



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

NEWS RELEASE

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Wisconsin educators help each other through
School Crisis Preparedness Webcasts

May 20 webcast features Weston School District Superintendent Tom Andres

MADISON – Weston School District Superintendent Tom Andres will share lessons learned from the district's 2006 shooting tragedy, in a May 20 webcast created for educators around the state. In his presentation, Andres will also discuss the challenge of recovery.

"It always inspires gratitude when those who are impacted by tragedies take on an extra burden of working to save others from the same misfortune," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "I am grateful to Superintendent Andres for sharing the results of Weston's difficult healing and learning process with the rest of the state."

The webcast, titled "Hope After Tragedy: Weston's Story," is part of a series of monthly webcasts highlighting best practices in school crisis preparedness. These online programs are produced by the DPI, the Office of Justice Assistance, the Department of Health and Family Services, Wisconsin Emergency Management, and the Center for School, Youth and Citizen Preparedness.

Presenters are professionals from schools or educational organizations around the state. Teachers and other staff from districts including Beloit, Green Bay, McFarland, Milwaukee, Racine, and Verona have used the webcasts to share with their peers crisis-prevention strategies that have worked.

"Wisconsin educators are working together to refine their crisis prevention efforts and prepare effective response plans," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "I thank them for this important work, and urge communities and schools to implement best practices in crisis preparedness."

(more)

The series launched in December, 2006. The webcasts go live on the third Tuesday of each month, and are then archived for later viewing.

The May 20 webcast airs from 11:15 a.m. until noon. View it by visiting <http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw> and clicking on, “Safe Schools: Hope After Tragedy – Weston's Story.” This same page includes the archived versions of all previous installments in the series.

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NOTE: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_27.pdf.