



Top Ten Questions to Ask About School Safety & Security

1. **What are our documented safety and security goals, and how do we measure progress?**
 - a. Boards should expect clear, measurable objectives with regular outcome reporting incident rates, response times, drill results. If you can't measure it, you can't improve it.
 - b. Board Action: Ask the superintendent: "Show me our safety scorecard."
2. **What is our current Comprehensive School Safety Plan, and when was it last updated?**
 - a. Idaho law requires this plan. It must reflect current threats, building changes, and best practices not sit in a binder. Ask to see it and ask when it was last reviewed.
 - b. Board Action: Ask: "Is our plan compliant with Idaho Code? When did the board last review it?"
3. **How are we coordinating with local law enforcement, first responders, and emergency management agencies?**
 - a. Real preparedness requires practiced coordination: MOUs, joint training exercises, shared communication protocols, and rehearsed responses... not just a phone number on a list.
 - b. Board Action: Ask: "Have our first responders practiced with our staff this year?"
4. **What resources are allocated to safety and security (staffing, training, technology), and how do we know they're effective?**
 - a. Boards approve budgets. The question isn't just "what did we spend?" but "what did we get?" Look for counselors, SROs/liaisons, mental health support, threat assessment teams, and physical security systems.
 - b. Board Action: Ask: "What is our per-pupil safety investment, and what outcomes are we tracking?"
5. **How are we addressing mental health, behavior intervention, and early threat identification?**
 - a. Violence and substance crises start long before an incident. Boards should ensure the district has counselors, anonymous reporting mechanisms, social-emotional learning, and a multi-disciplinary threat assessment team.
 - b. Board Action: Ask: "Do we have a threat assessment team? When did it last meet?"
6. **What communication systems do we use internally and with families during a crisis?**
 - a. Multi-systems matter text, email, phone, apps with redundancies, language access, and tested protocols. Families need timely, accurate information. Ask when systems were last tested.
 - b. Board Action: Ask: "When did we last test our crisis communication system with families?"
7. **How often do we conduct safety drills, and how do we assess their effectiveness?**
 - a. Drills must be done on a regular basis, but with varied lockdowns, evacuations, shelter-in-place times. Drills should be improving based on evaluation.
 - b. Board Action: Ask: "What improved after our last drill?"
8. **What physical security measures are in place, and how do we validate they are appropriate?**
 - a. Controlled entry, cameras, visitor management, lighting but presence alone isn't enough.
 - b. Board Action: Ask: "Who audits our physical security, and when?"
9. **How do we ensure comprehensive training to keep everyone safe?**
 - a. Safety must apply to everyone. Including bus drivers, cafeteria staff, and special needs classrooms.
 - b. Board Action: Ask: "How are we ensuring that everyone at our schools are safe and have appropriate training?"
10. **How do we solicit and incorporate feedback from staff, students, and parents about safety concerns?**
 - a. Community input should shape policy not just fill a comment box.
 - b. Board Action: Ask: "What changed in our safety approach because of community feedback?"