



School Safety Center Training

### WHY THIS MATTERS

Our schools must always be safe places for learning. Educators across our state are committed to the safety of every student in the classroom and on their campuses. Following tragic incidents on Texas campuses in 2018, TEA has worked closely with the Office of the Governor, legislative leadership, educators and district administrators, and the Texas School Safety Center to enhance safety in our districts.

### THE TEXAS SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER

The Texas School Safety Center serves as a clearinghouse for the dissemination of safety and security information through research, training, and technical assistance for schools systems throughout the state of Texas. During 2017-18, the Safety Center's experts provided extensive training to more than 50,000 individuals to help increase the safety of our schools.



### HAYS COUNTY STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL

In 2012, Hays County emergency services reviewed campus emergency operations plans and identified a critical need to standardize plans across school districts. Through a multi-year effort that included collaboration between school districts, local law enforcement and the Texas School Safety Center, a formal plan was adopted countywide. Training with faculty was initiated on each campus before the start of the school year followed by in-school assemblies with students. A training video was produced to aid in efforts to remain consistent with safety protocols across all campuses. Each school year, every school conducts an evacuation drill, a lockout drill and a public safety-supported lockdown drill. Collaboration between emergency services departments, school districts and campus leadership remains strong, and is a central part of the program's success.



### WHY THIS MATTERS

Across Texas, our schools provide services to more than half a million students with special education needs, and these students deserve access to the same opportunities for success in college, career and the military as their peers. The special education strategic plan, summarized below, provides a framework for TEA's efforts to train, set clear guidance for districts, support districts in meeting state and federal requirements, provide training and technical assistance to districts to improve their services, and to engage and inform families.



Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD

### SPECIAL EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN

In April 2018, TEA completed work on a comprehensive strategic plan for special education. This plan provides a solid foundation to make meaningful, lasting change in how our state educates and supports children with special needs. The plan is based on input received during one of the agency's most comprehensive outreach efforts that included town halls, a statewide online survey, focus groups, and one-on-one interviews with parents, students and teachers.<sup>62</sup>

Responses to US Dept. of Ed. Survey	7,094	Responses to Needs Assessment	4,106
Focus Groups	1,520	One-on-One Interviews	153

