Designing Safe Schools
Planning and Retrofitting for Safety in Educational Facilities

On Thursday, April 30, 2015, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. EDT, the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Office of Safe and Healthy Students (OSHS), with its Education Facilities Clearinghouse (EFC) and Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance (TA) Center, will celebrate National PrepareAthon! Day by hosting a Webinar that provides insight on safety and security design and cost-effective features to consider for new construction of or retrofitting existing school buildings and grounds.

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Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

America’s PrepareAthon!, a nationwide, community-based action campaign aimed at increasing emergency preparedness and resilience. On 2 days each year (April 30 and September 30), the campaign community supports National PrepareAthon! Day by encouraging schools, school districts, State Education Agencies (SEAs), institutions of higher education (IHEs), and community partners to make plans to prepare for a variety of hazards.

More Information
Our nation’s schools and school districts are entrusted to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for approximately 55 million elementary and secondary school students in public and nonpublic schools. Families and communities expect schools and school districts to keep children and youths safe from threats, including human-caused emergencies such as crime and violence, as well as hazards like natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and accidents. Preparedness is a shared responsibility. In collaboration with their local government and community partners, schools and school districts can take steps to plan for these potential threats and hazards through the creation of an emergency operations plan (EOP).

View Toolkit

"Instruction ends in the school room, but education ends only with life."

- Frederick W. Robertson