



<https://rems.ed.gov>

# Supports for Students and Families Experiencing Homelessness During the COVID-19 Pandemic

2:00 p.m. EST/1:00 p.m. CST/  
12:00 p.m. MST/11:00 a.m. PST/  
10:00 a.m. AKST/9:00 a.m. HST



U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Safe and Supportive Schools  
(OSSS)

# Webinar Housekeeping

USE THE PODS:



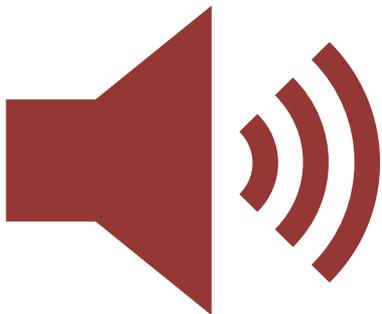
**FILES**



**WEB LINKS**

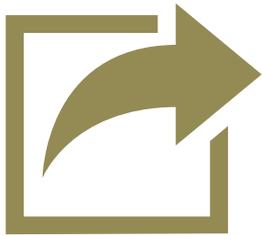


**Q&A**



**AUDIO WILL COME FROM YOUR  
COMPUTER ONLY.**

# Questions...



Submit via  
Q&A Pod

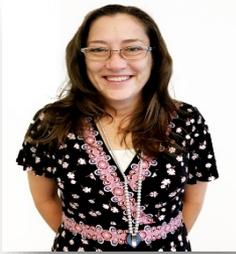
**DURING**



Send to our  
Help Desk

**AFTER**

# Presenters



U.S. Department of Education  
Office of Safe and Supportive Schools



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



SchoolHouse Connection



National Center for Homeless Education

# Poll Question | Supporting Students

Has your education agency collaborated with key partners to support students and families experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- If yes, what key partners has your education agency collaborated with?
- If no, what key partners would your education agency like to collaborate with in the future?

# Agenda

Overview of Data on Students and Families Experiencing Homelessness

Review of Considerations for Students Experiencing Homelessness that Education Agencies Should Address

Highlight of Common Challenges and Solutions Faced by Education Agencies

Overview of Homelessness Resources Available to Students and Families

Q&A Session

# Overview of Data on Students and Families Experiencing Homelessness

# Who is Homeless?

Children or youth who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including:

Sharing the housing of others *due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason*

Living in motels, hotels, or campgrounds *due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations*

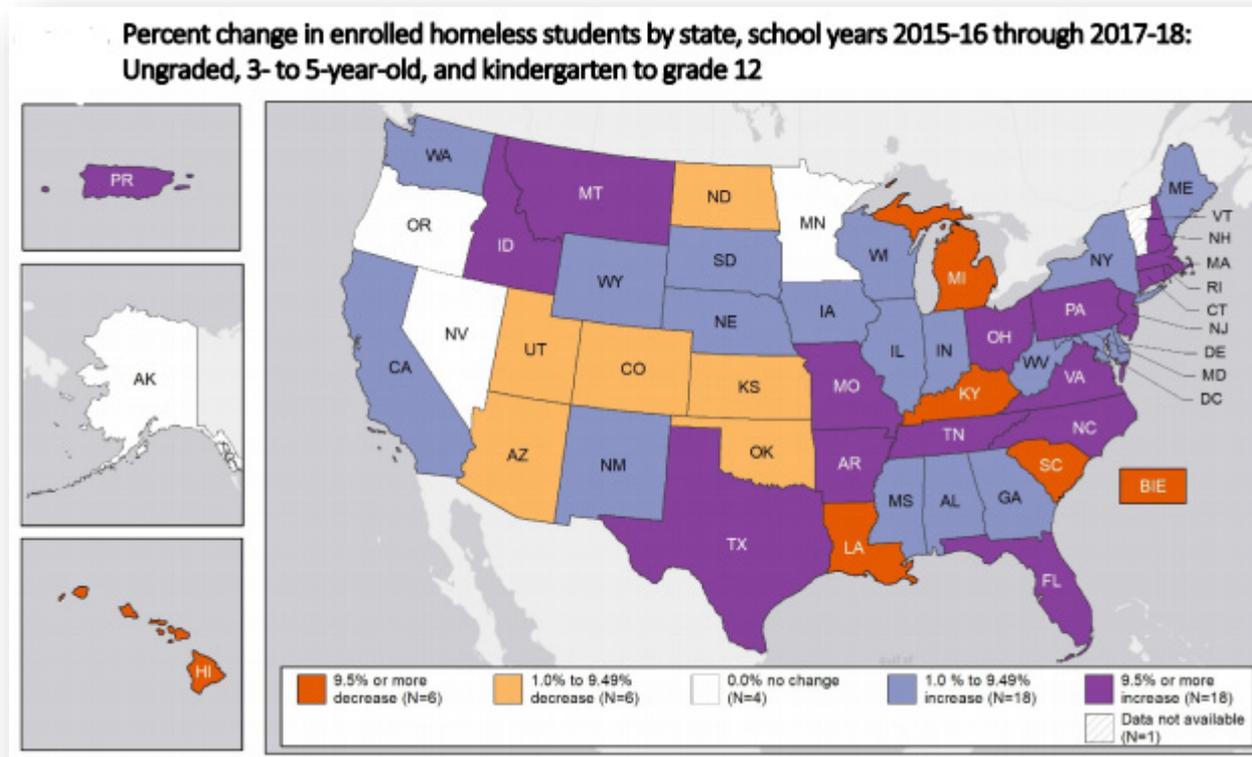
Living in emergency or transitional shelters

Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, public spaces, or substandard housing

Unaccompanied youth (not under the care of a parent or guardian) living in the circumstances outlined on this slide

Eligibility is a case-by-case definition.

# Growth in Identified Homeless Student Populations



Source: Federal Data Summary: School Years 2015 – 16 Through 2017 – 18, National Center for Homeless Education, January 2020

# The Need for Education Agencies to Support Homeless/Displaced Students During an Emergency

## During an emergency, education agencies may:

no longer be able to provide basic needs to community members who are experiencing homelessness, such as free meals

receive an influx of students from neighboring and non-local school districts and systems

see an increase in the need for support from local students and families who were already experiencing homelessness

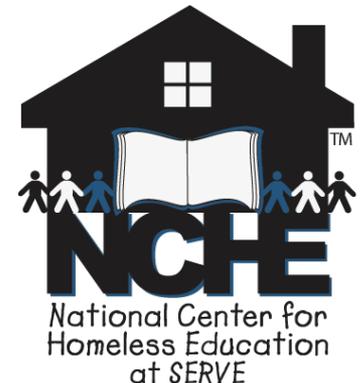
see an increase in new local families experiencing homelessness who require support with basic needs, including continuity of education

# Review of Considerations for Students Experiencing Homelessness that Education Agencies Should Address

# Get to Know NCHE

The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) operates the U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program

- Website: <http://nche.ed.gov>
- Helpline: 800-308-2145 or [homeless@serve.org](mailto:homeless@serve.org)
- Products: <http://nche.ed.gov/products.php>
- Webinars: <http://nche.ed.gov/web/group.php>
- Listserv: <http://nche.ed.gov/listserv.php>
- Social Media: <https://nche.ed.gov/social-media.php>



# The Preventive Value of Education

## Particular subpopulations are at higher risk for homelessness



**346%**

Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED had a 346% higher risk

**120%**

LGBT youth had a 120% higher risk

**162%**

Youth reporting annual household income of less than \$24,000 had a 162% higher risk

**33%**

Hispanic, non-White youth had a 33% higher risk

**83%**

Black or African American youth had an 83% higher risk

**200%**

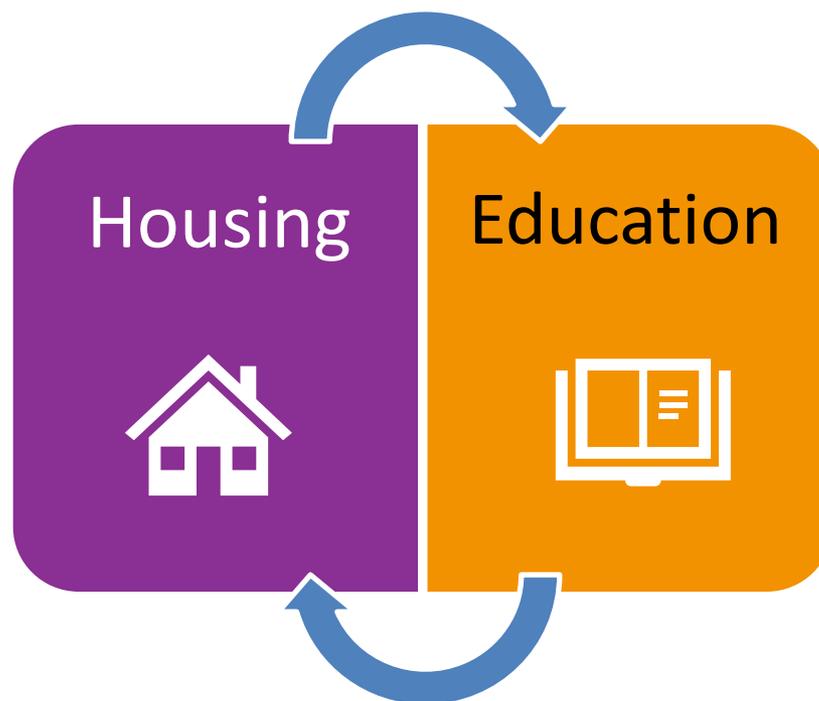
Unmarried parenting youth had a 200% higher risk



Findings from Voices of Youth Count, an initiative of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago | [voicesofyouthcount.org](http://voicesofyouthcount.org)

Source: Chapin Hall, [http://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/ChapinHall\\_VoYC\\_1-Pager\\_Final\\_111517.pdf](http://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/ChapinHall_VoYC_1-Pager_Final_111517.pdf)

# A Symbiotic Relationship



*...housing affects education affects housing...*



# Consideration One: Outreach

- How will your system locate families experiencing homelessness, both known to you and those experiencing homelessness for the first time?
- How will you assess the needs of individual students, including unaccompanied homeless youth?
- Do all your staff know who the local homeless liaison is, and how to contact that individual?

[Resource: Student Residency Questionnaire](#)

[Resource: Virginia DOE One-Pager on MV for teachers, enrollment staff and social workers](#)



# Consideration Two: Policy Review

- As you plan for the complexities of re-opening school during a pandemic, ensure that LEA policies don't create barriers to students experiencing homelessness.
  - Are MV students prioritized for face-to-face classes? Transportation?
  - Are procedures in place to provide students with necessary supplies such as face masks and internet access?



# Policy Review (cont.)

- If the school is using a virtual or hybrid model for fall, is there a plan to train parents on the platform? Is the online platform consistent throughout PreK-12?
- What are the procedures in place if a student becomes ill at school and a caregiver lacks transportation? If a student has to quarantine for two weeks?
- How will you include families experiencing homelessness in your policy review?



# Consideration Three: Trauma

- How is your LEA preparing to scale up trauma supports for staff, families and students?
- Is there a dedicated role for social and emotional learning in your re-opening plans?

[Resource: State Efforts to Address Social and Emotional Learning During the Pandemic](#)



# Trauma (cont.)

- Are your policies and practices trauma-responsive? How will you address attendance and discipline in light of increased mental health needs?
- What is your system doing to address equity?



# Thank You!

## Contact Information

Kenya Haynes

[khaynes@serve.org](mailto:khaynes@serve.org)

[NCHE Covid-19 Resource Page](#)

Helpline: 800-308-2145 or [homeless@serve.org](mailto:homeless@serve.org)



# Highlight of Common Challenges and Solutions Faced by Education Agencies

# Challenges and Strategies: Outreach, Identification, Communication

## CHALLENGES

- McKinney-Vento students staying outside of school district.
- Maintaining contact with McKinney-Vento students, including Unaccompanied Youth.
- Identifying families and youth who became homeless after schools closed, or after the end of the school year.

## STRATEGIES

- Coordinating with area liaisons to get resources to M-V students who are living in their attendance areas (resource lists)
- Pre-paid cell phones
- Coordinated outreach to families, students at campgrounds, motels, laundromats, convenience stores

## Related Resource:

[Keeping in Touch with Students and Families During COVID-19](#)

# Challenges and Strategies: Health, Safety, Basic Needs

## CHALLENGES

- Access to shelter and housing
- Food: access, delivery
- Access to hygiene and health services
- Providing food and materials safely

## Related Resource:

[Track Your State's Eviction Policies in COVID-19](#)

## STRATEGIES

- Motel vouchers, RVs, dorms
- Advocate with housing/homeless agencies for CARES Act funding
- Gift cards
- Repurposing bus drivers for delivery of items
- Community foundations, faith-based supports, businesses

# Challenges and Strategies: Distance Learning

## CHALLENGES

- Mobile hotspots
- Devices (laptops, tablets, phones)
- Minutes for phone use
- Places to charge devices
- Stable environment conducive to learning

## STRATEGIES

- [Spectrum internet](#)
- [Comcast offer](#)
- [Xfinity offer](#)
- [Cox offer](#)
- Wifi in school parking lots and on school buses
- Donations to cover insurance on devices

## BEWARE!

Some companies that offered promotions are now automatic billing past the promotional enrollment period, and billing for data and speed beyond the promotional plan. Consider advising families to cancel or find lower-cost options.

# Challenges and Strategies: Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

## CHALLENGES

- Isolation
- FAFSA determinations
- Consent to health care for minors

## Related Resources:

[Five Strategies to Help Homeless Youth Transition to College During COVID-19](#)  
[Fact Sheet on Stimulus Payments and Homeless Youth](#)

## STRATEGIES

- Regular check-ins
- Prepare FAFSA determinations in advance for all identified UHY, and also as new UHY are identified
- [State Laws on Minor Consent for Routine Medical Care](#)
- [State Laws to Support Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#)

# Challenges and Strategies: Young Children (Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers)

## CHALLENGES

- Appropriate food items
- Safety of physical environment are shelters, other temporary locations
- Preschool enrollment for next school year (deadlines, etc.)

## Related Resource:

[Five Ways to Protect Young Children Experiencing Homelessness in COVID-19](#)

## STRATEGIES

- Ask about the presence of young children
- Connect to [WIC](#) and [CACFP](#) and [Head Start](#) about appropriate food
- [Child-proofing checklist](#) - electric sockets, removal of sharp objects and toxics, and provision for adequate security

# Challenges and Strategies: Reopening and Recovery

## CHALLENGES

- Identification of families and youth (especially those who are newly homeless)
- Online enrollment
- COVID-related supplies (PPE, hygiene, clothing, laundry)
- Trauma and other mental health issues

## Related Resource:

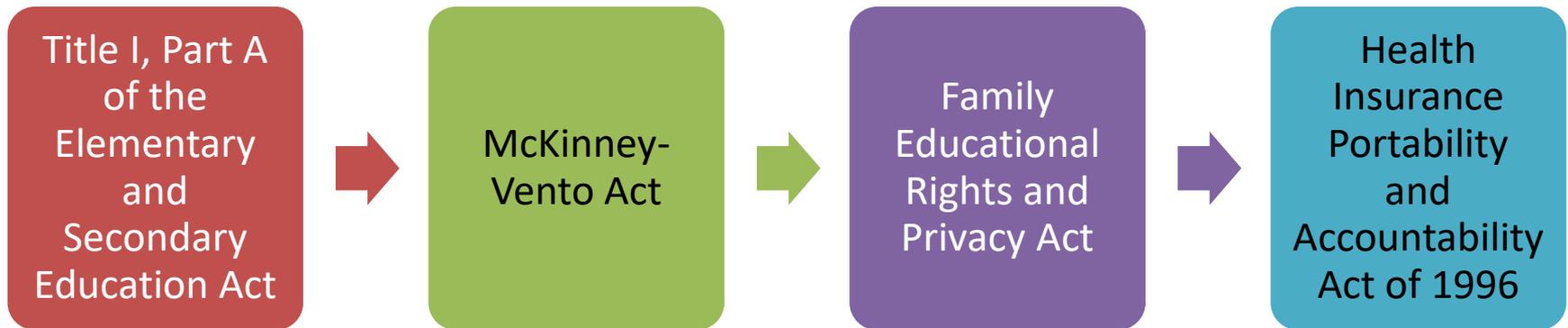
[Preparing for School Reopening and Recovery](#)

## STRATEGIES

- Uses CARES Act dollars to supplement the position of the M-V liaison and to meet the unique needs of MV students
- Partner with broader set of community organizations to broadly disseminate notice
- Review online enrollment systems to remove barriers
- Assign "school-based" staff as case managers to connect to resources, including mental health

# Overview of Homelessness Resources Available to Students and Families

# Federal Legislation Designed to Protect Displaced/Homeless Students



Visit <https://nche.ed.gov/legislation/> to view additional legislation designed to protect displaced and homeless students and their families.

# Understanding School and School District Roles



Ensuring  
Enrollment and  
Continuity of  
Education



Serving as a  
Conduit of  
Information +  
Connector  
between Schools  
& Communities

# Getting Support from the Community

Input should be gathered from:

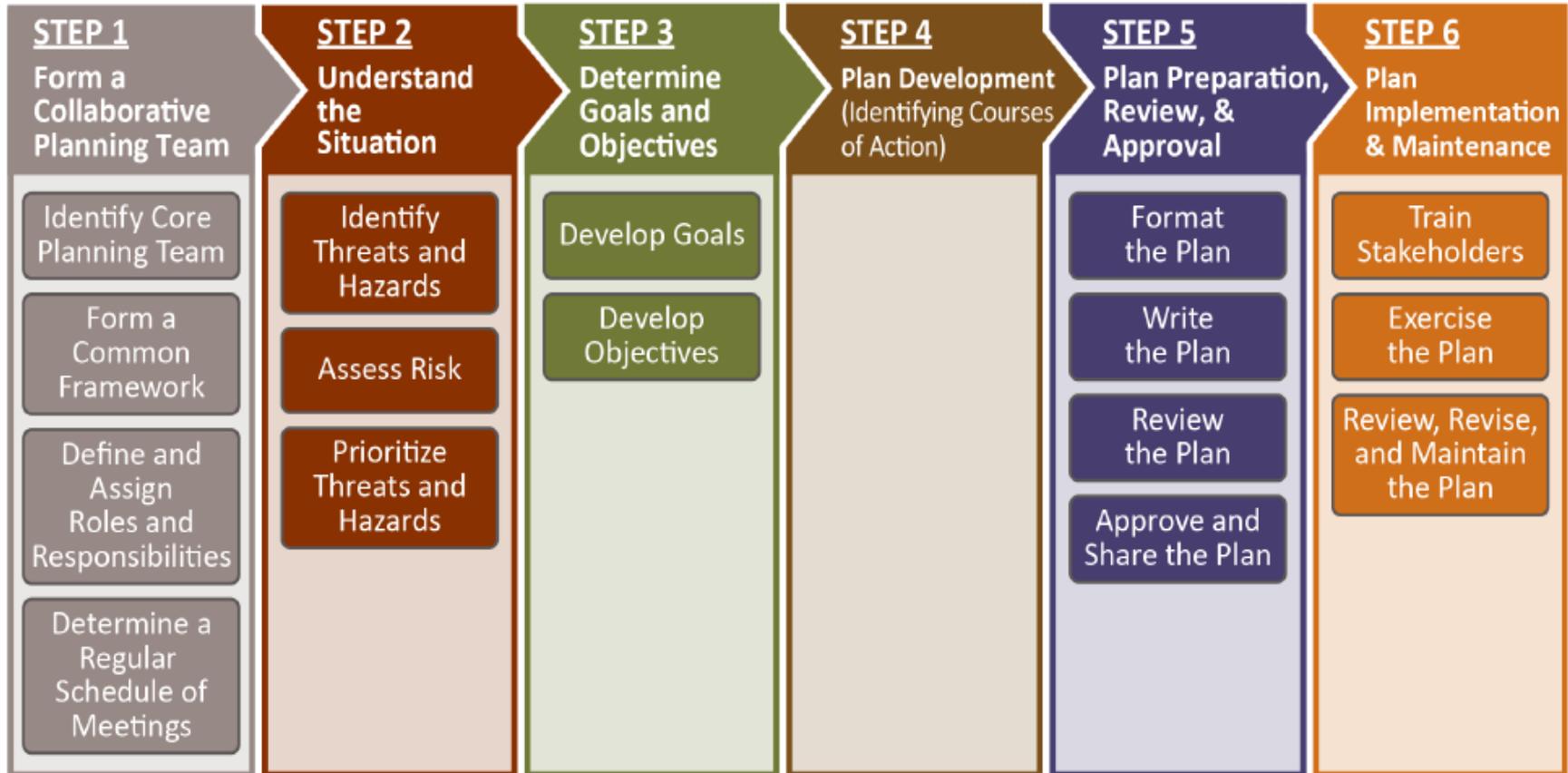
- Families and students
- School administrators, educators, and staff
- First responders
- Community groups
- Before- and after-school programs
- Student health personnel (at school, school district, and state level)
- State and local public health practitioners
- Child welfare agencies
- Representatives from local and state education agencies
- Emergency management agency representative
- Faith-based representatives

# Planning Principles and Mission Areas to Consider

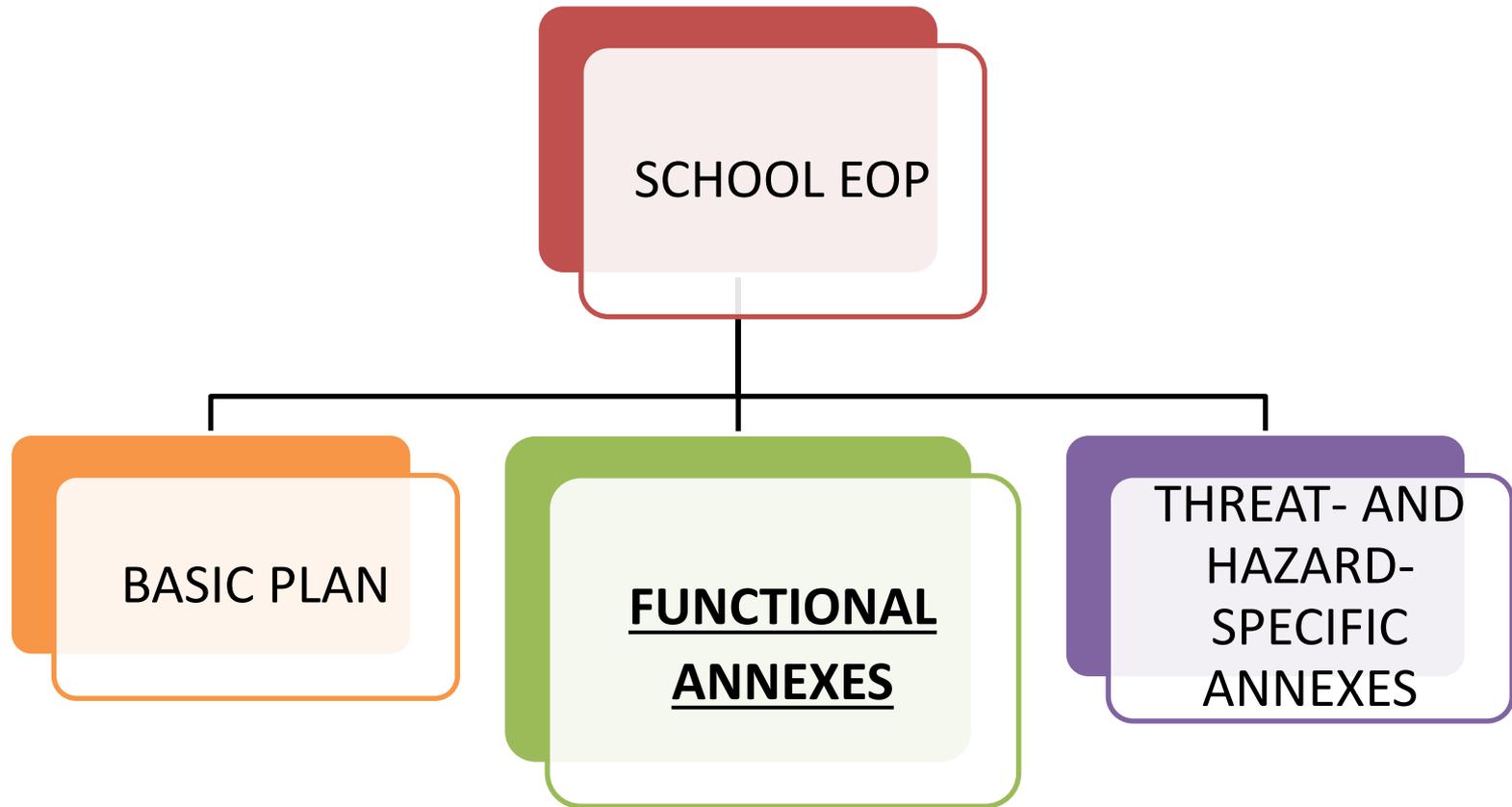
## Address:

- Before, during, and after an event
- Prevention + Protection + Mitigation + Response + Recovery = Preparedness
- All settings and all times

# Using the Six-Step Planning Process



# Integrating Supports into Related Annexes



Learn more about functional annexes via the REMS TA Center Website:  
<https://rems.ed.gov/K12FuncAnnex.aspx>.

# Training and Participating in Exercises

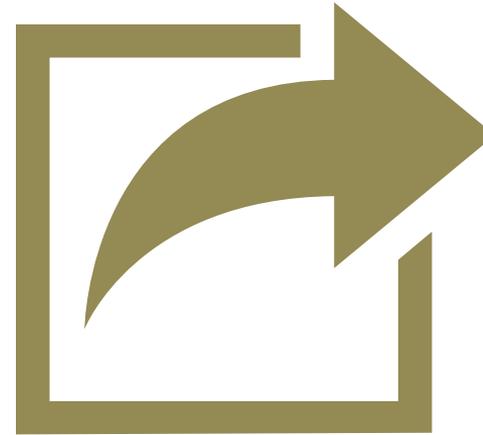
## Training

- External partners
- Internal stakeholders

## Exercises

- Planning
- Participation

# Question & Answer Session



Please use the Q&A Pod  
to submit your questions.

# Continue the Discussion



Join us **NOW**

On Twitter

**#SchoolSafetyAtHome**



READINESS AND EMERGENCY  
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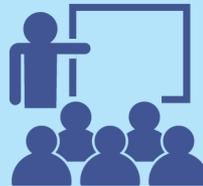
**Enhance Emergency Operations Plans**



**Access Relevant Federal Guidance**



**Use EOP-Enhancing  
Interactive Tools**



**Request an On-Site Training  
in Key EOP-Related Topics**



**Learn Anytime via Virtual Trainings  
on all Topics in Emergency Management**



**PREVENT**



**PROTECT**



**MITIGATE**



**RESPOND**



**RECOVER**