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Commissioner

State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

www.nh.gov/hsem



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

ENGAGE WITH SCHOOL SAFETY RESOURCES AS PART OF SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK

CONCORD, N.H. — As part of America's Safe Schools Week from October 15-21, 2023, the New Hampshire Department of Safety's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) reminds residents and visitors about free school safety resources offered by the agency.

New Hampshire School Safety Resource Center: This website provides information in nine categories: the School Safety Preparedness Task Force, Legal Review, Legislative, Mental Health, Planning, Training & Exercises, Communication, Facilities Upgrades and Links. Resources posted to the website include free events, the Task Force report, education on bullying prevention, webinars and more. Users also can subscribe to receive updates from the website.

<u>School Physical Security Assessments:</u> HSEM's School Readiness Program offers a free voluntary physical security assessment of kindergarten through grade 12 schools in New Hampshire. This program looks at the physical building and grounds and makes observations and recommendations based on three physical security capabilities: surveillance, access control and emergency alerting. School officials can schedule an assessment by emailing schoolreadiness@dos.nh.gov.

<u>Training and exercises</u>: The purpose of conducting trainings/exercises is to assess, practice and improve preparedness surrounding school-based incidents in a no-fault environment. The trainings and exercises should include your school's emergency operations plan as well as local first responders. Most commonly schools are prepared to participate in either a seminar, workshop, or tabletop exercise. Schools can request training by filling out the <u>online application</u>.

<u>Ready the Prepared Puppy:</u> Ready the Prepared Puppy teaches children kindergarten through fourth grade about knowing what to do and having what they need to stay safe. Children should be a part of the planning process because knowing what to do in an emergency will provide them with reassurance that they are being protected, even during dangerous conditions. To schedule a visit with Ready email hsempio@dos.nh.gov.