

ABSTRACT

Sonya LeaTrice Burnett
An Investigation Of School Violence Prevention Strategies
Utilized Within Louisiana School Districts
(Major Professor: George E. Rice)

The purpose of this study was to examine Louisiana school districts' crisis management plans. It also investigated school violence prevention strategies that Louisiana school districts are utilizing to prepare principals and teachers in crisis management. A researcher-developed survey, *The School Violence Principal /Teacher Perception Survey*, was utilized as a cross-check in obtaining principals' and teachers' perceptions of preparedness in crisis-management.

A content analysis of forty-eight crisis management plans was conducted to answer the four research questions presented as a guide in the research process. The content analysis data were presented in a narrative form. Data from the content analysis and the survey were compared and analyzed for confirmation and validation of the findings of the study.

The findings indicated that forty-eight school districts within Louisiana have developed a crisis management plan. Three major categories identified across the plans were prevention, intervention, and postvention. Data from the survey revealed that professional development in crisis management provided for principals ranged from four to eight hours while teachers received two to four hours of training.

A conclusion of the study was that although forty-eight school districts throughout Louisiana have developed crisis management plans, data from *The School Violence Principal/ Perception Survey* revealed that emphasis has not been on the implementation procedures identified within the plans. The findings of this study provide significant data that can be used by school districts, universities, and The State Department of Education for preparation in crisis management. The discrepancy in professional development in crisis prevention strategies between principals and teachers should be addressed by these three entities.