



What is the Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools?

The Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools (KC-SPS) is a collaborative office that assists school districts in fulfilling their mission of providing a safe and prepared learning environment for students and staff. Recognizing not all schools are equally prepared, resource equipped or trained to respond to school emergencies, KC-SPS is available to bridge those gaps and help find solutions. In the four short years KC-SPS has been in existence, Kansas schools have made great strides in preparedness. Benefits of the program to Kansas schools include:

- All Kansas School Districts are eligible members at no cost.
- An annual statewide Safe and Prepared Schools Conference where best practices and lessons are shared among schools. It has grown in attendance from 150 to 400.
- Approximately 100 school district teams have undergone training to construct an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) specifically for their school district working in collaboration with local emergency management and first responders.
- An advisory group of educators, emergency management and first responders guide the activities of KC-SPS to better meet the needs of schools across the state.
- Eleven Kansas School/Community Teams have attended FEMA's residential course, "Multi-Hazards Emergency Planning for Schools at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD. Four additional school teams are preparing to go in 2013.
- Each year, by Gubernatorial proclamation, Kansas promotes a Safe & Prepared Schools Week to raise statewide awareness of the benefits of communities working together to prepare their schools for emergencies.

We are striving for every Kansas School District to be emergency prepared by:

- Forming District and Building emergency response teams
- Conducting a hazard assessment of their local school/community
- Creating and implementing a District EOP and Building emergency response plans
- Requiring staff complete prescribed training
- Standardizing school participation in safety and preparedness drills
- Equipping each building and classroom with 'crisis kits'
- Collaborating with local first responders and emergency management

Our challenge is to find ways to continue this critical work when the grant funding resources are diminishing. We are seeking creative opportunities and partnerships to join us in this endeavor. Kansas school leaders who have used the services of KC-SPS have said:

- **"The Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools has been instrumental in assisting our school district to 'create and promote' a culture of safety and preparedness". *Chris Tuck, Seaman USD 345 Health Services Director***
- **"Simply put, Safe and Prepared Schools is about protecting kids. The Center works to provide training and support to those who educate students, so they are better prepared to deal with any emergency". *Ron Brown Chief of Topeka Schools Police***
- **KC-SPS is integral in providing training and resources for school emergency plans across Kansas. Their expertise and support are essential for the safety of Kansas School kids". *Dr. Bob Diepenbrock Superintendent of Kingman-Norwich USD #331***
- **"The networking, professional development and resources provided by KC-SPS have been a game changer for the Leavenworth School District. The Center has provided school districts across the state an invaluable resource to ensure the safety of our students and staff". *Amy Sloan, Director of Support Services and Education Foundation USD 453***
- **"Safe schools are essential for student learning. KC-SPS has done tremendous work to better prepare Kansas Schools for all types of emergencies. Manhattan-Odgen has benefitted greatly from the resources available through the Center." *Michele Jones, Communications Coordinator & REMS Grant Director USD 383***