



The rising STAR of Texas

**CREATING A SECONDARY SCHOOL CLIMATE INSTRUMENT
FOCUSED ON SAFETY AND SECURITY
2015 MIRG FULL PROPOSAL**

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Abstract

The meaning of “school safety and security” was forever changed in 1999 when two Columbine students randomly shot their classmates and teachers before taking their own lives. In response to the events at Columbine and subsequent school shootings, initiatives and investments have tended to focus on preparing for and responding to active shooter situations.

While horrific in nature, school shootings remain relatively rare. The predominant safety and security issues on most campuses involve more frequent occurrences of disruptive behavior, bullying, hazing, sexual and physical assault, and other forms of victimization and violence that threaten the physical and emotional well-being of students, faculty, and staff. We aim to address these predominant issues by developing effective tools and research-based strategies to measure and prevent these more prevalent school safety issues as a means to save and change lives.

To leverage this opportunity, our research team will develop and pilot a comprehensive safety and security climate instrument for students on a limited number of secondary (grades 6-12) campuses. Analysis of the resulting data will provide evidence of the validity and reliability of the instrument’s scores and lead to a long-term, systemic approach to making schools and IHEs safer by developing climate instruments for P-16 campuses, analyzing the resulting data at micro and macro levels to inform policy and practice, delivering and researching the effectiveness of programs and strategies, and serving as recognized experts in conversations about school safety.