

The Safe & Responsive Schools Framework & Guide

The Safe and Responsive Schools Framework is an approach to improving the behavior of students at school, and to preventing school violence. The Framework matches school actions to the needs of three different groups of students, although the rare extreme violence may come from any of these groups:

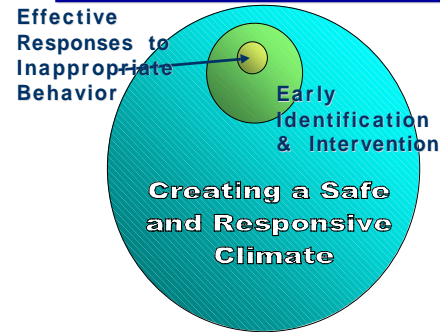


It is a structure that permits schools to engage in actions or strategies addressing each of three levels of need. These are:

- **Creating a Positive Climate**
- **Early Identification and Intervention**
- **Effective Responses**

School teams can use the Framework to assess current programs and activities in a school; to identify promising practices and programs that might be considered to supplement existing programs; and to prioritize needed actions.

Figure 4
Three Levels of Action



Purpose of the Guide

The purpose of this *Guide* is to provide assistance to schools in using the Safe and Responsive Schools Framework to assess, plan and implement efforts to address school violence prevention, discipline reform and behavior improvement. The *Guide* clearly outlines a detailed process schools can follow to assess their current activities, gather and analyze needed information, and develop a comprehensive plan. It also assists schools in taking steps to implement their plan. The *Guide* is intended to provide a stand-alone set of procedures and information for a school to engage in a planning and implementation process.

Contents

The *Guide* is comprised of three sections.

I: Overview and SRS Framework

The Overview explains how the Guide might be employed in schools. It answers questions such as who the *Guide* is intended for, how it might be used, and how it fits with other related activities in a school. Importantly, a detailed description of the Safe and Responsive School “Framework” is

provided. This Framework, or model, is the structure on which the planning process and resources of the *Guide* are based.

II: The Process Guide

Process. The Process Guide provides step-by-step instructions for leading a school-based team through the stages of a strategic planning process focused on behavior, discipline and violence prevention at their school. Guidance is given on carrying out and interpreting a needs assessment related to these topics. It includes creating vision and mission statements, gathering a variety of information and data, reviewing best practices, and developing, implementing and evaluating a school plan.

Tools. The Guide provides the necessary tools for your team to develop a SRS Plan including reproducible copies of the four SRS Safe Schools Surveys (i.e., Elementary Student, Secondary Student, Staff, and Parent) and the SRS Practices & Programs Inventory, other assessment and discussion tools, as well as strategic planning worksheets to guide the team through the process of developing, implementing, and evaluating a school specific plan. Sample plans, meeting schedules, and agendas are included.



