Statistics since Columbine

U.S. SCHOOL SHOOTINGS SINCE COLUMBINE
[199 REPORTED INCIDENTS INVOLVING GUNS]

- DEATHS
- INJURIES

K-12 SCHOOL
- DEATHS: 148
- INJURIES: 264

UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE
- DEATHS: 121
- INJURIES: 141
Varying degree of events

• Large-scale events-disrupt the educational day for all students:
  • An accident involving a student or staff member
  • Death of a classmate or teacher
  • School Shooter
  • Terroristic activity
  • Fire or chemical spill
  • Natural Disasters
Varying degree of events

• “Everyday events”- disrupt the educational day for individual/groups of students:
  • Domestic Violence
  • The Suicidal Student
  • Self-Mutilation
  • The Violent Student
  • The Substance Abusing Student
  • The Pregnant Adolescent
  • Divorce
  • Survivors of Motor Vehicle Accidents
How are schools responding?

- School Safety Plans
- Crisis Response Teams
- Trainings
- Drills
- Facility Upgrades
- Collaboration with local agencies

“Failing to plan is the same as planning to fail.”
WASD School Safety-District Level

• All-Hazards School Safety Planning Toolkit

The Pennsylvania "All Hazards" School Safety Planning Toolkit is designed to help school districts/schools in their efforts to plan for all types of disasters, natural and human-caused.

• Plan addresses all four phases of an emergency:
  ▪ Prevention/Mitigation- minimizing the risk due to mitigation efforts
  ▪ Preparedness- linking the school with the community partners (LLE, EMS, Fire, EMA)
  ▪ Response- The action steps and those who have a role in the response effort
  ▪ Recovery- Recognizing warning signs and providing assistance to reduce the overall impact of an incident

• 26 different types of emergencies listed
  ▪ Fire
  ▪ Active Shooter
  ▪ Severe Weather
WASD School Safety-District Level

- All-Hazards School Safety Planning Toolkit
  - Developed in a joint effort with Pike and Wayne County EMA
  - Updated annually and after every event (AAR)
  - Distributed annually to all local law enforcement agencies
  - Plan includes-emergency contact lists, threat assessment teams, various flow-charts
  - Reunification Plans
WASD School Safety-District Level

• SRO’s
  • Director of School Security, 3 Building-level SRO’s, 4 substitute SRO’s

• MOUs (Memorandums of Understanding)
  • State Police
  • Sheriff’s Department
  • Red Cross

• Emergency Education and Shelter Agreements
  • Wallenpaupack
  • Western Wayne
  • Wayne Highlands

• Maps and Blueprints-State Police Tours

• Multi-Agency Drills
  • WASD campus served as site for drills with local and regional EMS, fire, and law enforcement
    ▪ Operation Paupack drill
    ▪ Train vs. school bus drill
    ▪ Water supply drill
    ▪ Bleacher collapse drill
WASD School Safety-District Level

• **District-wide Safe Team**
  - Meets monthly
  - Rotate buildings-tours given monthly
  - Goal: Review of each building to assess potential safety concerns for our staff/students

• **Nurses Meetings**
  - Meet monthly
  - Implementing new Caredox program
  - Review procedures and protocols
  - Substitute nurse training
  - Naloxone in every building-all nurses and building administrators are trained to administer
  - Epi-pens-all teachers/building administrators are trained to administer
WASD School Safety-District Level

• Mental Health
  • Friendship House
  • VIP
  • Wayne County Drug and Alcohol

• Strengthening Families Program
  • Relationships are formed with student to parent, student to school, parent to school
  • Opens lines of communication
  • Students gain trust in the adults

• Rachel’s Challenge
  • Strengthening Relationships, Families, Communities
WASD School Safety: Building Level

• Drills
  • Fire Drills
    ▪ Preformed monthly, sometimes with usual exits “blocked” to simulate possible real-life scenarios
    ▪ Plan for assisting wheelchair-bound and special needs students
    ▪ Alternative routes established in the event of snow blocking evacuation routes or meeting locations
    ▪ Student accountability sheets collected before returning to building
  • Code Green/CRT
    ▪ Periodic, school-wide, to prepare CRT, teachers, and students in the event of an actual emergency. Building level is practiced annually.
• Code Red
  ▪ Reviewed with all staff yearly
  ▪ Practiced biennial with students
WASD School Safety: Building Level

• Drills
  • Active Shooter
    ▪ Staff only-in-service training
    ▪ SRO’s in conjunction with PSP provided the training
  • Emergency Weather Preparedness
    ▪ Annual drill for students and staff (spring)
  • Lobbyguard
    ▪ Instant background checks for anyone entering the buildings
    ▪ Enforces sign-in/sign-out times
    ▪ Prints visitor badges for building accountability
• Safe teams
  ▪ Meet quarterly
  ▪ Open to all staff members
WASD School Safety: Building Level

• Crisis Responses Teams comprised of faculty, staff, and administrators
  • List of pertinent staff certifications (related to safety/security/medical emergencies) maintained by offices

• Emergency Desktop Reference Guides
  • Posted in every classroom
  • Quick snapshot of action needed to be taken
  • Great for substitutes
  • Examples: Codes, Severe Weather, Emergency Evac, Maps

• Desktop First Aid Guides
  • Similar to EDRG
  • Examples: Allergic reaction, asthma, fractures, burns

• Go Kits/Bags
  • Posted in every classroom
  • Items needed for an evacuation
WASD School Safety: Building Level

• Staffing

  • Additional counselors added to the buildings (Crisis Counselors)

• SAP/FAME Teams
  ▪ Assist students to help them become academically successful
  ▪ Offer support groups
WASD Safety Policies/Guidelines

- Anti-bullying policy
- Student Handbook: Code of conduct and discipline- Safety, Order, Discipline
- Athletic code of conduct
- Extracurricular code of conduct
- Drug and Alcohol Policy for extracurricular/athletic participants
- Acceptable Use Policy
- Policy on Harassment
- Crisis intervention personnel, including administrators, training and updates
- Crisis Intervention Counselor on staff in each district building
- Student Assistance Team
- Student support groups
- Student Facilitators
- Peer Tutors
- School-wide self-esteem and drug awareness programs
- Written formal intervention procedures
- Collaboration with local social services agencies to provide for student needs on campus when feasible
WASD Safety Initiatives

- Interior and exterior security cameras
- Fire/burglar alarm upgrades
- Bus camera system upgrades
- All exterior doors numbered
- All exterior doors locked during school hours (hourly checks by staff)
- Restricted access to master keys
- Main entrance visible in office via monitor
- Staff photo ID badges – must be worn at all times
- Staff trained to question anyone in building without an ID badge
- Teachers instructed in classroom/building safety procedures
- Staff swipe card system-utilize one access point of building
- Safety Scavenger Hunts-identifying AED/closest exits/alternative exits/fire extinguisher locations
- Hazard Hunts- building searches for possible hazards
WASD Safety Initiatives

• Bus loading area restricted during loading/unloading
• Bus loading area monitored by staff in morning and evening
• Staff monitors bus loading areas, cafeteria, gymnasium, and hallways during students’ morning entry into and afternoon exit from school building.
• Hallways monitored between classes
• Sign-in/Sign-out sheets utilized in every classroom (student accountability)
• All staff issued parking stickers and assigned to designated parking areas
• Unused areas of school can be closed off/locked during after-school activities
• Written permission necessary for students to leave building during school hours
• Written permission required for students to change transportation routine after school
Communications

- State Police and EMA provided with electronic and hard copies of All Hazards EOP, maps, and blueprints
- Building tours with local fire departments and state police
- Table Top Drills
- Control of ventilation system from remote locations.
- AED machines in open areas with signs throughout building indicating location
- Portable radios for administrative use
- Radios given to teachers taking classes outside
- Interoperability of radios among schools-nurses/SRO designated channels
- Telephones in every classroom with district-wide and external access
- Continuing to build relationships with our students and community to increase communication with potential concerns/solutions.
Continued Safety Focus

- Tighten existing safety procedures based on recent national events
  - Teachers checking hallways before vacating building with fire drills.
- Enhance existing camera systems
- District-wide Code Red Drills to be conducted annually (Fall)
- Repeater to be placed on the high school for increased coverage of two-way radios
- State Police integration with our two-way radios
- Table-top exercises-reviewing All-Hazards/Reunification with support staff
Questions?

Keith E Gunuskey, Assistant Superintendent
2552 Route 6
Hawley, Pa 18428
570-251-3000
gunuskke@wallenpaupack.org