Blue Springs School District
Hazard Mitigation Plan

Presented to Board of Education
April 8, 2013

A. Local hazard Mitigation Goals

The Blue Springs School District safety coordinator consulted with the superintendent, building principals, and school resource officers (SRO) in order to identify hazards that are of greatest concern in our school district. The district used this analysis to establish the following goal:

➢ Goal: Improve student safety from natural and man-made hazards.

B. Analysis of Mitigation Actions

The school district has been actively seeking ways to improve hazard mitigation actions throughout the past three school years. Meetings with the administration and SROs have been conducted frequently to identify weaknesses in our existing plan and to determine a course of action for improvement. The mitigation actions outlined in this document serve as a culmination of these discussions.

C. Implementation of Mitigation Actions

The Blue Springs School District has identified several mitigation actions that we believe will aid in achieving our goal of improved student safety.

Action 1. Improve Tornado Preparedness

Ideas for Implementation
• Construct storm shelters (2).
• Implement tornado readiness and response procedures in curriculum.
• Conduct additional drills.
• Establish Community Reaction Leadership Team as it relates to severe weather.

Cost/Benefit Analysis:
Conducting additional drills would not require additional funding, however we feel that two drills per year is sufficient. Throughout this process, it was discovered that tornado readiness and response procedures are already included in our curriculum at several grade levels and would therefore not be necessary.
While construction of a storm shelter would require a higher initial cost, the benefits outweigh this cost when increased student and community safety is considered. Additionally, this project would stimulate the local economy by providing construction opportunities and bringing income to local businesses. This was determined to be high priority because of the high likelihood of tornadoes affecting our school and due to the large number of individuals that would be impacted throughout our school and community.

Responsible Agency: Blue Springs Superintendent and Board of Education
Plan Goal Addressed: Improve student safety from natural and man-made hazards.
Timeline: Long-term – Within next three years
Target Capacity: 1,640 (820 each site)
Estimated Cost: $3M
Funding: School District & Federal Grant
Priority: High

Action 2. Establish and communicate an effective crisis management plan.

Ideas for Implementation
- Strengthen school safety committees that consist of the district safety coordinator, SRO, additional school administrators, and other certified staff members.
- Maintain revision cycle of the existing crisis management plan to improve ease of use. (Revise Quick Reference Flip-Chart, Revise Crisis Management Manual(s), enhance existing training plan)
- Advance current safety training plan at each school.

Cost/Benefit Analysis: Hiring an independent company is often very costly and involves a continuous flow of funds to continue implementation of their program from year to year. The Blue Springs School District has been approved to commission our own public safety officials. This type of approach is economical and allows for synchronized safety enhancements across all sectors of emergencies. The Blue Springs School District Department of Public Safety will continually analyze and mitigate risks.

In contrast, enhancement of our site-based plan will likely result in a program that will adequately serve the needs of our district and will effectively utilize existing resources.

Responsible Agency: Blue Springs Director of Public Safety
Plan Goal Addressed: Improve student safety from natural and man-made hazards.
Timeline: Short-term – completion goal of August 2014
Estimated Cost: $4,000
Funding: Local school district
Priority: High
Action 3. Minimize the threat of intruders and civil disturbances.

Ideas for Implementation

- Install / enhance video identification system at main entrances.
- Provide 1 commissioned law enforcement officers at each secondary school.
- Provide .5 commissioned law enforcement officers at each elementary school.
- Enhance visitor management system.
- Provide secure vestibule at 7 elementary schools.
- Provide secure vestibule at 4 middle schools.
- Provide secure vestibules at 1 high school.

Cost/Benefit Analysis: Our district currently has 6 school resource officers. It is our intent to expand our Department of Public Safety to provide 6 additional school resource officers in order to more adequately secure our elementary schools and enhance safety instruction. With excellent fiscal management over the last few years, our school board has approved this plan. In fiscal year 2014, our school district’s department of public safety will expand to a total of 12 commissioned officers. The threat of intruders and civil disturbances are quite real. Our school board has embraced this concept. Furthermore, installation of video surveillance systems at each school (22) will enhance the visibility for our officers and increase the reaction time should an intruder desire entry.

Responsible Agency: Blue Springs School District Superintendent and Board of Education.
Plan Goal Addressed: Improve student safety from natural and man-made hazards.
Timeline: Short term – completion goal December 2014
Estimated Cost: $700,000 (personnel), $14M (construction)
Funding: Local School District & State Funds
Priority: High