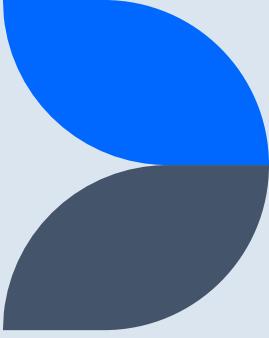


Risk and Reputation

The Authorizer's Role in Managing School Safety and Public Trust

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Summit
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Session Objectives

- Clarify the authorizer's **legal and contractual** role in safety oversight.
- Embed safety expectations in **contracts, monitoring, and renewals**.
- Use **checklists, review questions, and a risk framework** to assess readiness without micromanaging.
- Protect **students first** while safeguarding the district and school reputation.

Why Safety Is an Authorizer Issue

Student safety is foundational to public trust.

Statutory obligations exist for emergency policies, drills, safe-school officers, and risk assessment tools.

Reputational risk: One incident affects the district, governing boards, and community.

Oversight does not equal operations: we monitor and support, and schools implement.



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Oversight vs. Operations (Guardrails)

Authorizer (Sponsor) Responsibilities

- Monitor compliance with law, rule, and contract.
- Review safety plans/policies and evidence of implementation.
- Conduct site visits, high-stakes reviews, and renewal evaluations.

School (Operator) Responsibilities

- Operate the school; implement safety measures and training.
- Maintain incident reporting, drills, and safe-school officer coverage.
- Ensure staff screening and vendor background checks.

What Good Safety Oversight Looks Like

1. Plan quality: Comprehensive emergency operations plan (EOP) with annexes (active assailant, reunification, communications, mental health, continuity).
2. Systems: Safe-school officer assigned; mobile panic alert in place; threat assessment processes; SESIR reporting.
3. Practice: Drill schedules, staff/student training logs, after-action reviews.
4. Evidence: FSSAT completion with remediation steps; board minutes reflecting safety updates.

Risk & Reputation: Common Failure Points

- Paper compliance without lived practice (drills, training, AARs).
- Gaps in safe-school officer coverage (absences, field trips, after-care).
- Incomplete or outdated EOPs (no reunification site partners, outdated contact trees).
- Under-reporting or mis-coding SESIR incidents.
- Vendor screening lapses and visitor management weaknesses.

School Safety Monitoring Checklist (Authorizer)

Pre-Opening/Annual

- Safe-school officer option selected; MOUs/agreements on file; coverage schedule documented.
- Mobile panic alert system implemented and tested; integration verified.
- EOP current (signed/dated), with annexes: active assailant, reunification, comms, mental health, continuity, severe weather, medical.
- Threat assessment team roster; training credentials; meeting cadence; case documentation process.
- Drill calendar (fire, active assailant/exercise, severe weather); logs and AARs.
- SESIR protocols; incident logs; law enforcement reporting documentation.
- Staff & vendor level-2 screening processes; visitor management procedures.
- FSSAT completion; findings tracked to corrective actions with owners/dates.
- Governing board oversight: safety items as standing agenda; periodic reporting.

Sample Plan Review Questions (for EOP & Practice)

Governance: Who approves the EOP? When was it last updated? How are they updated, communicated, and trained?

Active Assailant: What is the response protocol? How often do you conduct scenario-based drills? What did your last AAR change?

Reunification: What off-site locations are secured? How will you notify families? How is student release verified?

Threat Assessment: Who's on the team? What tool/process is used? How are cases triaged, tracked, and closed?

Panic Alert: How is the system tested? What is your failover if connectivity is lost?

Officer Coverage: Show daily coverage schedules, sub coverage, and after-hours/event plans.

Training: Provide staff/student training rosters and content; onboarding vs. annual refreshers.

Reporting: Walk through your SESIR coding and law enforcement notification workflow.

FSSAT: What priority risks did you identify and what corrective actions are underway?

Authorizer Safety Risk Assessment Framework



Domains & Indicators (Score 1-4)

1. Prevention & Preparedness – EOP completeness; training cadence; community partners.
2. Protection & Deterrence – Access control, visitor management, surveillance, officer coverage.
3. Response – Drill proficiency; ICS roles; panic alert readiness; reunification playbooks.
4. Reporting & Recovery – SESIR accuracy/timeliness; AARs; mental-health supports; continuity.

Outputs

- Heat map of risks by school; time-bound corrective action plans; follow-up cadence (30/60/90 days).

Embedding Safety in the Charter Lifecycle



Pre-Opening: Verify officer selection, EOP, panic alert, training plan, and initial FSSAT.



Ongoing Monitoring: Desk reviews plus site visits using the checklist; track actions.



High-Stakes Review: Evaluate multi-year evidence (drills, SESIR data, AARs, FSSAT).



Renewal: Include safety performance and risk profile in the evaluation narrative and conditions.

Documentation & Evidence That Matters



- Signed, dated EOP plus annexes; distribution log.
- Officer roster, schedules, and coverage MOUs.
- Drill calendars, rosters, injects, AARs, and improvement tracking.
- SESIR incident files with coding justification and LE notifications.
- FSSAT reports with corrective actions; board minutes reflecting oversight.
- Level-2 screening records and vendor attestations.

Collaboration Without Micromanagement

Set

Set clear expectations up front; use standard tools.

Offer

Offer technical assistance and model templates.

Require

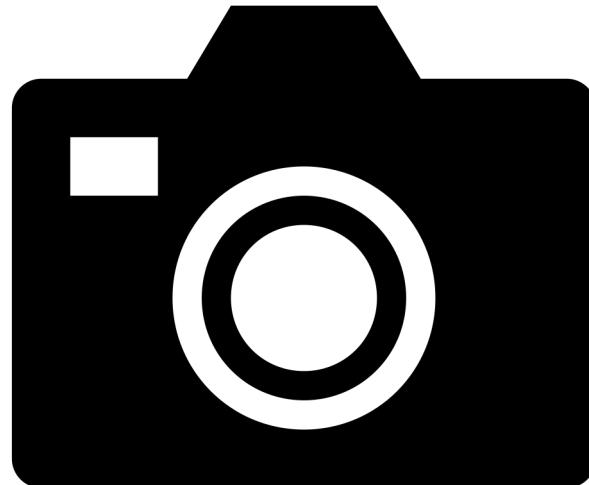
Require corrective action plans with owners/dates – not prescriptive methods.

Keep

Keep communication channels open among leaders, safety officers, and boards.

Case Snapshots (Anonymized)

- Drill Gap to Rapid Fix: Missed scenario drills; instituted quarterly table-tops; AARs closed gaps in comms.
- Officer Coverage Risk: Lunch/arrival uncovered; created staggered schedules and back-up officer plan.
- SESIR Coding Errors: Retraining with exemplars; instituted pre-submission review by admin and SSO.



Call to Action



ADOPT THE CHECKLIST, REVIEW
QUESTIONS, AND RISK
FRAMEWORK.



BAKE SAFETY INTO
MONITORING CALENDARS AND
BOARD AGENDAS.



MAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION
TRACKING ROUTINE,
TRANSPARENT, AND TIME-
BOUND.



Q&A

Handouts

- A. School Safety Monitoring Checklist
- B. Sample EOP Review Questions List
- C. Authorizer Safety Risk Assessment Rubric and Heat Map Template



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