COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY

Ensures that ALL students:
- Feel accepted and respected
- Have positive relationships with peers and staff
- Can access social, emotional, and mental health supports
- Know how to get help and report concerns

Balances physical and psychological safety
Some physical security measures (e.g., metal detectors, armed guards) can decrease perceived safety without preventing actual violence.

Efforts to enhance the school climate, with reasonable physical security measures, can improve learning, behavior, and trust between students and adults.

Employs positive discipline strategies
Zero tolerance policies feed the school-to-prison pipeline, do not effectively reduce violence, increase negative behaviors, and inhibit academic achievement.

Effective discipline requires consistency, equity, reinforcement of positive behaviors, and family involvement.

Addresses student mental health and risk behaviors
School violence diminishes student well-being and motivation, and increases risk of aggression and school avoidance.

School-based mental health services improve school climate and reduce absences, discipline referrals and behavior problems.

Adequate access to school-employed mental health professionals promotes effectiveness and sustainability of services.

School psychologists play a critical role in providing comprehensive school safety and mental health supports.
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