



# Threat Assessment in Schools: Basics and Benchmarks Training

This training session presents the findings from the U.S. Department of Education/U.S. Secret Service *Safe School Initiative (SSI)*, a study that focused on the thinking, planning, and other behaviors engaged in by students who carried out attacks on schools.

## TRAINING DESCRIPTION

In the wake of several high-profile school shootings that occurred in the 1990's, the U.S. Department of Education and US Secret Service joined together to learn more about the targeted shootings and whether anything could be done to prevent the attacks from occurring. This study, entitled the Safe School Initiative (SSI), reviewed 37 incidents of targeted violence. The final report that was issued in 2002 provided ten key findings. Among the findings was one that generated a considerable amount of debate: Prior to the incidents, other people knew about the attacker's idea and/or plan to attack. In 81% of the incidents at least one other person has some type of prior knowledge of the attackers plan and in 59% more than one other person knew. Officials from ED and USSS were interested in knowing why these individuals, or Bystanders, did not come forward even though they had some prior knowledge about planned school violence. This apparent incongruity raised questions about why the information was not brought forward or used in any way to avert the attack and resulted in, "A Systematic Pilot Study of Student Responses to Prior Knowledge of Potential School-Based Violence: What we can learn about life sustaining prevention? Or, the "Bystander Study." The findings of the SSI and Bystander Studies, as well as their implications for educators and law enforcement officials, will be discussed during this session.



## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Educators from all levels of the state education system, including private schools and colleges, local and state law enforcement representatives, as well as mental health professionals.

## TRAINING DETAILS

**When:** Tuesday, August 21, 2012

**Time:** 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM (Registration begins at 8:00 AM.)

**Where:** Algonquin Regional High School, 79 Bartlett Street, Northborough, MA

**Cost:** No Charge.

**Questions:** Christine Johnson at 508-486-5115 Ext. 241

Register For This Training Session Online At:  
<http://rems.ed.gov/trainings/7MA120821>