



2023

Unarmed Response to an Active  
Shooter Event – School Transportation

# DISCLAIMER

This slide presentation is offered as a free guide to Indiana educational institutions by the Indiana State Police. The Indiana State Police Department is solely responsible for the content of this guide.

The program simply offers examples of prevention strategies and response options that may be exercised in an “Active Shooter Event”. This program is not intended to comprise a complete program for preventing and responding to an active shooter event, nor is it meant to serve as a substitute for expert advice provided by local law enforcement, as well as medical, psychiatric and legal personnel.

The material provided in this presentation is only intended to serve as a supplement to your organization’s comprehensive safety program. While effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, no guarantee of accuracy or completeness is offered or implied. The Indiana State

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# What is an Active Shooter?

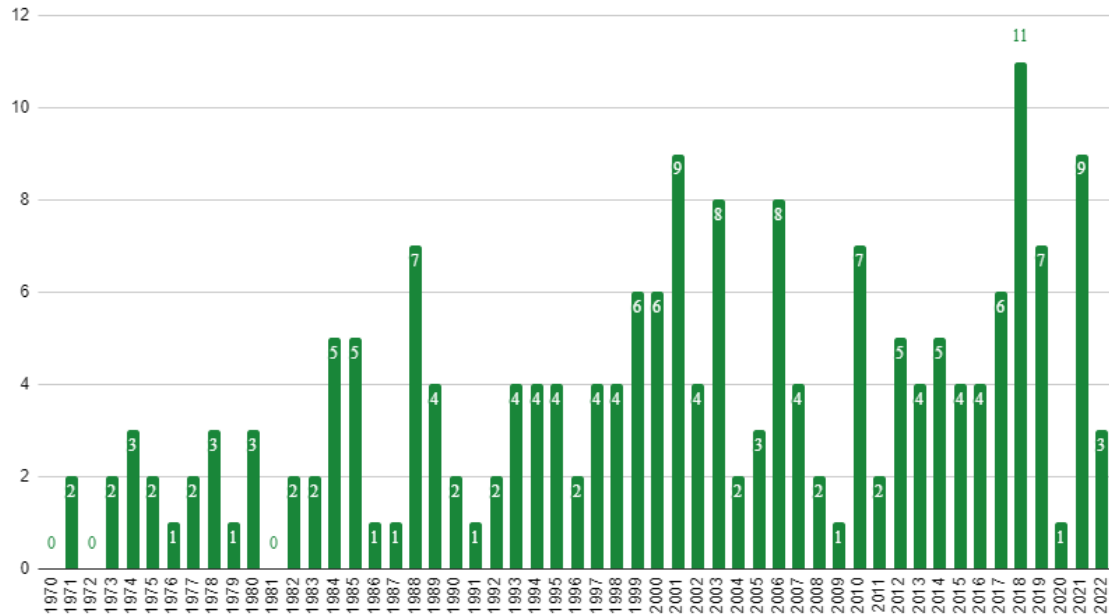


One or more subjects who participate in a random or systematic act(s) of violence demonstrating the intent to continuously inflict death or serious bodily injury on another person(s) and does so while having access to additional potential victims.

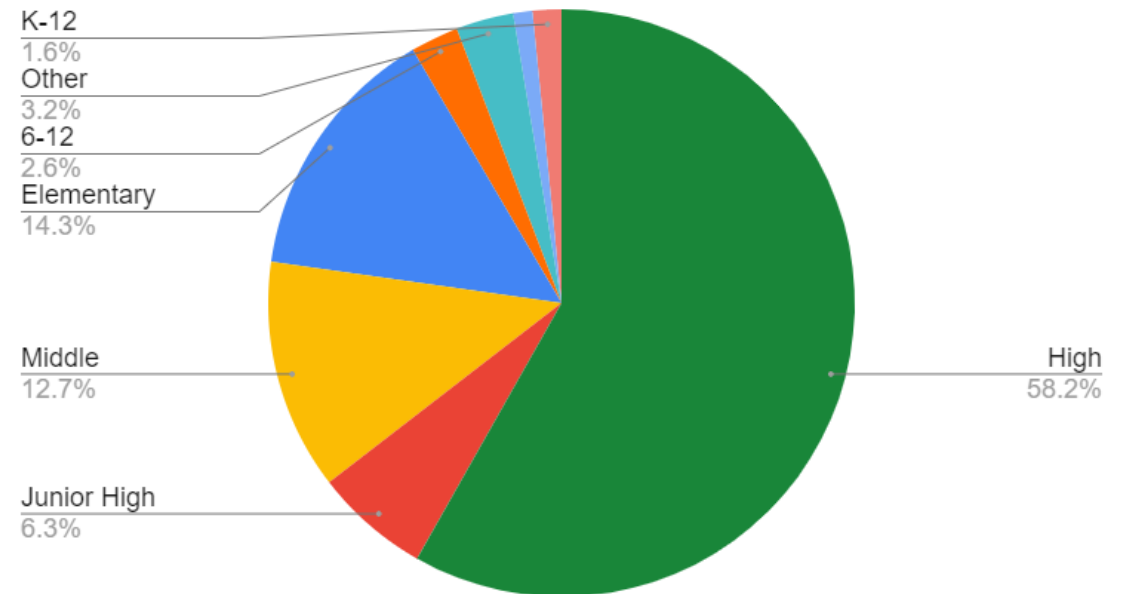
# School Active Shooter Incidents

1970-2022 (<https://k12ssdb.org/active-shooter>)

Active Shooter Situations at K-12 Schools: 1970-2022



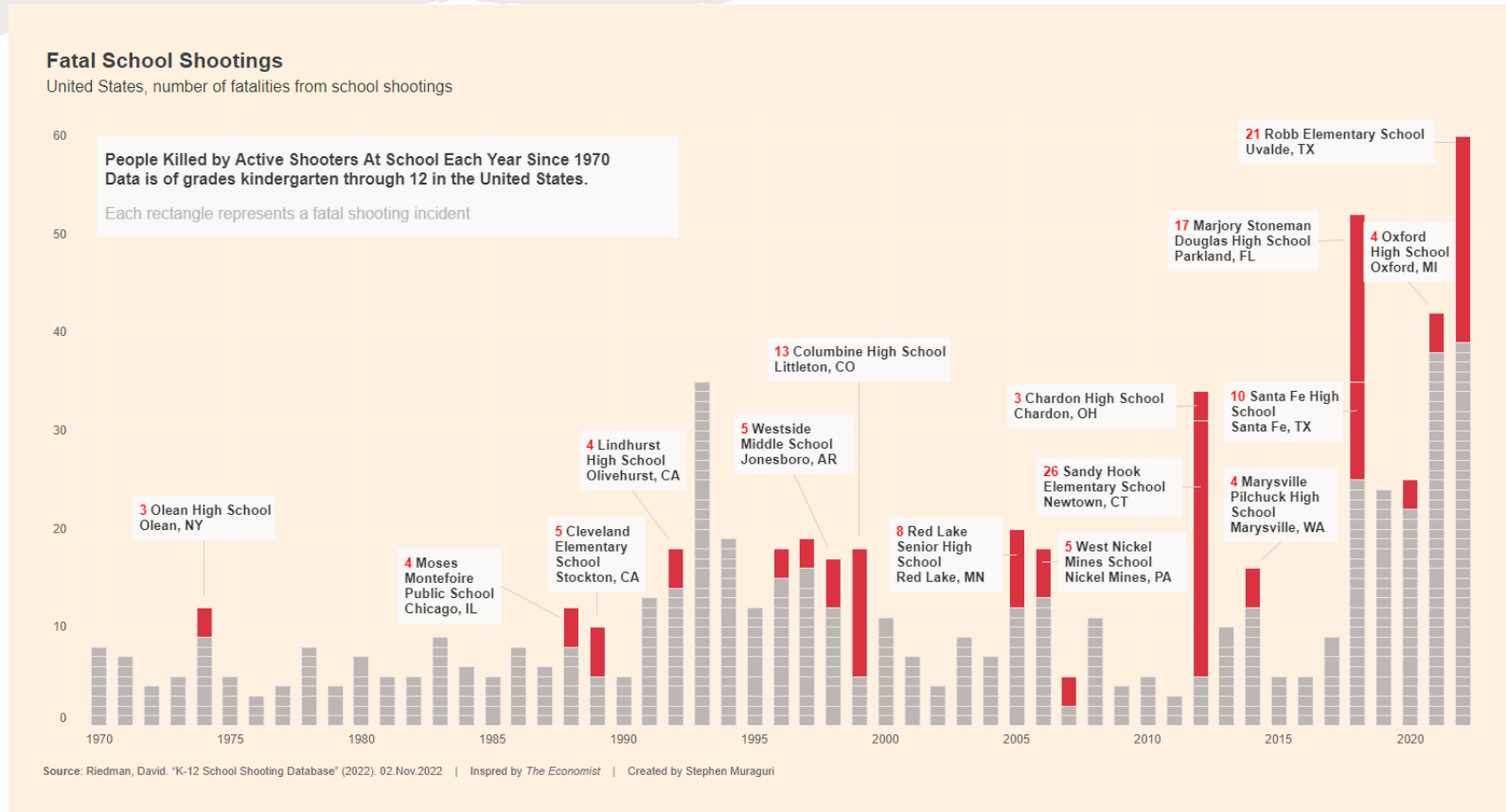
Active Shooter Situations at K-12 Schools: School Level (1970-2022)



Prevention - Escape - Lockdown - Fight

# Total Killed in School Shootings

1970-2022 (<https://k12ssdb.org/active-shooter>)



Prevention - Escape - Lockdown - Fight

# How Do We Prepare?



## The Indiana State Police Bus Model

***Prevention***

***Lockdown / Bypass***

***Escape***

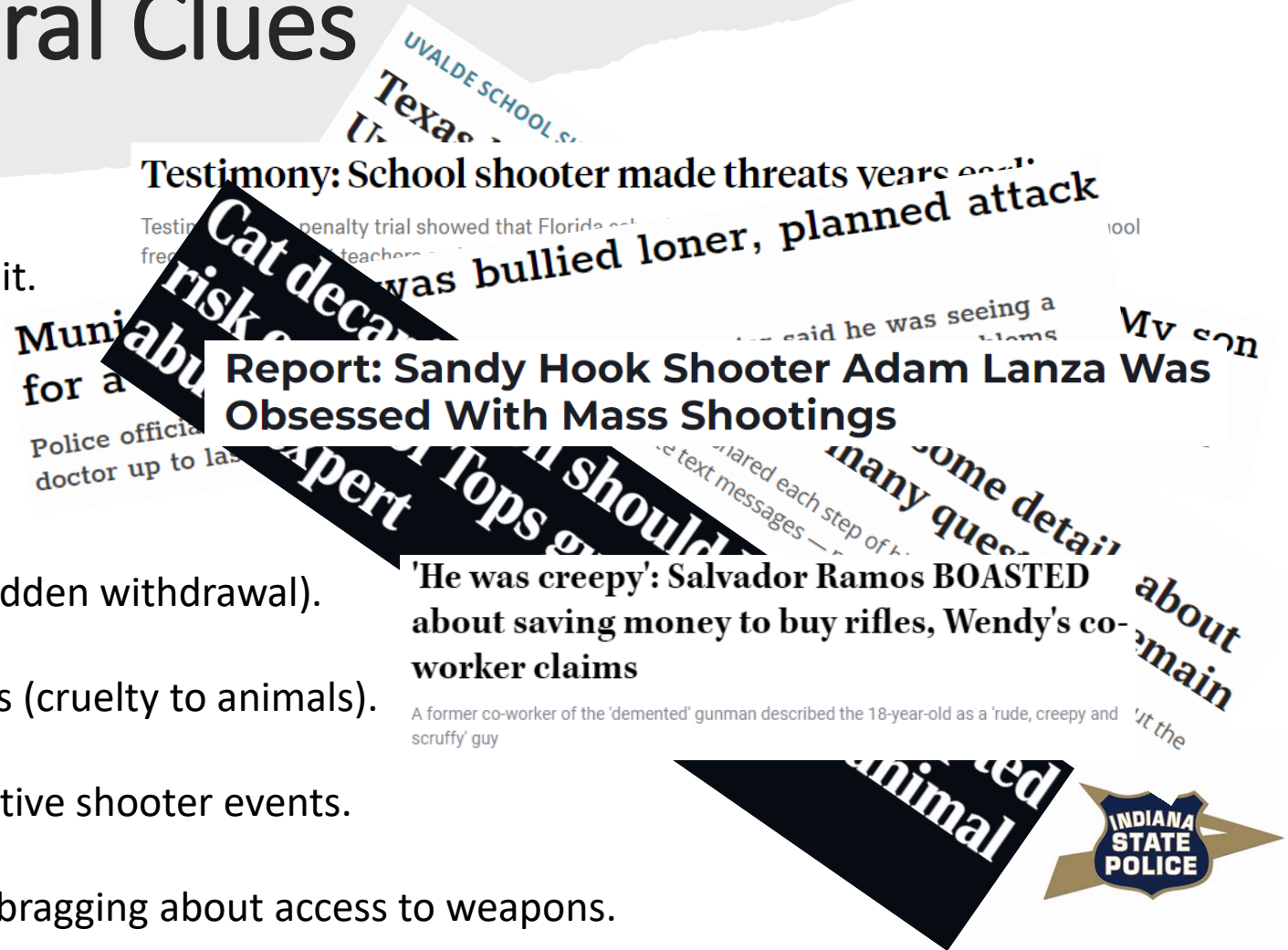
***Fight***

# Pre-Event Behavioral Clues

- ✓ Share their intent with others / recruit.
- ✓ Begins bullying or gets bullied.
- ✓ Makes threats.
- ✓ Failure to fit in (become isolated / sudden withdrawal).
- ✓ Obsessed with desensitizing activities (cruelty to animals).
- ✓ Extreme fascination with previous active shooter events.
- ✓ Extreme fascination with weapons / bragging about access to weapons.

Note: This is not a complete list of all warning signs.

Prevention – Lockdown / Bypass – Escape – Fight



# Potential Stressors or Triggers



- ✓ Disciplinary action at school.
- ✓ Significant conflict with classmates, staff, and/or parents.
- ✓ Rejection resulting in isolation.
- ✓ Perceived mistreatment by peer group.
- ✓ Loss of social support system(s).





# Potential Emotional / Mental Health Observations

## Depression

Anger,  
Irritability,  
Suicidal  
Thoughts,  
Helplessness  
and  
Hopelessness

## Psychopathic Behavior

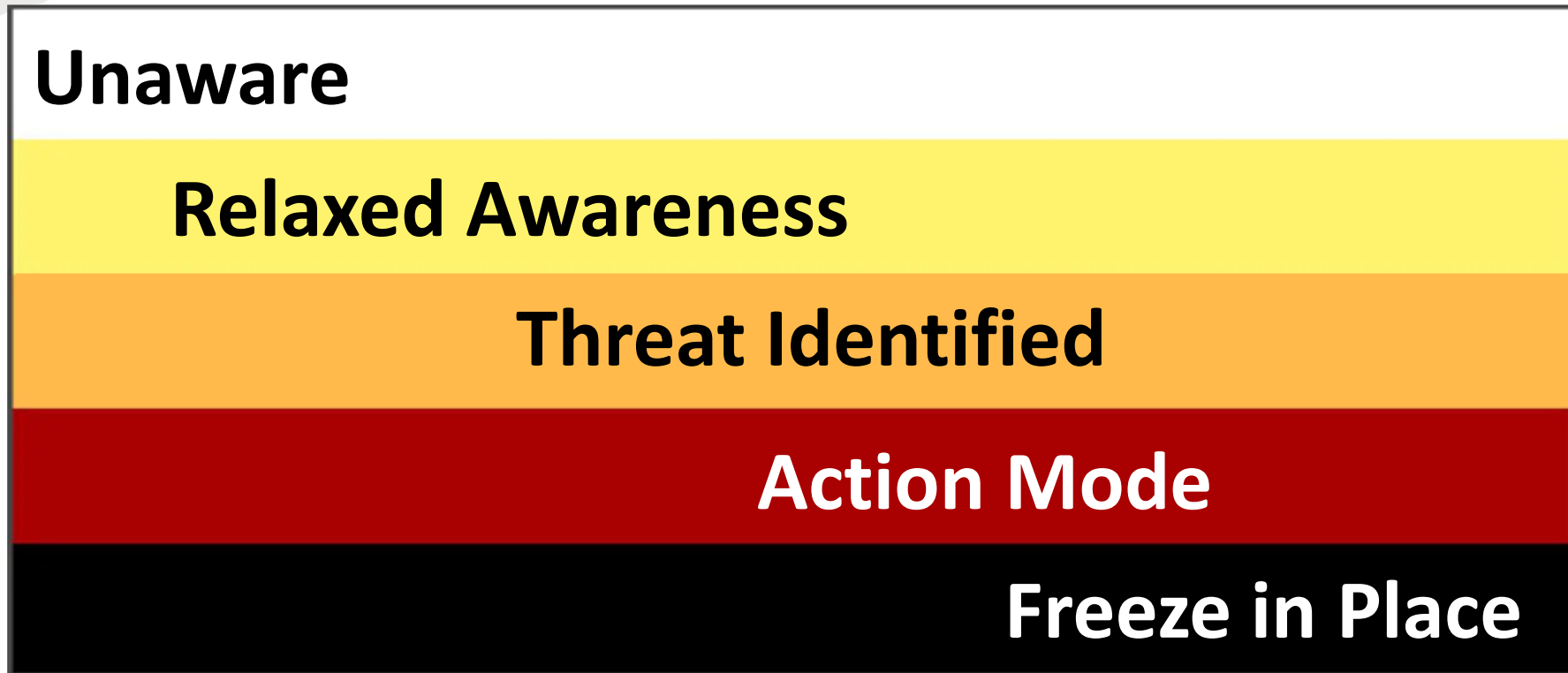
Superficial Charm,  
Cunning &  
Manipulative, Loss of  
Remorse, Exaggerated  
Self Estimation, Loss of  
Empathy, Failure to  
Accept Responsibility

## Schizophrenia

delusions,  
hallucinations or  
disorganized speech,  
and reflect an  
impaired ability to  
function.



# Preparation / Awareness: Cooper's Color Code



# Prevention

Our **level of awareness** can assist in recognizing a potential problem, conflict, or active shooter.



Cooper's Color Code Yellow

## IMPORTANT

We must recognize that not all individuals that present our “Pre-Event Behavior Clues / Potential Stressors or Triggers” will become active shooters. These are simply some indicators that have been developed through research of active shooter events.



# Understanding Active Shooter Events

## The Attacker:



- Opportunistic
- Looks for Easy Targets
- Attacks Victims as they are Encountered
- Attacks Randomly / Or May Have Specific Target
- Takes Path of Least Resistance

## The Attack:

- 44% last less than 1 minute
- 24% last less than 2 minutes

\* U.S. Secret Service "Protecting America's Schools" 2019



**Prevention** – Lockdown / Bypass – Escape – Fight

# Typical Active Shooter Responses

**AVOID**

**DENY**

**DEFEND**

**ALERRT**  
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY



**Escape**

**Lockdown**

**Fight**



**A - Alert**  
**L - Lockdown**  
**I - Inform**  
**C - Counter**  
**E - Evacuate**

*Run*

*Hide*

*Fight*



# Bus Safety – A Unique Set of Challenges

The Indiana State Police understands that the environment on a bus presents an entirely new set of security issues.

The information in this section is offered as a resource with the expectation that each organization will develop a specific bus safety program that meets the unique needs of the organization.

**Prevention – Lockdown / Bypass – Escape – Fight**



# How Should Management Respond?

## Identify / Create an Intervention Team

- We are all pieces of the puzzle –



**Mission:** Identify individuals in need of assistance and **provide support.**

**Team Composition:** students, parents, School Resource Officers (SRO's), law enforcement, school counselors, mental health professionals, bus drivers, clergy, etc..

**Goal:** Identify pre-event behavioral clues and assist with providing necessary support to the individual demonstrating the clues to **prevent an active shooter event.**



**Prevention** – Lockdown / Bypass – Escape – Fight

## Department of Justice Awards More Than **\$125 Million** in Grants Under The Stop School Violence Act

FORT SMITH – The Department of Justice today announced nearly \$126 million in funding to advance school safety under the STOP School Violence Act. The grants, awarded by the Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), will help institute safety measures in and around primary and secondary schools, support school violence prevention efforts, provide training to school personnel and students, and implement evidence-based threat assessments.

"The Justice Department has no greater responsibility than protecting Americans from harm," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. "Schools must be safe places to learn, and today's investment of more than \$125 million under the STOP School Violence Act will help ensure that they are."

The Students, Teachers and Officers Preventing School Violence Act of 2018 (the "STOP School Violence Act") gives the Justice Department the authority to provide awards directly to states, units of local government, Indian tribes, and public agencies (such as school districts and law enforcement agencies) to improve security at schools and on school grounds through evidence-based school safety programs. It also provides grants to ensure a positive school climate by helping students and teachers recognize, respond quickly to, and help prevent acts of violence.

The 78 BJA annual awards, totaling almost \$74 million, are intended to support training and education for school personnel and students on preventing violence against others and themselves, including anti-bullying training and specialized training for school officials to respond to mental health crises. Funds also help develop and implement multidisciplinary threat assessment or intervention teams and design technology solutions such as anonymous reporting systems, hotlines and websites.

The COPS School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) provides up to 75% of the funding for school safety measures in and around primary and secondary schools. The 153 SVPP awards, totaling almost \$52 million, are statutorily obligated to be used for coordination with law enforcement; training for local law enforcement officers to prevent student violence; locks, lighting and other deterrent measures; technology for expedited notification of local law enforcement during an emergency; and other measures that provide a significant improvement in security.

The full list of SVPP awards can be found here: <https://cops.usdoj.gov/svpp-award>.

A list of BJA awards, as they are made, can be found on the OJP Grant Awards page.

## Be Creative – Explore Government Funding Options

<https://cops.usdoj.gov/svpp-award>

<https://www.ojp.gov/funding/fy21-ojp-grant-awards>



**Prevention** – Lockdown / Bypass - Escape - Fight



# How Should Management Respond?

## Conduct a School (District) Threat / Vulnerability / Risk Assessment

Threats

Vulnerabilities

Risks

## Create a School Safety Plan Based off Assessment

Develop Plan

Review

Implement



**Prevention** – Lockdown / Bypass – Escape – Fight

# Indiana Department of Education (School Building Design)

[https://safehavensinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Seven\\_Important\\_Building\\_Design\\_Features\\_to\\_Enhance\\_School\\_Safety\\_and\\_Security-ISSA\\_2014.pdf](https://safehavensinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Seven_Important_Building_Design_Features_to_Enhance_School_Safety_and_Security-ISSA_2014.pdf)

Seven Important Building Design Features to Enhance School Safety  
Developed for the Indiana School Safety Specialist's Academy - Indiana Department of Education

## Seven Important Building Design Features to Enhance School Safety and Security

Building Design, Renovation and Front Entry Concepts to Enhance School Safety, Security, Climate, Culture and Emergency Preparedness

Contributors:  
Michael Dorn, Dr. Randall Atlas, Tod Schneider, Chris Dorn, Phuong Nguyen, Steve Satterly, Chief Russell Bentley, Chief Rod Ellis, Corey Goble, Ulric Bellaire, Rachel Wilson and Morgan Billinger.

Release Date: November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Prepared by Safe Havens International  
for the Indiana School Safety Specialist's Academy,  
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115 W. Washington Street  
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[www.doe.in.gov/safety](http://www.doe.in.gov/safety)

**Feature 1:** Positive Body Language as an Influence on School Safety

**Feature 2:** Natural Surveillance

**Feature 3:** Natural Access Control and Front Office Set-up

**Feature 4:** Traffic Safety Equipment

**Feature 5:** Safer Lockdown Rooms

**Feature 6:** Design of Administrator's Offices and Meeting Rooms

**Feature 7:** Roof Access Features



# Indiana Department of Education

(Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design School Assessment)

[https://rems.ed.gov/docs/CDC\\_CPTEDSchoolAssessment.pdf](https://rems.ed.gov/docs/CDC_CPTEDSchoolAssessment.pdf)

## Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) School Assessment (CSA)

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control  
Division of Violence Prevention



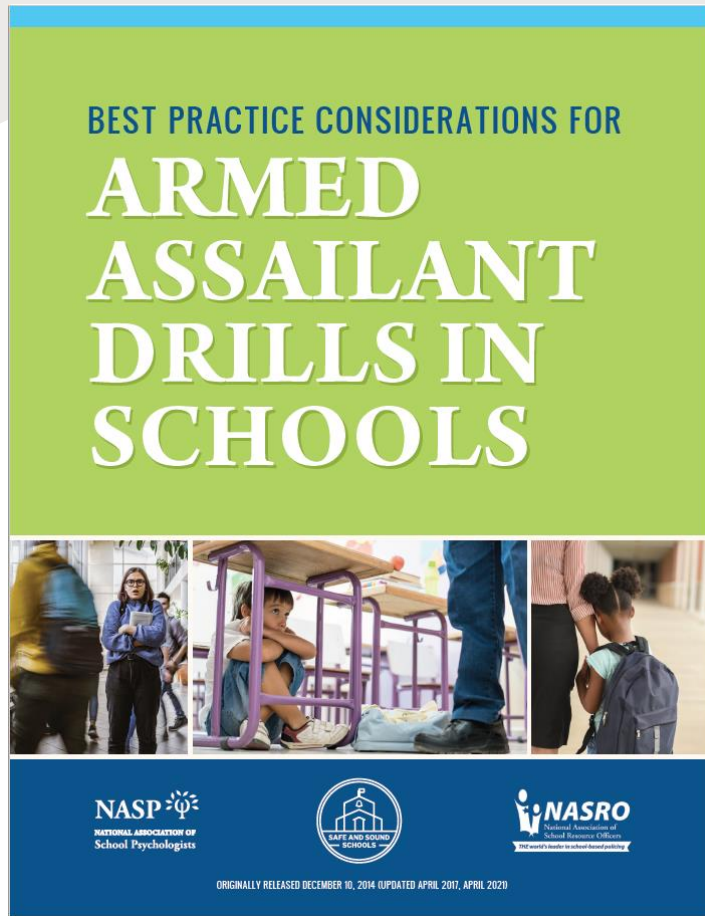
- 1: Initial Impressions
- 2: The Grounds
- 3: The Building(s)
- 4: The Interior(s)
- 5: Global Impressions
- 6: Additional Observations
- 7: Surrounding Land Use
- 8: Surrounding Land Use Condition
- 9: Assessment Day Information



**Prevention** - Escape - Lockdown - Fight

# Indiana Department of Education (Active Assailant)

<https://www.in.gov/doe/files/Best-Practice-Considerations-for-Armed-Assailant-Drills-in-Schools-NASRO-and-NASP.pdf>



**Part I:** Overview

**Part II:** Drill Approaches and Planning

**Part III:** Developmental and Mental Health Considerations

**Part IV:** Steps to Conducting Safe, Effective, and Appropriate Drills



**Prevention** - Escape - Lockdown - Fight

# Indiana School Safety Hub

<https://www.in.gov/schoolsafety/>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Indiana School Safety Hub. At the top left, it says "IN.gov An official website of the Indiana State Government". On the right, there are links for "Accessibility Settings", "Language Translation", and "Governor Eric J. Holcomb". Below this is a dark blue navigation bar with the "Indiana School Safety Hub" logo and a search bar labeled "Search School Safety". The main content area features a large image of diverse students with the text "Indiana School Safety Hub Taking School Safety to the Next Level" and a "Subscribe" button. To the right of the text is the "SEAL OF THE STATE OF INDIANA 1816". At the bottom, there are six white-bordered boxes with icons and labels: "Funding Opportunities" (hand with dollar sign), "Building Safety" (shield with blocks), "Education & Training" (screen with people), "Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder" (head with heart rate), "Legislation" (gavel), and "Additional Resources" (person with briefcase). A small white arrow points down at the bottom center of the main image area.



**Prevention** - Escape - Lockdown - Fight

# How Should You Respond?

## Be Aware of your Environment

- Observe people around you
- Know where each exit is and how to open it
  - Position yourself to observe the area
- Plan your response options based on the area

## Be Mentally Prepared

- Cooper's Color Code – **Relaxed Awareness**
  - Be alert, not paranoid
- Plan your response based on your observations
- HAVE A PLAN.....Not **IF** it happens, but **WHEN** it happens



Environment + Mental Preparation = Options

Lockdown / Bypass – Escape – Fight

“In the moment of decision, the **BEST** thing you can do is the right thing, the **NEXT BEST** thing is the wrong thing, and the **WORST** thing you can do is nothing.”

- Theodore Roosevelt



Prevention – Lockdown / Bypass – Escape – Fight

# Lockdown / Bypass Considerations

Can you simply drive away prior to attacker boarding the bus?

Can you secure your door(s) so the attacker cannot board the bus?

If the attacker boards the bus, cover (i.e. a medium bullets cannot pass through) within the bus is limited.

Concealment (i.e. a medium bullets can pass through, however can conceal your position) should only be a temporary option.

Examples of concealment are: behind / under seats, backpacks, class projects, etc...

\*If stuck in a position of concealment and an attack is imminent, consider rapidly transitioning to escaping or fighting.





# Escape Considerations

What is the **position** of the attacker?  
(e.g. front, rear, or middle of bus)

What type of **weapon** does the attacker possess?  
(e.g. firearm, knife, explosives, etc...)

Can the students be **evacuated away** from the attacker?  
(e.g. will they have to go by the shooter to escape)

Is the bus moving, does it create an advantage to suddenly start, stop, or violently steer the bus to **throw off the shooter's balance**?

Once you make the decision to escape, you must be clear to the passengers and yell, **"GET OFF THE BUS."**



# Fight Considerations

What can you use as a **weapon**?

(e.g. Tire Iron, Fire Extinguisher, Backpack, etc...)

If fighting is your best option, **DO NOT HESITATE** and **FIGHT AS HARD AS YOU CAN.**

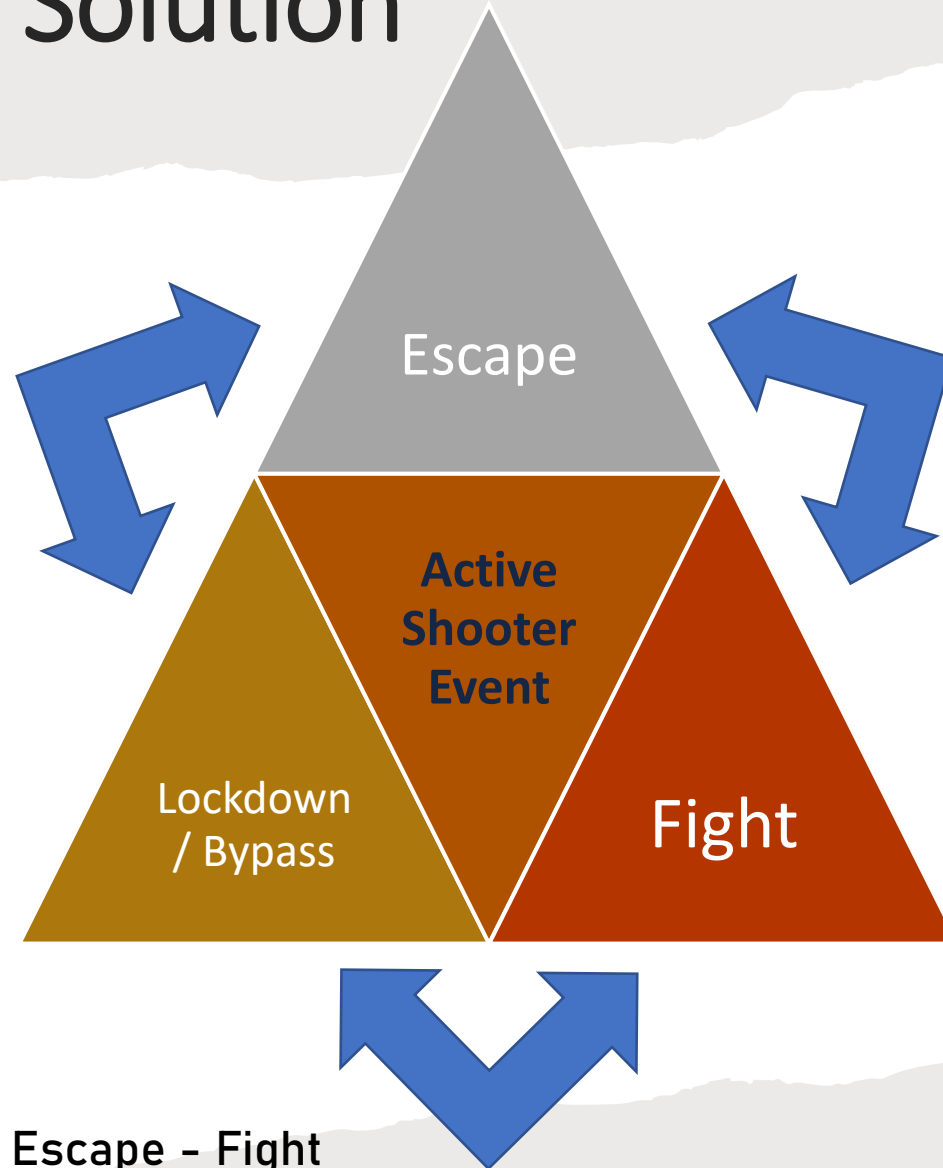
Can the students be **evacuated away** from the attacker while you're fighting?

(e.g. yell for them to get off the bus while you are fighting.)

Once you make the decision to fight, you must be clear to the passengers and yell, **"GET OFF THE BUS."**



# A Non-Linear Solution



Prevention – Lockdown / Bypass – Escape – Fight

# Law Enforcement Arrival



Plain Clothes



Standard Uniform



Tactical Gear



Prevention - Escape - Lockdown - Fight

# Law Enforcement Responsibility

**Flood**

**Find**

**Stop**

1. Killing
2. Dying

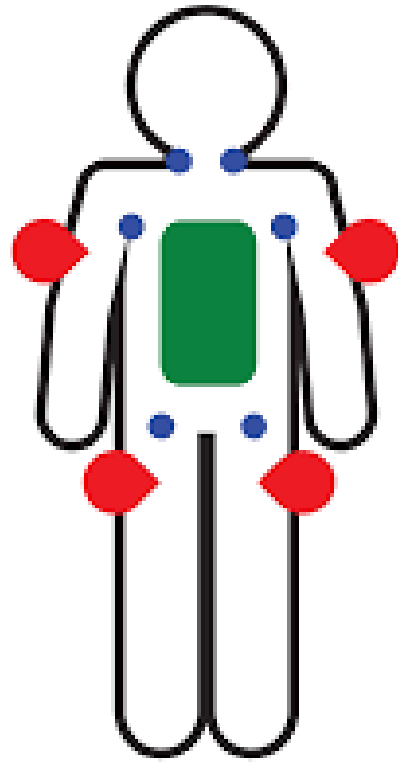
**Save**



# Victim / Innocent Response



Police - Bypass Wounded



**TOURNIQUET  
THE LIMBS**

**PACK THE  
JUNCTIONS**

**SEAL THE  
BOX**



DARK ANGEL MEDICAL



Victim's Hands Up – Help Identify Shooter



If you see something.....DO SOMETHING

# Police say they stopped a planned July 4 mass shooting in Virginia's capital after getting a tip

PUBLISHED WED, JUL 6 2022 3:08 PM EDT



Prevention - Escape - Lockdown - Fight

# Setting Up For Success

“If you are prepared, you can do far more than you think you can do!”

- Superintendent Doug Carter  
Indiana State Police



Prevention – Lockdown / Bypass – Escape – Fight



# Indiana State Police Contact Information / Contact Disclaimer

**For more ISP information and resources:**

**All Resources are posted free on the Indiana State Police Website. The resources found on the Indiana State Police webpage are offered only as free guides for schools, places of worship, governmental agencies, business and in general venues where individuals gather. The Indiana State Police Department is solely responsible for the content of this material.**

**The information on the ISP website is not intended to comprise a complete program for preventing and responding to threats of any nature, nor is it meant to serve as a substitute for expert advice provided by local law enforcement, as well medical, psychiatric and legal personnel.**

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