school reduce the chances of risks, but it will also mitigate the effects of those risks if they should occur.
  - For example, if you do have a student that is showing symptoms from COVID-19 during the school day, you will already have a response plan in place to make sure the adverse effects stop there. Attempting to prevent the spread of the virus.
  - Risk management comes with these benefits for school administrators:
    - Protect people from harm.
    - Limit the possibility of a lawsuit.
    - Safeguard your public reputation.
    - Reduce potential losses in revenue.
    - Make your students, teachers, and parents feel safe.

- Questions to consider when evaluating risk management & school safety.
  - Does your district or school currently have a dedicated person responsible for coordinating and managing emergency preparedness, safety, and security?
  - Does your school or district have an anonymous reporting system in place for the school community to report suspicious concerns or activities?
  - Does your school or district have a multidisciplinary threat assessment team assembled?
  - Does your school or district have an updated Emergency Operations Plan?

- Questions Continued
  - Does your school or district conduct a site assessment?
  - Are school staff trained on the Emergency Operation Plan along with safety & security procedures?
  - Are students trained on safety and security aspects of the Emergency Operations Plan or other school / district polices and procedures?
  - Does your school or district conduct exercises and drills as on a regular basis?
  - Does your school or district's Emergency Operations Plan include recovery plans?

- **How to Create a Risk Management Plan for Your School**
  - **Identify Risks**
  - Before you can develop response plans, you need to know which risks are out there. Some will be obvious, such as a COVID-19 infection, while others will be more hidden, such as an unsafe area of a playground or chemistry lab.
  - To identify risks, brainstorm with your internal team. Also, include other stakeholders and industry experts in your identification process. They might have experience which sheds light on risks your team hadn't considered.
  - Once risks have been identified, prioritize them (consider classifying them into categories). For example, you could have a section for operational risks and one for financial risks.
  - Ensure that the members of the team have access to the list. That way, the team can continuously monitor the risks and safeguards being implemented.

- **Assess Each Risk's Likelihood and Impact**
    - Once a list of risks has been generated, start analyzing each one. Start by going through the list and assign each of them a likelihood score (low to high). Then, give them an impact score (low, moderate, or severe). You can also assign probabilities or numbers to each risk. You can use these numbers in this formula to calculate each event's risk.
    - **Risk = Probability x Impact.**
    - Then, put the organized matrix of risks into a live document where your team members can track and update them. For instance, if one child became sick from a certain contagious skin infection, then the probability, and therefore risk, of the event would increase.

PRIMA TUTORIALS

	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Significant	Severe
Very Likely	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi	High	High
Likely	Low	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi	High
Possible	Low	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi	Med Hi
Unlikely	Low	Low Med	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi
Very Unlikely	Low	Low	Low Med	Medium	Medium

Impact →

Likelihood ↑

- **Create Action / Response Plans**
  - Next, create plans to lessen the chances of risks occurring and responses if the risks should occur. For example, a plan to restrict the public from accessing schools lessen the chances of active shooter entering the facility. An action would be to inspect entry ways on a regular basis to ensure the public does not have open access to the school.
  - Remember, the magnitude of loss prevention measures taken in schools for each risk depends on the risk's probability and severity. So, when creating response plans, keep your resources (time, budget) in mind. It's unwise to spend a lot of a time and resources on preventing a low probability, low impact risk.

- **Make Contingency Plans**
  - Even the best thought out risk responses have associated risks. Sometimes the first response plan may not be feasible because of the lack of proper resources or access at the time of the incident. Or, perhaps the circumstances are slightly different than the risk assessment team had anticipated. For example, sometimes a fire renders one escape route unusable. An alternative route will need to be readily identified and utilized.
  - So that these possible problems don't completely derail your response efforts, you need contingency plans for each risk, especially the most probable and severe ones. Contingency plans need to be reviewed and considered as much as the initial plans.

- **Continuously Monitor Risks**
    - New risks will come into play as the school year progresses, especially during such unprecedented times, So, it's critical to monitor your risks and continue evaluating the potential for new risks or editing potential probabilities / severity of previously identified risks.
    - This is why a risk management system designed for monitoring safety in schools is necessary.

PRIMA TUTORIALS

- References
  - https://www.campussafetymagazine.com/safety/threat...
  - https://www.teachingexpertise.com/articles/..