



## PHILOSOPHY OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY PLANNING GOSHEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The components of a school safety plan include policies and procedures to ensure a safe and orderly environments that promote the health and well-being of students and staff.

Goshen Community School's philosophy of crisis management and safety planning aligns with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the National Department of Homeland Security. Safety/Crisis Intervention Plans that adhere to these guidelines are in place at every Goshen school. These plans identify team members, include all appropriate contact information, address large-scale disasters such as earthquakes, tornados and address other hazardous conditions that could impact our students, families and community. They have been developed with input from Elkhart County Emergency Management and the City of Goshen Police Department. Collaboration and guidance from these sources yield four critical areas of school emergency management. *Mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery* constitutes the framework of the GCS plan. Under this structure, all pieces of the GCS crisis management and safety plan will be completed with the purpose of providing adequate training and preparation for all personnel.

*Mitigation and preparedness* has involved assessment of the vulnerability of all school sites and the needs of personnel to respond to a variety of emergency situations. Plans are in place to address identified needs through grant funding and the work of GCS personnel.

*Response* to a crisis depends on the emergency at hand. Our *Crisis Response Handbook* (colored flip chart) addresses each emergency individually. All school personnel have access to a copy of this resource. In a lockdown situation, our response at Goshen Schools is based on an established plan but has been adapted to meet the needs of our school and community. GCS personnel will operate under the plan

**ASSESS** (gather information),  
**RUN** (if optimal conditions exist)  
**HIDE** (if evading is not an option)  
**FIGHT** (as a last resort).

This plan allows school personnel to quickly gather information before acting and then proceeding with the safety of all students as the key to their actions.

*Recovery* -Crisis recovery starts when the crisis is identified. It involves the mental health demands which accompany a crisis and the responsibility of the school and the district in maintaining the chain of custody for every student. Our Goshen Community Schools Safety/Crisis Intervention Plan includes reunification and recovery planning.

It is the firm conviction of Goshen Community Schools that we must maintain safe learning environments that meet the challenges of any emergency. The purpose of our crisis management and safety planning is to promote peace of mind for educators, parents, and students necessary to succeed in the educational environment.