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NON-COMPETITIVE DIVISION

Doing a lot with a Little in School Reunification

Knox County developed a countywide school reunification plan, uniting all schools under a shared protocol and response team. This presentation details the collaborative process behind the plan, highlighting the importance of unified action and clear communication among schools, first responders, and emergency management. Attendees will learn how Knox County secured buy-in from all districts, addressed logistical challenges, and trained a dedicated team to execute reunifications efficiently. The session will also share lessons from a full-scale reunification exercise, including strengths, challenges, and key adjustments made to improve response times, traffic flow, and parent verification. Participants will gain practical strategies for building interagency partnerships, securing stakeholder support, and implementing a scalable reunification plan in their own communities. Whether from a small rural district or a large metropolitan area, attendees will leave with actionable insights to enhance reunification preparedness and response.

Presentation Theme: One Plan, One Team: Uniting Schools for Effective Reunification.

Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research: Knox County Emergency Management Office

First Responders: MVFD/Fredericktown EMS/COJFD

Law Enforcement: OSHP/MVPD/Fredericktown/Danville/Sheriff's Office

Knox Public Health.

Knox Co. School Districts (Fredericktown, Centerburg, Danville and East Knox/MVCSD/ESC/Head Start/Highland School District.