

MICHIGAN STANDARD RESPONSE TERMINOLOGY

Standard Response Terminology is not a replacement... It is an enhancement to your existing safety plans.

Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, the following terminology must be utilized by public schools, nonpublic schools, and local law enforcement agencies in response to certain situations that occur in or at a school building operated by the public school or nonpublic school.

Standard Response Terminology (SRT)



HOLD- must be used when students need to be kept in a specific location to allow school staff and first responders unencumbered access to hallways and other areas of a school building to respond to an incident.



LOCKDOWN- must be used when there is an existing threat in or at a school building or a threat is expected to arrive there imminently.



SECURE- must be used when it is determined that a lockdown is not necessary but heightened security is needed because of a potential external threat. Under secure mode, instruction may continue in a normal manner, but access to the school building, movement throughout the building, and student activities must be limited or monitored.



EVACUATE- must be used when students and school staff need to move rapidly but systematically from one area to another where they can be protected from a threat.



SHELTER- must be used when conditions are safer inside a school building than they are outside the building. These conditions include certain severe weather conditions or hazardous materials incidents that are in close proximity to the school building.

Why It Works:

The SRT works because it is action-based and uses clear, consistent language across all stakeholders.

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