

# Enhancing School District Resilience through PREPARE Postvention Training

In the wake of a crisis or traumatic event within a school community, the response of educators and administrators plays a pivotal role in fostering healing and recovery. The Tennessee Department of Education's [PREPARE](#) postvention training equips school districts with the necessary tools and strategies to effectively navigate these challenging circumstances by advancing and maturing the response and recovery portion of their emergency management plan. This comprehensive postvention training program is designed to support schools in responding to and recovering from crises such as student deaths, accidents, violence, or natural disasters. PREPARE provides evidence-based guidance on crisis response protocols, psychological first aid, communication strategies, and long-term recovery planning.

## Why Participate in PREPARE Training?

- Participating in PREPARE training **enhances the crisis response competence** of school staff and administrators. By familiarizing participants with established protocols and best practices, PREPARE equips them to effectively manage crisis situations, minimize further harm, and facilitate the restoration of normalcy within the school environment.
- The aftermath of a traumatic event can profoundly impact the emotional and psychological well-being of students and staff. PREPARE training emphasizes the importance of providing immediate and ongoing **support for the well-being of students and staff affected**, fostering a culture of care and resilience within the school community.
- PREPARE encourages collaboration and coordination and **strengthening community partnerships** with external stakeholders, including mental health professionals, law agencies, and community organizations. By establishing robust partnerships, school districts can access additional resources and expertise to support their postvention efforts.
- Effective postvention interventions have been shown to **mitigate the long-term psychological consequences** of traumatic events. By implementing the strategies and recommendations outlined in PREPARE training, school districts can proactively address the needs of students and staff, reducing the risk of prolonged distress or trauma-related disorders.
- PREPARE training empowers school communities to **build resilience and facilitate the recovery** process following a crisis. By fostering a supportive and compassionate environment, schools can help individuals and the community to navigate the healing journey and emerge stronger in the aftermath of adversity.
- Participating in PREPARE training demonstrates a commitment to adhering to **best practices and standards in crisis response** and postvention. By aligning with established guidelines and protocols, school districts can enhance their preparedness and ensure a coordinated and effective response to future emergencies.
- PREPARE training offers valuable **professional development opportunities** and skill building for educators and administrators. Participants acquire essential skills in crisis management, communication, and trauma-informed care, which can enhance their effectiveness in supporting students and colleagues during challenging times.



Participation in [PREPARE](#) postvention training offers numerous benefits to school districts, ranging from enhancing crisis response competence to supporting the well-being and resilience of students and staff. By investing in PREPARE training, school districts demonstrate their commitment to fostering a safe, supportive, and resilient learning environment for all members of the school community.

For more information and access to PREPARE training resources, email <mailto:Kimberly.Daubenspeck@tn.gov>.