



Emotional Security in Schools

Strategies to Protect Children and Promote Learning

A Graduate Course

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Course Description

What comes to mind when you hear the words: Safety in Schools? Most people respond with answers related to security systems, building updates, or police presence in schools. These physical precautions to safety are often the focus of schools when trying to keep staff and students secure. We must not ignore though, a key component in keeping our schools safe: **emotional security**. How students feel when they are in school shapes learning and student development. Educational research has shown that a positive school climate is connected to academic achievement and positive peer relationships. The emotional security component is often overlooked in the quest for physically safer schools. The reality is emotional security needs to be a priority as well. It needs to be deeply embedded into the culture of a school, both for staff and students. By effectively addressing emotional security in schools, students will be more open to and engaged in learning, staff will be more cognizant of the individual needs of students and risk prevention strategies will automatically be in place.

This course is designed to develop an in-depth framework of emotional security in schools. In addition, this course will provide clear and effective strategies for implementing emotional security into a school system for all students and staff.

Objectives

- Discuss the definition of emotional security in schools.
- Determine current barriers leading to the decrease of emotional security in schools.
- Assess how emotional security of school staff translates into their work with students.
- Develop an awareness of how school climate affects emotional security.
- Evaluate positive and negative links to physical security as they impact emotional security.
- Compile and select effective relationship building strategies for student to student, staff to student and staff to staff relationships.
- Explain the importance of creating emotional security for traumatized students.
- Evaluate research findings related to positive outcomes of emotional security in schools.
- Create clear steps and strategies to promote emotional security in school.

Curriculum Design

Emotional Security in Schools is a forty-five-hour, three-credit graduate level course completed over a two-weekend period or a 60-hour, three-credit graduate course completed online over 13 weeks. The course can also be taken for in-service credit. The following methodologies are used during the course: lectures, readings, group discussions, and assignments.

