



Frequently Asked Questions about the Idaho Schools Threat and Vulnerability Assessment

What is the Idaho Schools Threat and Vulnerability Assessment (ISTVA)?

The threat and vulnerability assessment is a comprehensive on-site assessment, completed by trained security analysts, using an assessment tool developed by Idaho school security leaders and normed against over 200 Idaho K-12 Schools. The assessment instrument codifies over 800 points of information on your facility, with specific attention applied to: structural threats and vulnerabilities, school climate and culture, security policy and procedure, and operational concerns.

What should I expect on the day of the Assessment?

If a morning assessment is scheduled, the Analyst will arrive, at your campus, approximately 30 minutes prior to the start of student arrival and review any neighborhood or local hazards of concern. The Analyst will observe drop-off and traffic issues and evaluate the exterior features of the facility, including lighting and doors. Once students have arrived on site, the Analyst will conduct incidental interviews of available students and staff. The Analyst will also review areas of high-risk to the facility. Once the facility component is completed, the Analyst will conduct targeted interviews with specific staff and compile the results into the assessment tool. Normally, if the school safety/leadership team staff is available, the Analyst will meet to answer questions and highlight any immediate or noteworthy concerns.

How long will the process take?

The on-site assessment will take several hours for smaller schools and up to a day in larger facilities. In order to minimize impact on staff and to better observe normal operations the Analyst will not need to be escorted through the facility.

Will the results be released publically?

The results of the assessment will note specific vulnerabilities and emergency response plans for your site and as such they are protected from Freedom of Information Act requests, under I.C. 74-104(4) b. The results will be released to your school or District, but are not available to the public because of the sensitive nature of the information.

What deliverables should I expect following the assessment?

Approximately 2 weeks after your assessment you will receive a copy of the completed assessment tool, as well as an Executive Summary. The Executive Summary will highlight areas of concern and recommend specific vetted mitigation strategies for each noted vulnerability. The summary provides a roadmap for your individual school and District planning efforts. It will help to set strategic priorities, with a special emphasis on low cost operational remedies for any noted vulnerabilities.

After the assessment what support can I expect?

If training or specific consultation is recommended, the Idaho Office of School Safety and Security is able to provide these opportunities, at no cost to Idaho public and charter schools. The Office utilizes Analysts and local subject matter experts to develop specific training and exercise opportunities for schools. The Office strongly supports coordination with your local emergency first responders and resources in your planning and mitigation efforts. Often resources are already available in the form of community based resources.

What are high-risk areas in facilities?

The high-risk areas in schools are those that historically have a higher likelihood of student injury and fatality. These areas include: playgrounds, gyms, weight rooms, science labs (including chemical storage), shops, stages, auditoriums and art areas.

To which staff will the Analyst need access?

The Analyst has specific questions for whoever fulfills the role of Nurse, Counselor, School Resource Officer, Educator, and Secretary, at each school, as each role possesses unique insight into school operations. If roles are combined or individuals are unavailable, the Analyst will be accommodating.