

PREPARE Postvention Tabletop Exercises

In the aftermath of a crisis or traumatic incident within a school community, educator and administrator response can significantly impact the healing and recovery process. Recognizing this essential need, the Tennessee Department of Education has developed [PREPARE](#) postvention training. This initiative equips school districts with essential tools and strategies to effectively navigate such challenging circumstances, particularly by enhancing the response and recovery aspects of their emergency management plans.

[PREPARE](#) offers a comprehensive training program tailored to support schools in responding to and recovering from various crises, including student deaths, accidents, violence, or natural disasters. The program encompasses evidence-based guidance on crisis response protocols, psychological first aid, communication strategies, and long-term recovery planning.

Tabletop exercises simulate crisis scenarios in a controlled environment, allowing educators and administrators to practice their response procedures and refine their strategies. By engaging in tabletop exercises, school personnel can better prepare themselves to handle real-life crises with efficiency and confidence.

Sample Tabletop Activities

Prevention: You are scheduled to present your school the procedure for crisis postvention. Practice the PLC presentation with your team to share what you will cover.

Intervention: A 5th grade student and a 3rd grade student in your school have died over the weekend in a car accident. The Principal called you and asked you to take charge and start the postvention process including getting additional counselors in the building for counseling services. List the steps you would take to start the process on Monday.

Intervention: The Principal has died suddenly over the weekend and all students AND staff will need to be notified. In addition, you have been tasked with the response and recovery for the entire school. List the steps and timeline you would use for this crisis.

Intervention: Your school has suffered the results of a tornado that has devastated the community in which the school is located. List the steps your crisis team would need to take.

Suicide: You have learned that a student has died by suicide over the weekend. List the steps you would take using the Suicide Behavior Procedure guidelines or the suicide postvention guide.

For more information and access to PREPARE training resources and tabletop exercises, please contact Kimberly.Daubenspeck@tn.gov.