



The Role of Special Educators in School Safety Efforts

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

WEBINAR

Presented by the
Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS)
Technical Assistance (TA) Center





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GUEST PRESENTER



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Collaborative Planning in School Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Development



A Closer Look at the Role of Special Educators in School Safety Efforts



How Special Educators Can Enhance the Six-Step Planning Process



Question-and-Answer Session



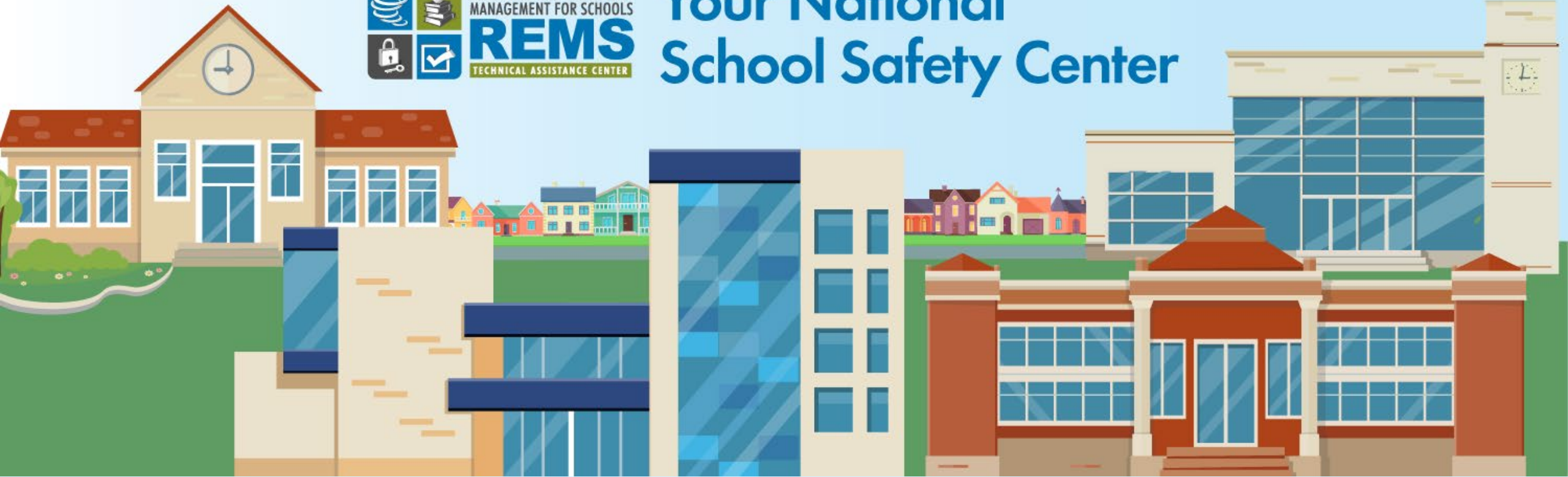
Key Resources to Support Your Work



POLL: ARE WE NEW TO YOU?



Your National School Safety Center



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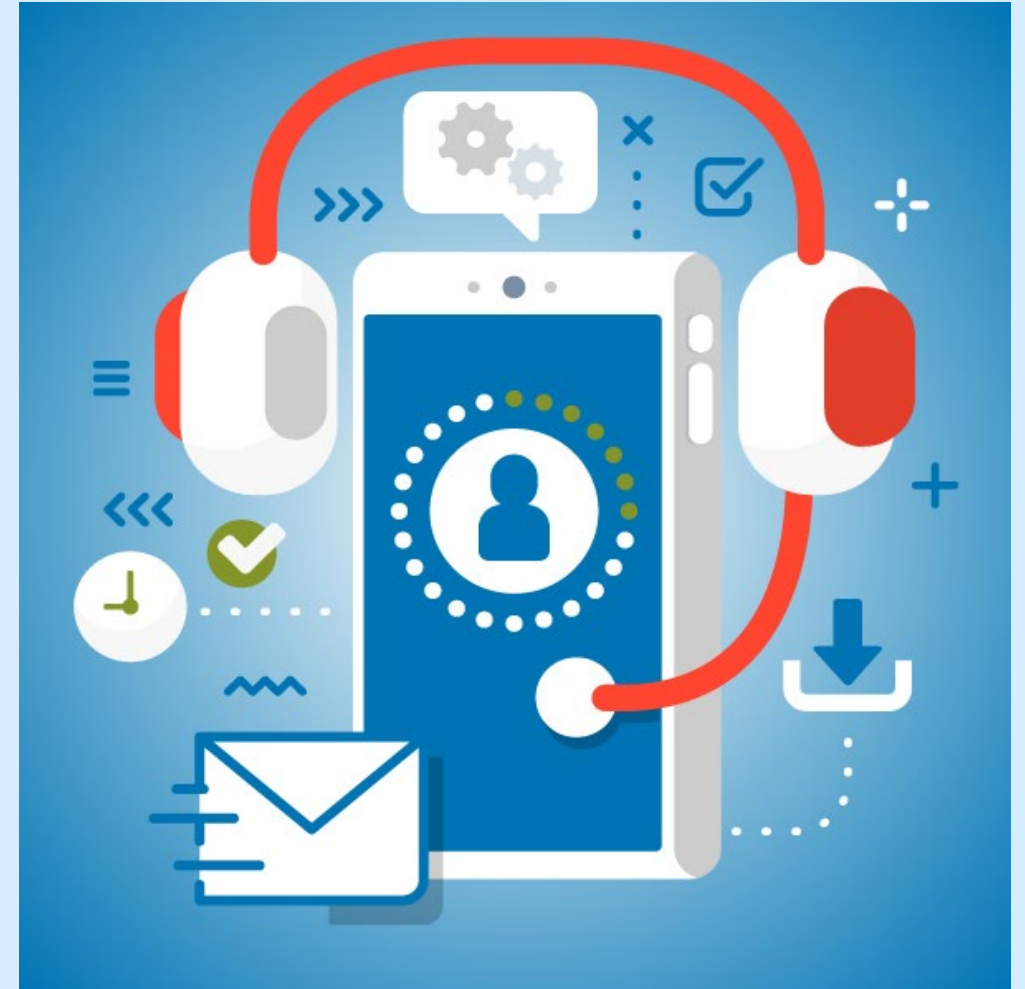
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Collaborative Planning in School Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Development



Basic Plan



Functional Annexes



Threat- and Hazard-Specific Annexes



COLLABORATIVE PLANNING

Creating and revising a model EOP are done by following a collaborative process.

Multidisciplinary planning teams should be assembled in Step 1.



TYPES OF SPECIAL EDUCATORS

Learning
disabilities
teacher

Emotional and
behavioral
disorders
teacher

Autism
specialist

Speech and
language
pathologist

Occupational
and physical
therapists

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS

Communications and Warning

Helping students process information



Evacuation

Supporting the development of equitable procedures



Lockdown and Shelter-in-Place

Helping students with special needs build resilience through emergency exercises



Public, Medical, and Mental Health

Providing insight into the specialized needs of students with mental and emotional disorders or with limited mobility



Continuity of Operations

Designing individualized education plans for students who require extra support during and after an emergency

POLL: TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

What role do you play in school safety, security, emergency management, and preparedness?



A Closer Look at the Role of Special Educators in Enhancing School Safety Efforts





SPECIAL EDUCATORS' SUPPORT OF EMERGENCY PLANNING

How can school safety partners, leadership, and emergency management planning and behavioral threat assessment teams utilize and collaborate with special education colleagues at an education agency?



SPECIAL EDUCATORS' SUPPORT OF EMERGENCY PLANNING

- Provide a list of students with disabilities who could possibly cause harm to themselves or others.
- Request assistance with assessments to determine if a student has a disability.
- Gain their insight in gathering additional information.
- Provide guidance on how to meet students' physical and emotional needs.

Special educators are ideal candidates for school core planning teams — as they are experts in disability issues, policies and legislation, and support for their school's students with disabilities and the services with which they are provided.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

Parents

School
psychologist

Behavioral
support staff

School
leaders

Teachers

THREE MOST IMPORTANT ROLES OF A SPECIAL EDUCATOR

Resource

Support

Mentor

Special educators can have a positive impact on students.



INCLUSIVITY

Fostering students' sense of belonging and connection to the school community



Contributing to a welcoming, inclusive school climate that promotes equity as well as social and emotional learning



Providing a foundation for academic success and improved student outcomes



INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE APPROACH TO EMERGENCY PLANNING

Consider the needs of the most vulnerable populations first

- Special education students are entitled to emergency services and should be considered and included during emergency planning.
- Providing for students with disabilities before, during, and after an emergency helps ensure their safety.

Consider a variety of disabilities to adequately incorporate these students into all emergency planning

- Visual
- Communication
- Mobility
- Cognitive
- Attentional
- Emotional

PLANNING TEAM AT DIFFERENT LEVELS

School district level:
administrators;
instructional and support
staff; food, maintenance,
building and grounds staff;
community partners; and
parents and guardians



School level: school
district representative,
school administrators,
school psychologists,
related service providers,
school nurses, special
educators, counselors,
and general educators,
among others



Roles of special educators
on planning team:

- Provide information about the extra barriers to mobility and communication possibly encountered during an emergency;
- Detail how to effectively address specific disabilities and integrate proper courses of action into the plan; and
- Assist with developing functional annexes to ensure needs are fully considered (e.g., American Sign Language interpreter).

CREATION OF CONFIDENTIAL ROSTER

Created by the emergency planning team.

Identifies students who have disabilities; lists their teachers, classrooms and daily schedules; and notes their potential needs during an emergency.

May include any relevant strategies enabling successful participation in general education school activities.

Labeled as classified, with access limited only to authorized personnel.

Stored with administrative emergency gear, folders, writing utensils, and other needed items.

WHY INCLUDE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS ON THE TEAM?

The multidisciplinary team includes teachers, parents, and other professionals with variety of specialties.

Members work to provide the best services for special education students.

Necessary for collaboration among all people who provide services for students with disabilities.

The special education teacher serves as a key team member to help identify and meet needs of students with physical disabilities or health impairments.

Usually, a special educator provides and monitors accommodations, leads the multidisciplinary team, manages information flow for students with disabilities, writes or updates the Individualized Education Program (IEP), and leads meetings on individual students.

TYPES OF ASSESSMENTS REGARDING SCHOOL SAFETY?

Daily and annually

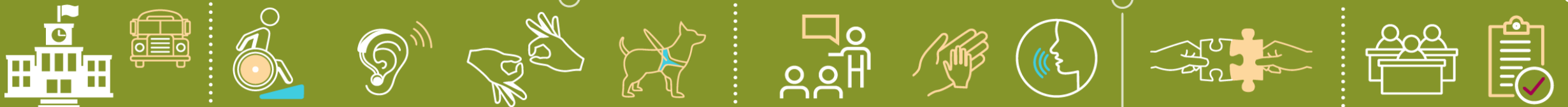
Formal and informal

Formal assessment is based on a grading system-based evaluation to monitor students' knowledge. Informal assessment does not have any standard grading criteria.

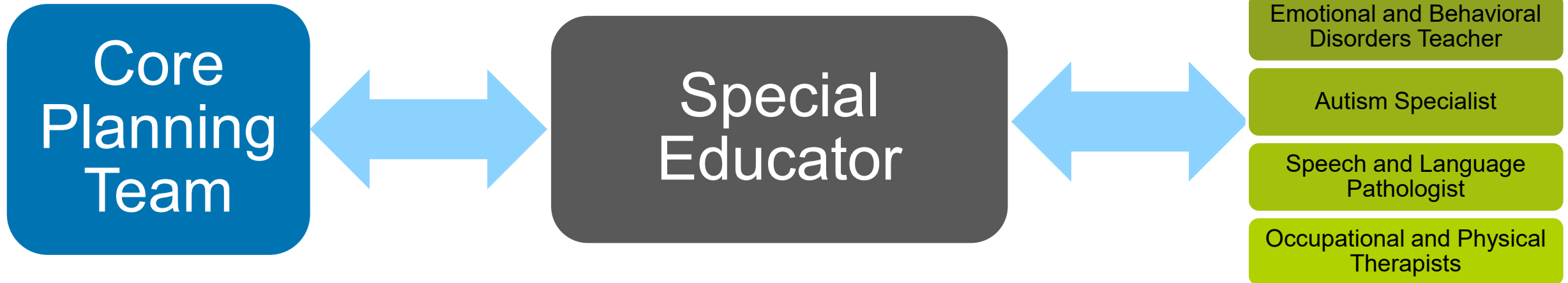
Assessments determine students' conduct, academic progression, social abilities, and overall behavior.

Assessments provide measurement that establishes physical, cognitive, and emotional deficits that could hinder overall academic success and affect school safety.

How Special Educators Can Enhance the Six-Step Planning Process



IDENTIFY A CORE PLANNING TEAM



PRIORITIZE THREATS AND HAZARDS



Site Assessments

Culture and Climate Assessments

Capacity Assessments

Behavioral Threat Assessments

IDENTIFY FUNCTIONS



Goal (Before): Develop a plan to evacuate students who have mobility issues in the event stairwells are inaccessible.

Goal (During): Work with first responders and the Incident Commander to ensure that they are aware of the location of students who require evacuation assistance.

Goal (After): Gain insight from students on how the evacuation process can be improved.

IDENTIFY COURSES OF ACTION



Outline the roles and responsibilities of special educators in responding to a variety of threats and hazards and in activating various functions.

FORMAT, WRITE, APPROVE, SHARE



Memoranda of Understanding for any paraprofessionals hired by the school or families to provide specialized support to students

Maps of classrooms in which students with special needs are located

Flowcharts outlining the types of special education staff the school core planning team can consult



REVIEW, REVISE, MAINTAIN



Train stakeholders on elements of the plan that impact students with special access and functional needs.

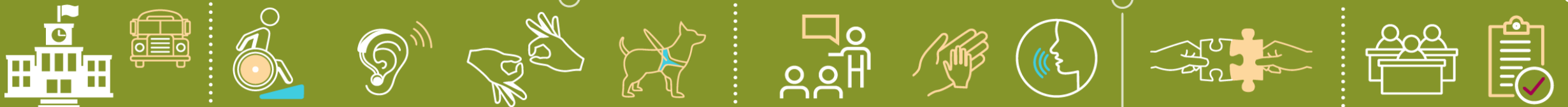
Conduct and evaluate exercises.

Update the plan.

QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION

Please use the Q&A Pod
to submit your questions.

Key Resources to Support Your Work



REMS TA CENTER RESOURCES

 **#REMSChatWithAnExpert**

How Special Education Service Models Enhance School Safety



Toni Beckett, Ph.D.
School Administrative Coordinator
Maryland Department of Health (@Dr_TMB_Beckett)

Wednesday, February 8, 2023
1:00 PM ET



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU



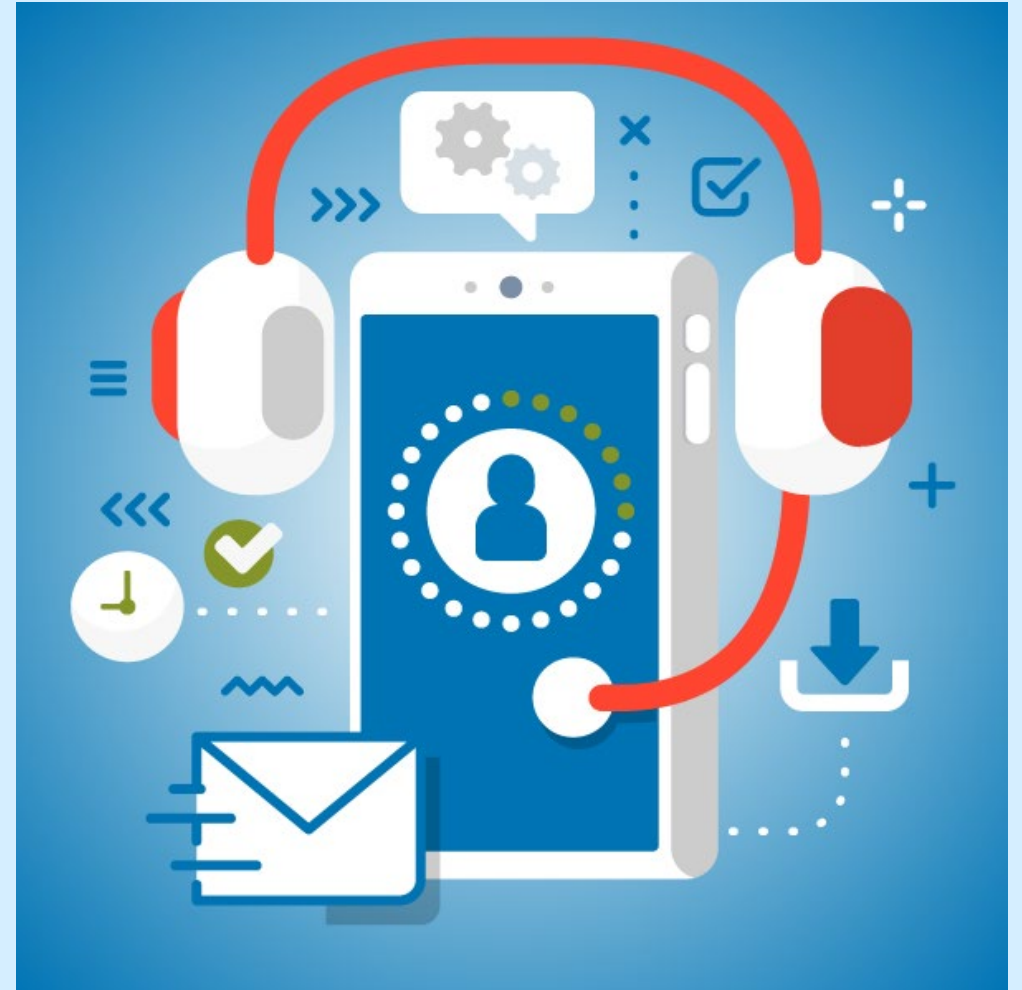
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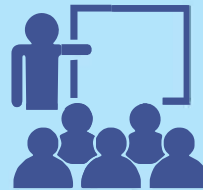
Enhance Emergency Operations Plans



Access Relevant Federal Guidance



Use EOP-Enhancing Interactive Tools



Request an On-Site Training in Key EOP-Related Topics



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PREVENT



MITIGATE



PROTECT



RESPOND



RECOVER