

# Safety Always First in Education



## A Message from the Director



The 2022-2023 school year is going fast! **The Center's** staff has been busy all summer training fellow educators on adults' and students' social and emotional needs. We have also been preparing a cohort of leaders around their school safety plans. The theme of the summer and the future is the importance of being PREPARED.

**The Center** wants to be your first resource for all things school safety, both physical and emotional.

*Julia Y. Andrews*

Director, HCDE Center for Safe and Secure Schools

## Highlights and Recaps



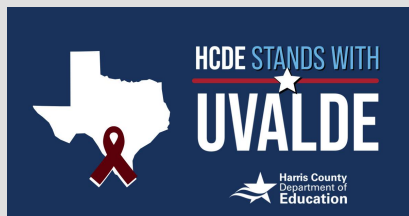
### *Recognizing The Harris County Safe Schools Commission*



## Serving for school safety

The Harris County Safe Schools Commission presented its school safety recommendations at the Harris County Commissioners Court on Tuesday, Aug. 23. **The Center's** director, Julia Andrews, was honored to serve as a resource for the commission.

See the commission's recommendations [here](#).



## Standing with Uvalde

**The Center** and HCDE joined school districts across the state in expressing solidarity with the Uvalde CISD community as students and staff returned for the first day of school on Tuesday, Sept. 6.

## Creating positive experiences to buffer trauma



Safe relationships are the most significant buffer for students with stress and trauma. Although there is no universal sign or symptom for someone who has experienced trauma (Paiva, 2019), students who have trauma tend to take risks, seek attention and fail to meet behavior expectations (Bell, Limburg, & Robinson, 2013).

Therefore, it is advantageous to create a proactive, whole-classroom system for student behavior that includes accountability and emphasizes seeking to understand.

In trauma, there are three E's:

- The event (what took place),
- The experience (how we perceive what took place), and
- The effects (the social, emotional, or physical manifestation of our perception) (SAMSA).

Though Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can impact learning, positive childhood experiences can buffer these effects. Restorative practices are driven by curiosity. This curiosity will support educational leaders in understanding the experience, not just the event. Creating a relationship through curiosity can support students in the present moment but also create positive memories that will affect them forever. So the next time a student is tardy, initiate a positive experience by asking what you can do to support them instead of scolding them for being late.

## Emergency Management

### Staying prepared for hurricane season

The Atlantic hurricane season is June 1 to November 30 every year, with peak tropical storm activity occurring from August through mid-September. During hurricane season, Texas is one of the states most impacted by tropical storms. In fact, of the 301 hurricanes that have made landfall in the U.S. since 1851, 64 have hit the Lone Star State — only the state of Florida has experienced more.



Going into the 2022 hurricane season, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicted “above normal” activity, meaning a greater frequency of storms than the century average. Below is NOAA’s forecast for the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season:

- Approximately 14 to 21 named storms
- Six to 10 of those could become hurricanes (wind speeds of 74 mph or higher)
- Three to six could become major hurricanes — Category 3, 4, or 5 (wind speeds of 111 mph or higher)

With that in mind, here are some helpful things to consider for your hurricane preparedness.

#### **Know Your Hurricane Risk**

Hurricanes are not just a coastal problem. Find out how rain, wind, water and even tornadoes could happen far inland from where a hurricane or tropical storm makes landfall. Follow instructions from local emergency managers at the Ready Harris [website](#).

#### **Make an Emergency Plan**

Make sure everyone in your household knows and understands your hurricane plans. Include the office, school, kid’s daycare and anywhere else you frequent.

#### **Know your Evacuation Zone**

You may have to evacuate quickly due to a hurricane if you live in an evacuation zone. [Learn your evacuation routes](#), practice with your household and pets and identify where you will stay.

National Weather Service. "[Texas Hurricane History](#)." Accessed September 09, 2021.

Texas Tribune. "[Texas sees limited damage in wake of Tropical Storm Nicholas as storm weakens and takes aim at Louisiana](#)." Accessed June 03, 2022.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association. "[NOAA predicts above-normal 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season](#)." Accessed June 02, 2022.

TASB Risk Fund. "[The Complete Hurricane Season Toolkit for Schools](#)." accessed May 31, 2022

Ready Harris. [www.readyharris.org](http://www.readyharris.org)

## Grant Opportunities



### [Texas Education Agency \(TEA\) 2023-2025 Grow Your Own Grant Program](#)

**Description:** This program aims to build strong, stable and diverse teacher pipelines, particularly in rural and small-school settings, from local educational agencies' (LEAs') own communities based on LEA-specific teacher workforce needs. The program is intended to address teacher shortages in hard-to-staff areas, close demographic gaps between students and teachers and build interest in the teaching profession among high school students.

**Applicant's Webinar Information:** Available Friday, Sept. 2, 2022

**Deadline:** Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022

### [Verizon and Digital Promise: Verizon Innovative Learning Schools](#)



**Description:**

This program aims to provide select schools with wraparound support through technology, connectivity, professional learning and access to a national community of more than 500 schools. Any interested school district may submit an application with at least two schools; however, each school must serve students in middle or high school grades and have no less than 65% free and reduced lunch rate or participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

Schools will receive financial and professional learning support for a full-time coach focused on helping teachers design and deliver hands-on learning experiences. Additional funding is also available for school IT support to ensure students have access to learning anytime and anywhere.

## Take Care Tuesday Podcast

The Center's **Take Care Tuesday** podcast reaches listeners throughout the United States as well as abroad in Ireland, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, Germany and Singapore.

**Available now:**

**Peer Mediation: Using Student Voice to Support School Climate**

The September episode of *Take Care Tuesday* features:

- Dr. Keon Banks, teacher and sponsor for peer mediation at Humble High School;
- Ronin Quintero, senior and organization president; and
- Ciera Glover, junior leader.



[Listen Now](#)

# Upcoming Workshops and Events



## SCHOOL BEHAVIORAL THREAT ASSESSMENT

TUESDAY, OCT. 18, 2022

COBB 6TH GRADE CAMPUS, 6722 UVALDE ROAD, HOUSTON, TX 77049

## School Behavioral Threat Assessment Training - Tuesday, Oct. 18

This training will provide fundamental information about school violence and detailed instructions on specific procedures to use when addressing threatening behavior in school. Participants will take part in multiple group exercises to practice using these procedures.

REGISTER TODAY

## Active Shooter Workshop - Tuesday, Oct. 25

The scenario-based workshop features facilitated discussions to inform participants on the best practices associated with preparing for and responding to an active shooter incident.

Through a dynamic exchange of information, the workshop provides participants an understanding of how to plan and aid in the development of an initial draft of an emergency action plan for their organizations.



REGISTER FOR FREE



## Operation SRM-REx - Saturday, Oct. 29

Operation SRM-REx gathers the community to work with stakeholders in a focused classroom training, tabletop exercise and functional demonstrations to prepare organizations to conduct an actual reunification of students with their respective parents or guardians.

REGISTER FOR FREE

Center for Safe and Secure Schools | A Division of Harris County Department of Education  
6005 Westview, Houston, TX 77055



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