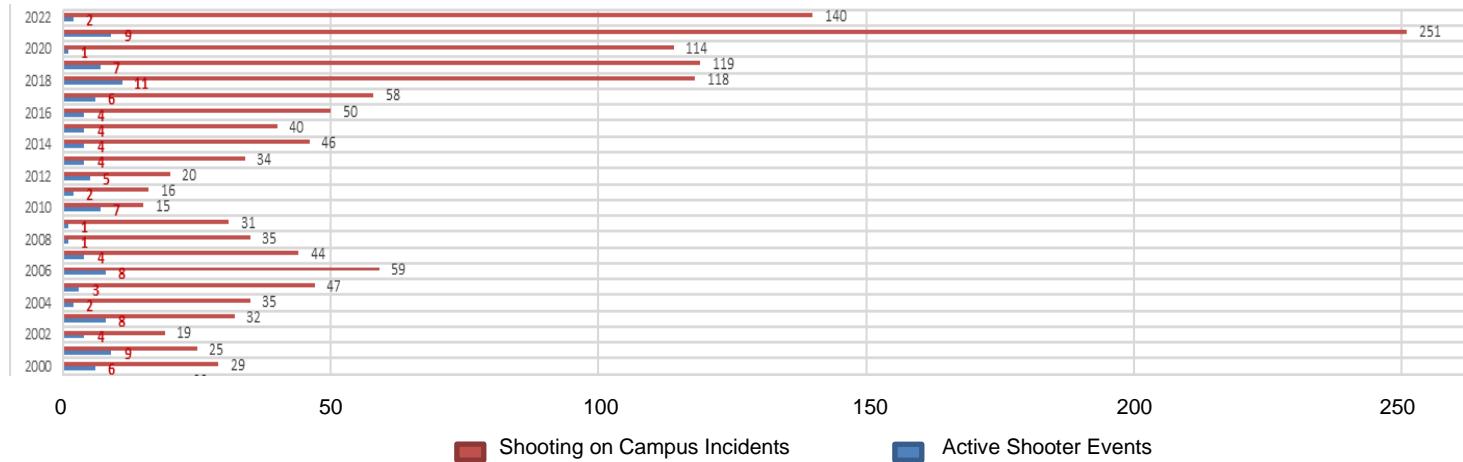


On The Alert!

Date: June 2, 2022
Attention: ASCIP Members
Affected Department(s): Risk Management, Admin, Teachers, & Staff
Applicability: K-12 School Districts & Charter Schools

SCHOOL ACTIVE SHOOTER AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION: 2022



The U.S. Naval Postgraduate School instituted an effort to compile continuing information on [U.S. K-12 school shooter incidents](#) in 2018. Despite a drop-off in school shootings during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, school-based violence and active shooter incidents are once again approaching all-time highs. At its current rate of school shootings, 2022 may set a new record for number of school shooting incidents. Districts should be vigilant in preparing teachers and administrators to protect themselves and the children for whom they are responsible during active shooter scenarios. District personnel must now pre-plan and evaluate real threats on the fly. They must know how to implement de-escalation strategies that might help prevent situations from becoming tragedies.

Prevention strategies are complex and include understanding the local school environments, developing awareness of specific situations and potential perpetrators, and communicating and maintaining a positive, supportive educational climate. Even when everything goes right, situations can escalate. It is critical to be trained in best practices of identifying student who may be threats to themselves or others.

Threat assessment involves skills that can be learned through practice. Teachers and administrators can benefit from learning and practicing procedures that will help them to recognize if a student may be a potential threat to the safety of the school, help them to identify the triggers and behavioral conditions that make a person a potential threat, and apply specific communication strategies to de-escalate threats. Threat assessment and communication skills are essential for teachers and administrators, and a training program that allows school personnel to learn, practice, and assess these skills in a controlled environment is vital.

[Threat Assessment in Schools: A Guide to Managing Threatening Situations and Creating Safe School Climates](#), a publication co-authored by the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Department of Education, provides an introduction to this area of concern. Districts can help by doing the following:

- Including active shooter incidents as a category for a specific emergency response plan in CSSPs,
- Enforcing the California Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995 (Penal Code § 626.9) on campuses,
- Utilizing funding via the [STOP School Violence Program](#), and
- Managing your district's current or prospective use of firearms on campuses (for educational or security purposes).