

**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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SOUTHBOROUGH – The Northborough-Southborough Public Schools and the Southborough Police Department have been chosen to be a host site for the “Safe School Initiative and Threat Assessment” training developed by the U.S. Department of Education.

The training program is coordinated through the U.S. Department of Education’s Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance (REMS TA) Center. The training session, to be held on August 21, 2012, is open to school administrators, private schools in Northborough and Southborough, members of local law enforcement, non-profit agencies, town officials, fire department members, medical care providers, and members of the general public. This event will be held at Algonquin Regional High School. Registration begins at 8 AM and the program starts promptly at 8:30 – 12:00.

Southborough Police Chief Jane Moran and Northborough-Southborough Public Schools Assistant Superintendent Christine Johnson said in the application that “the communities of Northborough and Southborough continue to explore opportunities that will enhance the safety and well-being of all our students and the community at large while providing a venue that supports collaboration, communication and policy, and procedural development.”

This special training session presents the findings from the “Safe School Initiative,” a study conducted by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Secret Service. The study focused on the actions of students, including their thinking, planning and other behaviors, who carried out attacks on schools. The session includes strategies for educators, counselors, law enforcement officials and others to identify, intervene and prevent targeted acts of violence. It also focuses on the threat assessment process and how to identify potentially dangerous students.

Chief Moran and Ms. Johnson said that, unfortunately, all schools across the country and community venues are potential targets for random acts of violence and that through this training and grant initiative, proactive methods will be developed to hopefully prevent any form of harm to students and members of the Northborough and Southborough communities.

The Northborough-Southborough Public Schools and the Southborough Police Department plan to jointly apply for a REMS TA grant, which in the past has been as much as \$100,000. This discretionary grant program provides schools and local educational agencies (LEA) with funding to improve and strengthen their emergency management plans which are designed to address four phases of emergency management: Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery.

For further information regarding registration for the training session, please contact Ms. Johnson at the Central Office of the Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough at 508-486-5115.