

## **Program Abstract**

**School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties (SD5)**, a growing suburban and rural district of 16,500 students northwest of Columbia, South Carolina, requests \$147,927 to improve and strengthen the school district's emergency response and crisis management plans in order to reflect best practices research in the four phases of crisis planning.

This collaborative proposal has the commitment and participation of top leadership in the school district, as well as local government, law enforcement, public safety, public health, and mental health agencies, who all support the development of systemic emergency response and crisis management planning for the school district that addresses identified weaknesses in the four phases of crisis planning: prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

This project will improve and expand current emergency response and crisis management efforts to comply the standards and recommendations set by the National Incident Management System and the Department of Homeland Security Advisory System; expand current practice drills to include evacuation/reunification procedures; improve and expand training for staff, parents, and students; and meet the diverse needs of individual students, particularly students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency. This proposed 18-month project for SD5 is a comprehensive plan for: 1. improving and expanding the positive efforts already taking place through district staff and partner agencies; and 2. addressing identified gaps and weaknesses in the four phases of crisis planning, both through grant funding and planning for long-term operating and capital investment. The activities outlined in this proposal are designed to **build capacity** that can be sustained over time with institutional resources.

Community partners in each of the 5 required areas have pledged their support for this project, as evidenced by the attached signed memoranda of agreement.