

Crisis Response Box  
Press Conference  
Wednesday, January 31, 2001  
1:30 p.m.  
Power APAC

Agenda: Governor, Thompson, Huggins

**Talking Points**

- Every student in Mississippi should have the opportunity to receive a first rate education in a safe learning environment.
- But, violence and tragedies have occurred on school campuses throughout the country.
- The incidents in Littleton, Colorado and Pearl, Mississippi, raise serious concerns about school safety.
- It can happen in any school – at any time.
- And every parent wants to feel, and should feel that their child is safe in Mississippi schools.
- That is why we have come together with school leaders, crisis management experts and law enforcement officials to create a quick, easy and good way to prepare for, and respond to, a school crisis.
- Together we have developed a toolbox of strategies that can help school leaders gain control of a potentially critical situation.
- Our efforts have resulted in a “Crisis Response Box.”
- The Crisis Response Box has one simple goal: to immediately provide the essential information for effective management of a major critical incident to school administrators and emergency personnel.
- With this powerful tool, officials will have at hand the information needed if an emergency strikes.
- “The Box” is an invaluable resource for school and emergency personnel to use if a critical incident ever arises at a school.
- It takes a 1, 2, 3 approach through the steps necessary to assemble a school emergency response plan for every school and community before an event occurs.
- “The Box” does not take the place of a crisis response plan.
- It works hand in hand with a crisis response plan.
- In a crisis situation, minutes and seconds are precious.
- Those minutes and seconds should be spent putting the crisis response plan into action.
- Not spent gathering information.
- A crisis is not the time to collect information – it is the time to act.
- We hope you never need to use the contents in a Crisis Response Box – but we also hope you have “The Box” ready if you ever do face a crisis.

## **Q & A**

### **How did you develop the box?**

We worked with the State of California, using their program as a model, which involved extensive interviewing of emergency personnel and school officials who have been involved in actual school shootings and other emergencies throughout the country.

All participants in this project made it clear: the information needed in a critical incident should be assembled ahead of time, easily accessible, portable and contained in one place.

### **How long have you been working on the Crisis Response Box?**

We have been working with the State Department of Education since September 2000.

### **Who will have access to this plan?**

We will send a copy to every public school, head start center and day care registered with the Department of Human Services across the state.

### **When will the schools have the Crisis Response Box Plans?**

February 15, 2001

### **Why is it not ready now/taking so long to get out to the schools?**

We are on the fast track to get "The Box" in place in our schools, Head Start centers and day care centers.

We originally planned to disseminate the Crisis Response Box Plan in public schools across the state. In light of the incident at the daycare here in Jackson, we saw a need to expand the use of the Crisis Response Box Plan to include daycare centers and Head Start Centers across the state.

By expanding the program, we have greatly increased the number of plans to be printed, which will take a few more days.