



# Leadership Making a Difference

## Crisis Precautions in Our Schools

February 2018

✦ The latest school shooting in the United States is a further shocking reminder of the vulnerability of our schools to the aggression and terror perpetrated by deranged and disturbed individuals who use collections of young people and staff as centres to cause trauma and make statements of hatred and revenge.

It is shocking to realize that this is the 18th shooting incident in American schools this school year.

Fortunately, in Canada and Ontario we have not had so many serious incidents.

News reports on these shooting incidents indicate that these schools have had some serious training for staff and students for defensive action in the case of such an event. Too often fire alarms and lockdowns are treated as insignificant disruptions and not taken seriously with real plans for use in an emergency.

Directors of education have ultimate system responsibility for safety among their many duties.

This would be an appropriate time for directors to remind staff across their boards to renew emphasis on safety precautions and make school emergency plans up to date, usable and known to all staff and students. It is also a time to let trustees know that school plans are in place and reviewed.

Hopefully, there will be no local incidents demanding use of these plans.

Frank Kelly  
Executive Director

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## CODE

Council of Ontario Directors of Education

Representing:

Association des gestionnaires de l'éducation franco-ontarienne  
(AGÉFO) Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association (OCSOA)  
Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association (OPSOA)