

# Safe and Supportive Schools

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Minnesota Department of Education

**September 16, 2014**

# Safe and Supportive Schools

## Legislation Passes

- Governor Dayton signed HF 826 (Chapter 160) into law on April 9, 2014.
- Effective for the 2014-2015 school year.
- All school boards required to adopt a local district and school student bullying policy that complies with the requirements of the new law.
- Twenty-three member council to provide leadership.
- School Safety Technical Assistance Center established.

# Council Membership

## State agencies:

- Education, Health, Human Rights, Human Services, Public Safety, Corrections and Higher Education

## State associations:

- Minnesota School Administrators, Association of Charter Schools, School Boards Association, Elementary School Principal Association, Association of Secondary School Principals, and Education MN

## Other members:

- Two from each group appointed by commissioner of education
  - support personnel, parents and students
- Additional appointments by Public Safety – two local law enforcement
- Additional appointments by Judiciary – two court personnel

# The Council

- Agencies and organization designate representatives.
  - A member serves at the pleasure of their appointing authority and continues to serve until their successor is appointed.
- Education commissioner initiated open appointment process for six seats (parents, students and support personnel).
- Council established as of August 1, 2014.
- First meeting of Council September 16, 2014.
- Commissioner of Education or designee chairs.

# Council Leadership Role

## “Council.....

- Established to improve school climate and school safety so that all Minnesota students in prekindergarten through grade 12 schools
- and higher education institutions to
- have a safe and supportive learning environment
- in order to maximize each student's learning potential.”

# Council Leadership Role

## Policy Leadership Role

- Establish norms and standards for prevention, intervention and support around issues of prohibited conduct.
- Advance evidence-based policy and best practices to improve school climate.
- Develop and dissemination of resources and training for schools and communities.
- Develop policies and procedures for services provided by the School Safety Technical Assistance Center.

# School Safety and Technical Assistance Center

- Support districts and schools in providing a safe and supportive learning environment.
- Assist schools and districts in crafting their student anti-bullying policies.
- Aid districts in resolving issues arising under the new policies.
- Function as a repository of best practice and research-based resources, activities and training materials.
- Develop effective prevention strategies including how to deal with social media and cyber bullying.
- Support school and district planning, schools recovering from incidents of violence and violence prevention education.

# Center Staffing

Center will be housed at MDE.

- Center director began September 2 and will supervise and develop additional positions to assist with training, technical assistance and data reporting functions.
- Ongoing Staffing---
  - Center Director
  - Education Specialist
    - ✓ Training, Evidence Based Practices
    - ✓ Outreach and Support
  - Administrative Assistant

# Tentative Timeline for 2014

## August/September:

- Center director hired.
- Council membership finalized.
- First meeting of Council.
- Develop and adopt model policy.
- Council establishes priorities and direction.

## 2014 School Year

- Outreach to schools and districts.
- Website developed.
- Additional staff hired.
- Processes and tools established for use by schools and communities.
- Outreach for stakeholder feedback.
- Assess what's working.

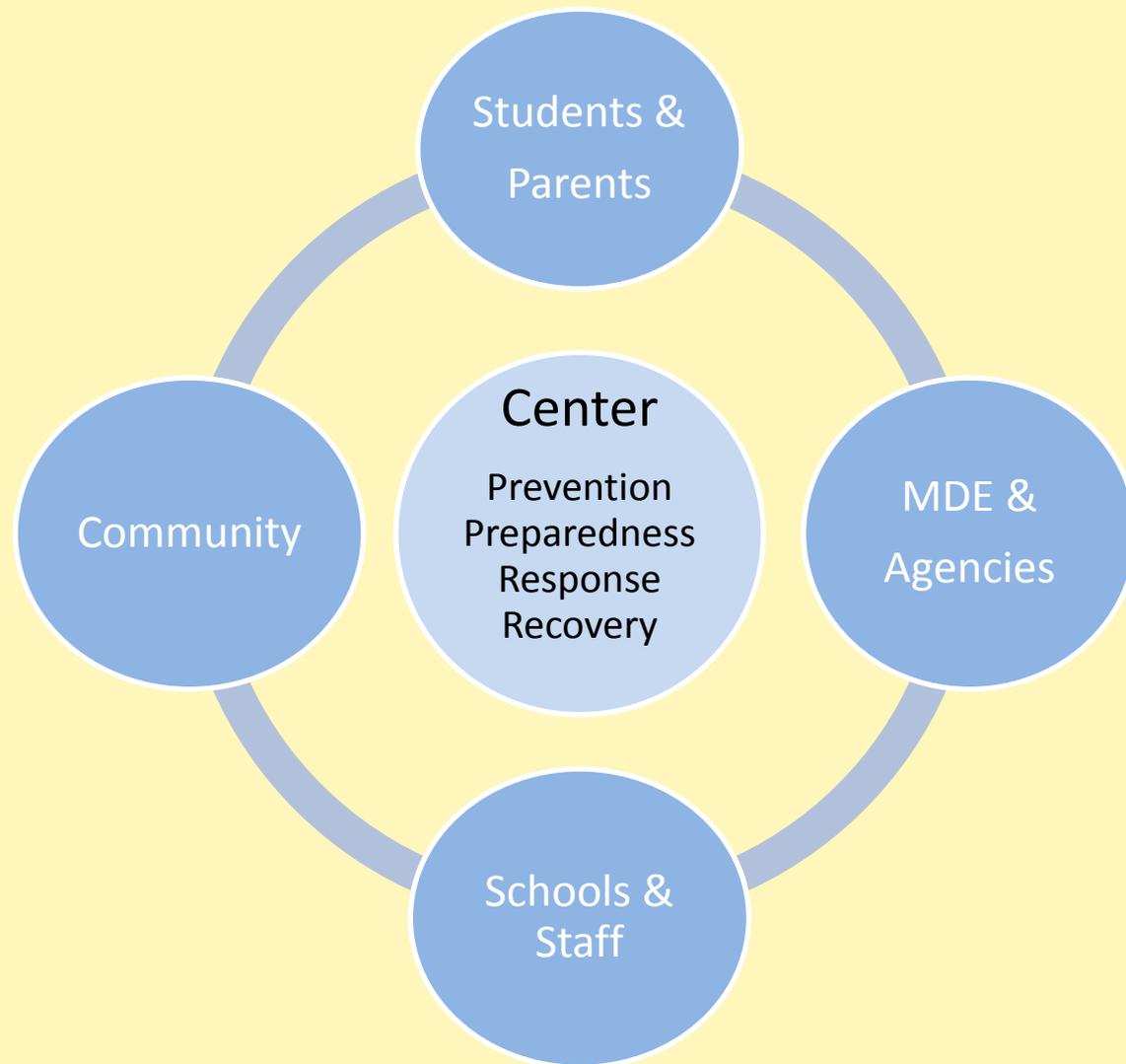
# Update on Work to Date

**Monica Herrera, Director**

**Nancy Riestenberg, Restorative Practices Specialist**

**Safety, Health and Nutrition Division**

# Collaboration



# Values

*Honor the work of everyone involved in developing the legislation.  
Quick access to relevant tools, training and processes.  
Build with sustainability in mind.*

That will impact...

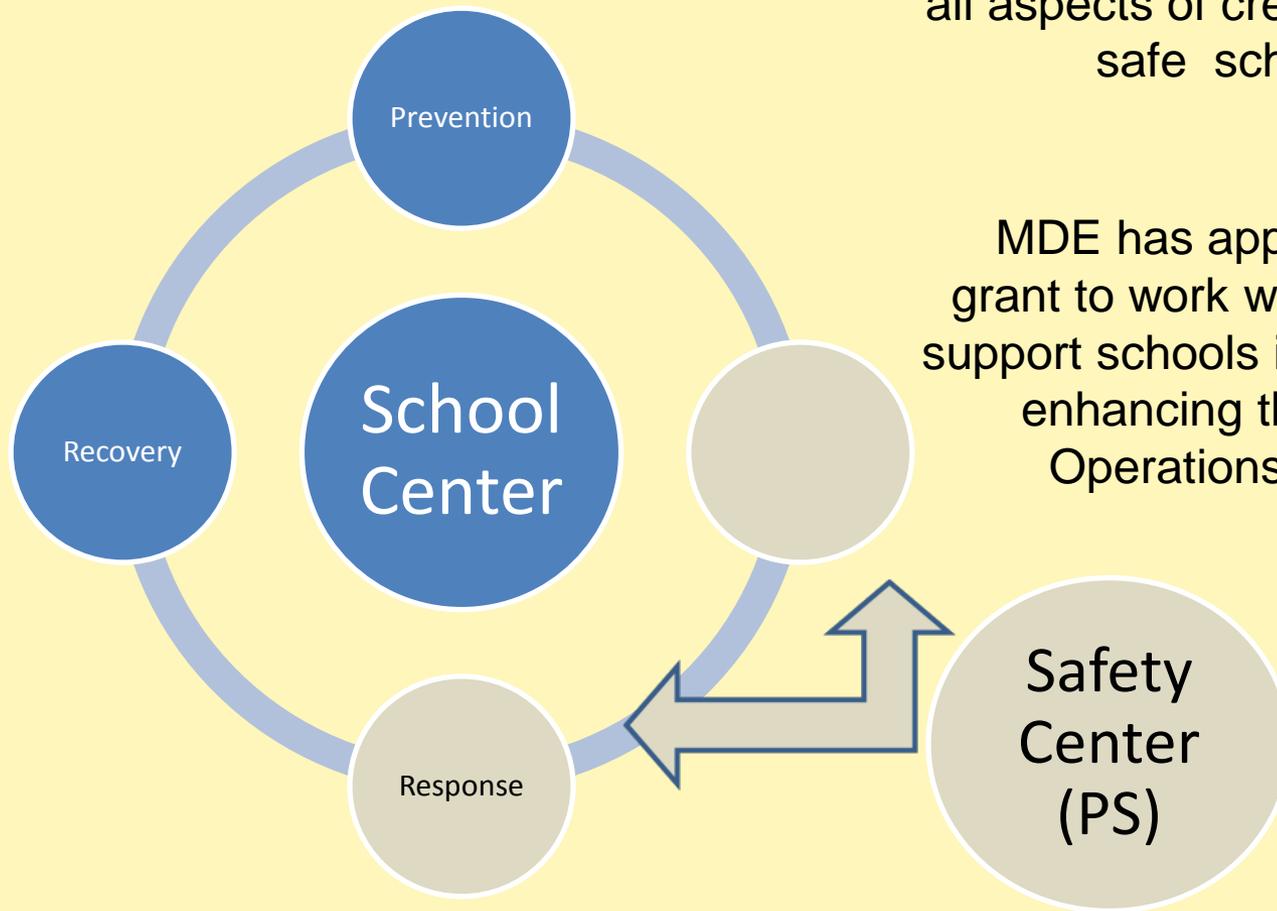
- Tools (videos, case studies, books, etc.)
- Technical Assistance
- Support
- Research
- Information
- Policies
- Training



# Partnerships

Partnership between Departments of Education and Public Safety to address all aspects of creating a positive and safe school climate.

MDE has applied for a federal grant to work with Public Safety to support schools in developing and/or enhancing their Emergency Operations Plans (EOP).



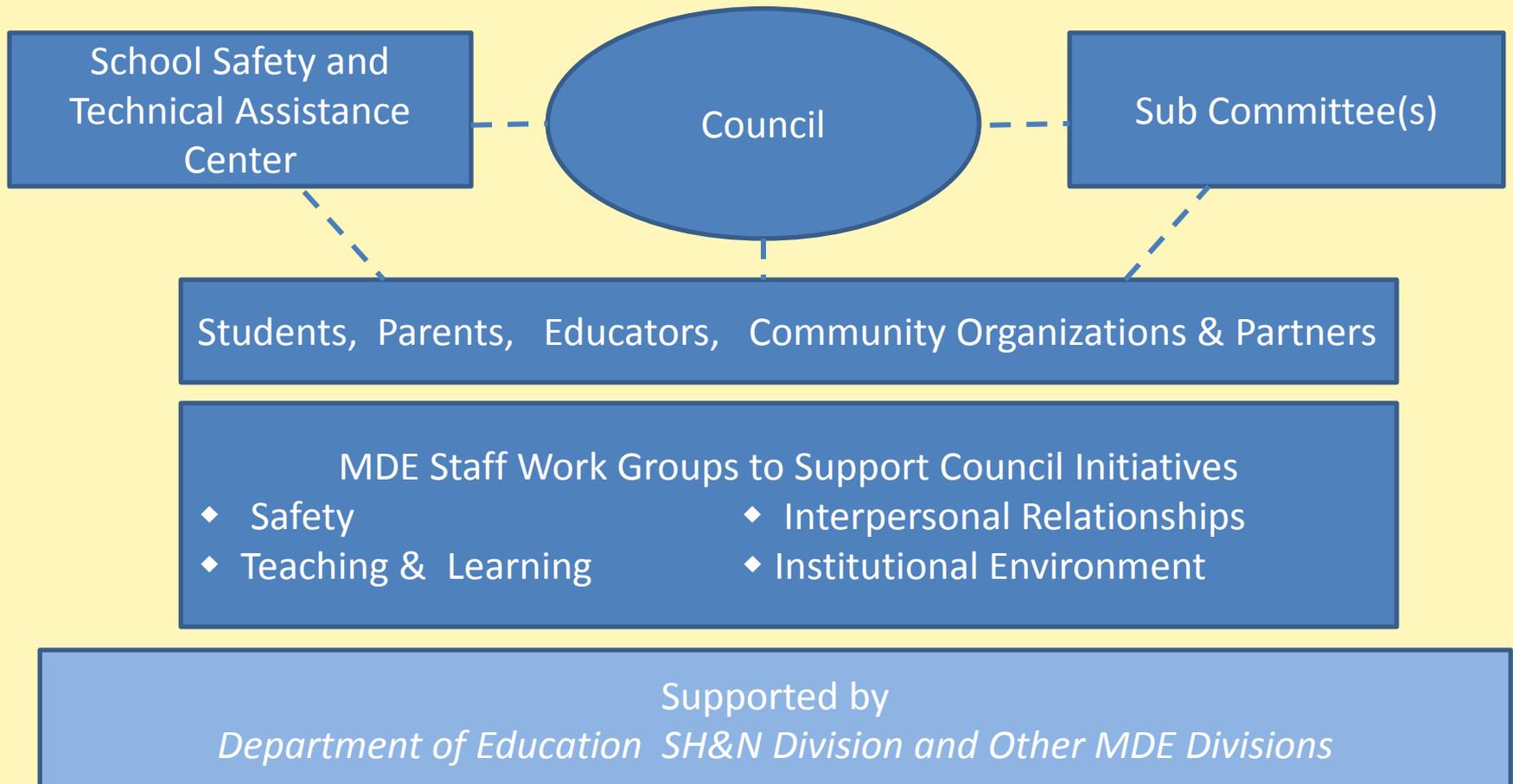
# Update on Work to Date

- Drafted Model Policy based on legislation.
- Conducted research on bullying prevention and intervention frameworks.

# Update on Work to Date

## Building a Sustainable Infrastructure

Stakeholders helping determine priorities, goals and activities.



# Ongoing Initiatives/Programs

- Principles of Effective Practice.
- Restorative Measures in Schools.
- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports.
- The CDC grant: safe and supportive environments, evidence based sexuality education, access to adolescent friendly clinics.
- Bullying prevention/intervention workshops.
- Minnesota Student Survey 2013 analysis.
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) presentations.

# Technical Assistance Options

## For Districts and Schools

- Develop policies.
- Evidence-based workshops.
- Staff development and support.
- Program materials, publications.
- Conferences and workshops.
- Website, webinars.
- Facilitate networking among schools, communities and agencies.

# Technical Assistance Options

## For Students, Parents and Communities

- Direct email and phone assistance.
- Develop skill sets to support safe, healthy learning environments.
- Educate on evidence-based practices and strategies.
- Create access to supportive materials and publications.
- Facilitate networking among schools, communities and agencies.
- Webinars, videos and other educational materials.



# School Safety Technical Assistance Center

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