



## Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools

### Guiding Principles

**Belief Statement:** Every Kansas educational setting is vulnerable to threats, hazards and disasters that have the potential to disrupt normal school operations and cascade into an emergency. Kansas schools are not uniformly prepared, resource equipped or trained to respond to emergency school events.

1. Regardless of current challenges, schools have a duty of care to provide a safe and prepared learning environment for students, staff and patrons.
2. All schools can implement no or low cost items that improve safety and preparedness.
3. Clearly state standards and expectations schools that should be implemented for school safety and preparedness.
4. Promote best practices - minimize mandates.
5. Advocate for and be the voice of children during times of crisis.
6. Focus on and promote the positive connection between academic success and a safe and prepared learning environment.
7. All school crisis situations are local and school officials should have plans, resources and training to fill in the gap until first responders arrive.
8. A school crisis is a community crisis and a community crisis is a school crisis. School leadership, emergency management and first responders must work together in advance of and continually for emergency situations that potentially will impact their schools and communities.
9. Training and exercises should be continuous due to changing realities and staff turnover. The all-hazards approach is the consistent theme for training.
10. Advocate for keeping law enforcement, school health professionals and mental/emotional health professionals in schools.