

School Safety: Avert, Thwart, Minimize (ATM)

IRI specializes in *Security Intelligence* and serves corporations, government entities, and academic organizations, worldwide. **IRI** has developed its **ATM** program (*Avert, Thwart, Minimize*) for school administrators to address threats that could lead to extreme acts of violence such as school shootings. The **ATM** program has a particular focus on “targeted violence” while encompassing “all-hazards” security. The program includes full facilities evaluations, tailored workshops, and table-top exercises under guidelines developed by the Department of Education, U.S. Secret Service, and FBI in conjunction with respective state laws and protocols.

Many violent acts stem from escalating threats emanating from individuals within the school community who express a threat, i.e. a threat made, or demonstrate a threat such as with a weapon, i.e. a threat posed, or carryout a threat successfully resulting in casualties. In addressing targeted threats, threat assessment objectives should be aimed to *avert* threats made and *thwart* threats posed. The objective for threats carried out is aimed at *minimizing* consequences with well devised plans, training, and exercising while making communications as efficient and as well coordinated as possible. With many years experience, **IRI** experts have developed approaches to educate administrators and all stakeholders in recognizing the warning signs of escalating threats.

Security and Stability: Crisis Operations Planning (COPE)

IRI consultants have expertise helping organizations analyze the broad spectrum of threats to school personnel and the school environment. Analysis leads to emergency preparedness planning in concert with local law enforcement given each school’s specific profile. This planning leads to all aspects of disaster recovery planning and continuity of operations planning looking at all variables associated with all-hazards contingencies.

Crisis Information Management

Not all organizations are satisfied they can communicate quickly, accurately, and consistently with administration, faculty, students, and other stakeholders including families and media when incidents occur. **IRI** experts have developed its *Crisis Information Management* (CIM) program addressing messaging content and delivery guidelines under principles of “crisis and emergency risk communications” that are becoming communication standards. **IRI** professionals help its clients improve communications efficiencies in step with incident command.

Exercise and Evaluation Program

Many schools have emergency plans, but fail to keep them up-to-date. And, while some faculty and staff are trained to those plans, many are not. The best way to train staff, including new hires, and to keep them refreshed is to “exercise” plans with workshops, seminars, and table-top exercises. Planning and exercising along with improvement planning are perpetual activities. They never end.

The Department of Homeland Security has developed a framework of exercise types to help standardize and unify the approach to planning and exercising. Just as principles of incident command under the National Incident Management System (NIMS) have become the standard for incident management, the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) is becoming the standard for exercise program management. **IRI** experts are certified in HSEEP protocols.

Among the most experienced in the security field, **IRI** professionals have worked with school clients in over 30 states and internationally.

For more information, please contact—
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