



NVASP provides leadership on school safety, including the psychological and physical well-being of students and staff.

NVASP is dedicated to ensuring all students are safe and successful in schools. It is our hope that when discussions occur surrounding school safety, it is remembered that the physical safety of our children is only one piece of school safety. While even one life lost to violent crime is too many, consider the toll of unmet mental health needs across the country. Suicide is the second leading cause of death in young people. One in five children and youth will experience a mental health disorder. Approximately 80% of students who need mental health care do not receive it. We understand that physical safety alone is not sufficient, and we have an obligation to ensure students are also psychologically safe.

NVASP supports the recommendations provided through A Framework for Safe and Successful Schools, a joint statement issued through a collaboration between the American School Counselor Association, National Association of School Psychologists, School Social Work Association of America, National Association of School Resource Officers, National Association of Elementary School Principals, and National Association of Secondary School Principals. This framework recognizes that school safety and positive school climate are not achieved by singular actions, but rather by comprehensive and collaborative efforts. The following best practices are outlined in the framework:

1. Integrate services through collaboration
2. Implement multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS)
3. Improve access to school-based mental health supports
4. Integrate school safety and crisis/emergency prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery
5. Balance physical and psychological safety
6. Employ effective, positive school discipline
7. Allow for the consideration of context, understanding there is no one-size fits-all approach to creating safe and successful schools
8. Acknowledge that sustainable and effective improvement takes patience and commitment

We appreciate and applaud all efforts to keep our children safe in school. NVASP is committed to our vision that all students in Nevada have equal access to quality learning, behavior, and mental health supports in order to feel physically and psychologically safe and allow them to gain the skills needed to thrive in school, home, and life.