



School Safety and Emergency Management

Monthly Minute: Violence Prevention

April 2026

Monthly Minute is a newsletter providing insight and tips on potential threats and hazards brought to you by the Oregon Department of Education.



Targeted violence is one threat that schools must consider and plan for. Prevention practices are necessary to keep students and staff safe—but so are the drills, procedures and training that help empower staff and students should the unexpected occur. This newsletter will address all stages.

Violence prevention requires multiple approaches. We should understand the warning signs that could lead to violence, how to intervene before concerning behaviors lead to violence, implement effective protocols to respond to violent activity, and know how to provide life-saving treatment with first aid. Schools can prevent, mitigate, respond to and more rapidly recover from acts of violence with these principles in mind.

The U.S. Secret Service Report – **Averting Targeted School Violence (May 2021)** states that “a multidisciplinary threat assessment team, in conjunction with the appropriate policies, tools, and training, is the best practice for preventing future tragedies.” In addition, the Oregon Department of Education’s School Safety and Prevention System program (SSPS) was created to help districts develop and implement the appropriate policies, tools and training—including the establishment of behavioral safety assessment teams (described above as a “multidisciplinary threat assessment team”). If you or your district needs assistance with any of these practices, you can find out more at **the SSPS website**.

School violence prevention efforts should keep in mind what the Secret Service report also notes: “All attackers exhibited concerning behaviors. Most elicited concern from others and most communicated their intent to attack.” This is important because it means that if we see a concerning behavior and intervene, we can interrupt the path to violence. Concerning behaviors could be a disturbing journal entry, a threat posted on social media, or other methods of threatening or violent behavior. The complexity of both behavior and intervention is more detailed than this overview, but all staff should know who you can report to on your school’s behavioral

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This Month... Conduct an Evacuate drill this month. Review transportation plans for relocation to a reunification site.



**Hold! in your room or area.
Clear the halls.**

Up Next... April’s Monthly Minute will talk about violence prevention. Conduct a Hold drill next month.



**Conduct a Shelter-in-Place
Drill in May.**



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First Aid and Stop-the-Bleed

First aid enables people with the knowledge to help in the first few minutes following an injury. Needed actions can include providing a bandage, stabilizing a joint, administering CPR, using an automated external defibrillator (AED), or putting on a tourniquet. Contact us at the link below or visit the following links to find out more:

- [Stop the Bleed](#)
- [First Aid for Severe Trauma](#)



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safety assessment team. If you are on your school's behavioral safety assessment team, strongly encourage your students and staff to let you know when they have identified disturbing or violent behavior. Make it clear that such reports are not used for consequence, but to inform intervention efforts that can redirect violent tendencies in a more positive direction.

Even with the knowledge we have about prevention and intervention—and the application of those practices—we still must prepare for the possibility that someone with bad intentions may make their way inside. Review the Active Shooter section of the [Incident-Specific Plans](#) guidance for how to plan and

prepare for incidents of targeted violence. Consider:

- Lockdown Drills save lives, but more importantly, **locked doors save lives.**
- For congregate areas and spaces between locked doors, identify and drill procedures for moving away from the threat.
- Most attacks last five minutes or less.

Practice your lockdown drill according to the guidance given by the [Standard Response Protocol](#). Maintain a culture of keeping doors locked when class is in session and seek out and conduct first aid and Stop-the-Bleed training for students and staff. That last point is critical, not just for acts of targeted violence, but for any situation when a person suffers a life-threatening injury.

Contact Information



Scan or click the QR code to visit the School Safety and Emergency Management website with additional school emergency preparedness resources, and to **sign up for the monthly training** and technical assistance sessions.

Resources

[Safe Oregon School Safety Tip Line](#)

[Lockdown Drills: A Widely Used Yet Often Misunderstood Practice](#)

[The Standard Response Protocol](#) information page.

Oregon Emergency Management [local contacts list](#).