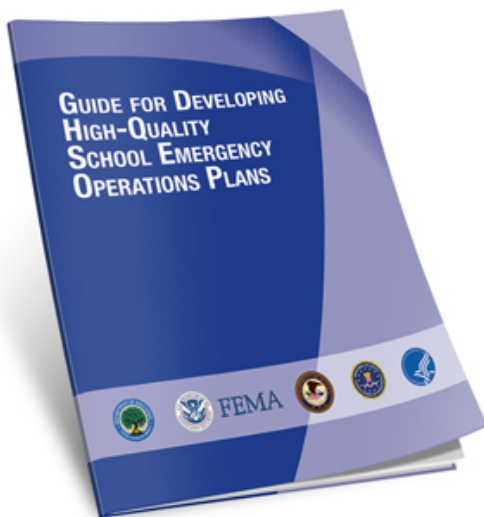


Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance (TA) Center

DEMONSTRATIONS AND PROTESTS FACT SHEET

students, staff, and the whole school community process the event; express their feelings; and strengthen coping skills and resilience under the guidance and care of the adults, educators, administrators, and partners who support them every day. Ultimately, finding constructive ways to debrief and discuss these types of events and the issues surrounding them supports a positive school climate in which students and staff feel safe to express their feelings and perspectives, and creates learning opportunities around real-world events.

Incorporating Plans to Respond to Student Demonstrations in School Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs)



Demonstrations and protests like school walkouts impact the entire school community, including students, teachers, staff, and families. From safety and mental and behavioral health to continuity of learning and operations, schools (public and nonpublic) and school districts may have to address and support students and staff in a variety of areas when responding to planned demonstrations and protests. For school administrators and emergency planning teams, this can seem daunting. However, pre-planning—especially with community partners—using the six-step planning process outlined in the [Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans \(School Guide\)](#) can help ensure the whole community stays safe.

Using the Six-Step Planning Process to Plan

Schools and school districts are also encouraged to examine their EOPs when real-world emergency events happen to ensure they are prepared for resulting demonstrations and protests that may occur on their school campus or within their community. Federal partners in school emergency preparedness, including the U.S. Departments of Education, Homeland Security, Justice, Health and Human Services, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation, recommend that schools and school districts use existing safety, security, and emergency management efforts in conjunction with the six-step planning process described in the [School Guide](#) to review, revise, and create EOPs. The following section provides examples of how the six-step planning process can be used to incorporate planning for student walkout demonstrations into an EOP.

Step 1: Form a Collaborative Planning Team: In this first step, the planning team is formed, comprised of a core planning team, school personnel and community partners, including law enforcement, and a district representative. In planning for these types of events, it is critically important for schools to

