

PREVENTING SWATTING & HOAX THREATS: DETERRENCE



Navigating threats of violence in schools can become complex and overwhelming. This document aims to narrow the focus to prevention through deterrence. A comprehensive approach can be found by accessing several resources available online, such as [Swatting Emergency Management Guidance](#), [Swatting Considerations for School Districts](#), and the [K-12 Anonymized Threat Response Guidance from CISA](#).

PREVENTION

WHAT IS DETERRENCE?

Deterrence is a preventative method, emphasizing the consequences to discourage future acts.

Please take the time to educate your school community including parents, students, families and faculty about this matter.

Be aware of the consequences of swatting and hoax threats.

1. Can Cause Physical Harm to Civilians and First Responders
2. Criminal and Civil Liability
 - a. Swatting and hoax threats can lead to arrests and lawsuits.
3. School Discipline
 - a. Students can be suspended or expelled from their schools if caught swatting or spreading hoax threats.
4. Loss of Educational Time
 - a. Time spent responding to swatting and hoax threats cuts down on the time spent teaching students.
 - b. Absentee rates increase after a threat occurs.
5. Psychological Impact
 - a. Perception of safety is skewed, leading to increased anxiety for teachers, students, and families.
6. Economic Impact
 - a. Millions of dollars are being allocated to respond to swatting and hoax threats.

STATISTICS

- Between September 4 and September 30, over 700 students nationwide have been arrested for making threats ([Rock, 2024](#)).
- According to [TDR Technology \(2023\)](#), the cost for lost educational time in 2022-2023 was \$166,719,036.
- [Riedman \(2023\)](#) estimated the average cost per swatting incident for the law enforcement response is \$100,000.

Deterrence is only a part of prevention but with this approach, swatting and hoax threats can be reduced, resources will be allocated correctly and school safety can be restored. We must work together against these threats so students can focus on their education.