



## School Crisis Response Teams

Schools experience a wide variety of crises that have the potential to harm the mental and physical health, learning environment, and safety of students and educators. A school crisis is any traumatic event that seriously disrupts coping and problem-solving abilities of students and school staff. It is typically sudden, unexpected, dramatic and forceful and may even threaten survival. School crises can be on a large scale, such as severe violence, hostage situations, and natural disasters that require an emergency response from the community. Or, they can be more individualized, such as a car accident or the unexpected death of a student or staff member.

During a crisis, however, schools face unusual demands. While maintaining day-to-day operations, they must adapt to unexpected and unpredictable influences caused by a crisis event. Both school staff members and students will be personally affected by the crisis. Therefore, at the time of a crisis it is very difficult for a school to organize an effective crisis intervention response and still maintain the required long-range perspective of recovery. Schools may underestimate the full impact of the crisis or feel overwhelmed by the extent and magnitude of crisis event.

## There is Help

Two regional crisis response teams have been formed to provide assistance to districts and charter school administrators during the recovery of a traumatic event. These teams are comprised of school professionals who are trained in Critical Incident Stress Management to provide on-site support, guidance and resources to those affected by traumatic events.

## How to Get More Help or Information

### **Minnesota Association of Charter Schools School Crisis Response Team**

Supports districts and schools in the metro area

The first team contact is:

Lexy Spangrud  
952-465-2423  
[aspangrud@shpamn.org](mailto:aspangrud@shpamn.org)

If unable to reach Lexy, contact:

Tom DeCree  
612-388-2446

[tom@mncharterschools.org](mailto:tom@mncharterschools.org)

**Southwest West Central Regional Crisis Response Team**

Supports districts and schools in regions 6E, 6W and 8

The first team contact is:

Brian Skogen

507-828-7955

[brian.skogen@canbylancers.org](mailto:brian.skogen@canbylancers.org)

If unable to reach Jason, contact:

Jason Kratochvil

605-520-5939

[Jason.kratochvil@swwc.org](mailto:Jason.kratochvil@swwc.org)