City Schools Emergency Preparedness:
Lessons in Multi-Agency Stakeholder Advocacy

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Public Health Applications for Student Experience (PHASE)
Mayor’s Office of Emergency Management (MOEM)

- Prepares City of Baltimore and its citizens for emergencies and other major events
- Implements citywide emergency preparedness plans and programs
- Maintains direct line to Mayor to coordinate city, state, federal, and private sector response in case of emergency

Source: http://www.baltimorecity.gov/OfficeoftheMayor/MayoralOffices.aspx
MOEM & City Schools Collaboration

Source: MOEM Files
The difference between an emergency and a disaster is PLANNING...

CITY SCHOOLS AT A GLANCE

2010-11 Student Enrollment: 83,800
- 42,830 students in grades pre-k-5 (includes 4,712 pre-k students)
- 16,659 students in grades 6-8
- 24,311 students in grades 9-12

Employees: 11,273
- 10,281 school-based, 992 non school-based

84,000 students x 180 school days = 15 million student-school-days per year

Sources: Baltimore City Public Schools 2011 School Factsheet; http://www.china.org.cn/china/wenchuan_earthquake/2008-05/29/content_15535635.htm
Project Activities: Workgroup & Trainings

- Two workgroup meetings with ~15 participants
- Individual meetings with interested principals and administrative officials

- IS–100 Introduction to Incident Command System (ICS)
- IS–700 A National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- IS–362 Multi–Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools

Project Activities: Revising the Emergency Safety Plan

UNIT 2 - THE SCHOOL EMERGENCY SAFETY PLAN TEMPLATE

Using the information that the School Emergency Safety Management Team gathered in the planning stage, create the plan.

Complete the following:

- Cover Page
- School Emergency Safety Management Team Assignments
- School Maps - All utilities noted
- Command Posts
- Students Special Assistance: Master List
- Classroom and Building “Hazard Hunt” Master List
- Assembly Area (outdoors)
- Maps of Routes of Evacuation
- Alternate Building Location (walking distance)
- Alternate Building Location (requiring transport)
- Student Accounting and Release

Source:
Limitations & Challenges

- Historical relationship between MOEM & City Schools (and new PHASE relationship)
- Historical relationship between school principals and City Schools administrators
- Participant selection
- Sustained participant interest
- Timing
- Implementation roles and objectives
Lessons Learned

- Formalize collaboration at a high level with clear objectives and outcome measures, but with built-in flexibility
- Need for more deliberate stakeholder selection process and/or subcommittees
- Recognize and capitalize on small steps towards goals
Implications for Public Health Practice

Influence of local politics

INPUTS
Existing Plan

PROCESSES
Workgroup

OUTPUTS
Plan revision

OUTCOMES
Improved plans

IMPACT
Safer Schools

Officials
Trainings

Trained officials
Cycle of trained officials

Officials Trainings

Safer Schools
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- Fellow PHASE students
Questions? Comments?

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