

School-Based Crisis Intervention: *Brief Overview*



This **Quick Training Aid** was excerpted from a Resource Aid Packet entitled: *Responding to Crisis at a School*, pp. 5. Center for Mental Health in Schools (2000).

SCHOOL-BASED CRISIS INTERVENTION

Crisis are dangerous opportunities.

Chinese saying

Crisis, emergency, disaster, catastrophe, tragedy, trauma -- all are words heard too frequently at schools today. Almost every school has had a major crisis; every school is likely to have one. Besides natural disasters such as earthquakes and fires, students experience violence and death related to the suicide of friends, gang activity, snipers, hostage-taking, and rape. Some students react with severe emotional responses -- fear, grief, post traumatic stress syndrome. Moreover, such experiences and other events that threaten their sense of worth and well-being can produce the type of intense personal turmoil that leads students to think about hurting themselves or others.

If no effort is made to intervene, emotional reactions may interfere with a student's school and home performance, can be imminently life threatening, or may be the start of long-term psychosocial problems. And, when a significant portion of the student body is affected, major facets of a school's functioning are likely to be jeopardized.

As used here, the term, school-based crisis intervention, refers to a range of responses schools can plan and implement in response to crisis events and reactions. All school-based and school-linked staff can play an important role in crisis intervention.

For more from this Resource Aid Packet see
<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/resource.htm#crisis>