



Office of the Washington State Auditor

Pat McCarthy

Opportunities to Improve School Safety Planning

Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee

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Plans are required by law, but gaps exist

- Every district and school is required to have a comprehensive safety plan



- Statewide surveys reveal many safety plans are incomplete, with four main areas of weakness:
 - Plan development
 - Oversight
 - Training
 - Coordination

Objectives

- What challenges contribute to gaps in school safety preparedness?
- What opportunities exist to address known gaps in K-12 school safety planning?

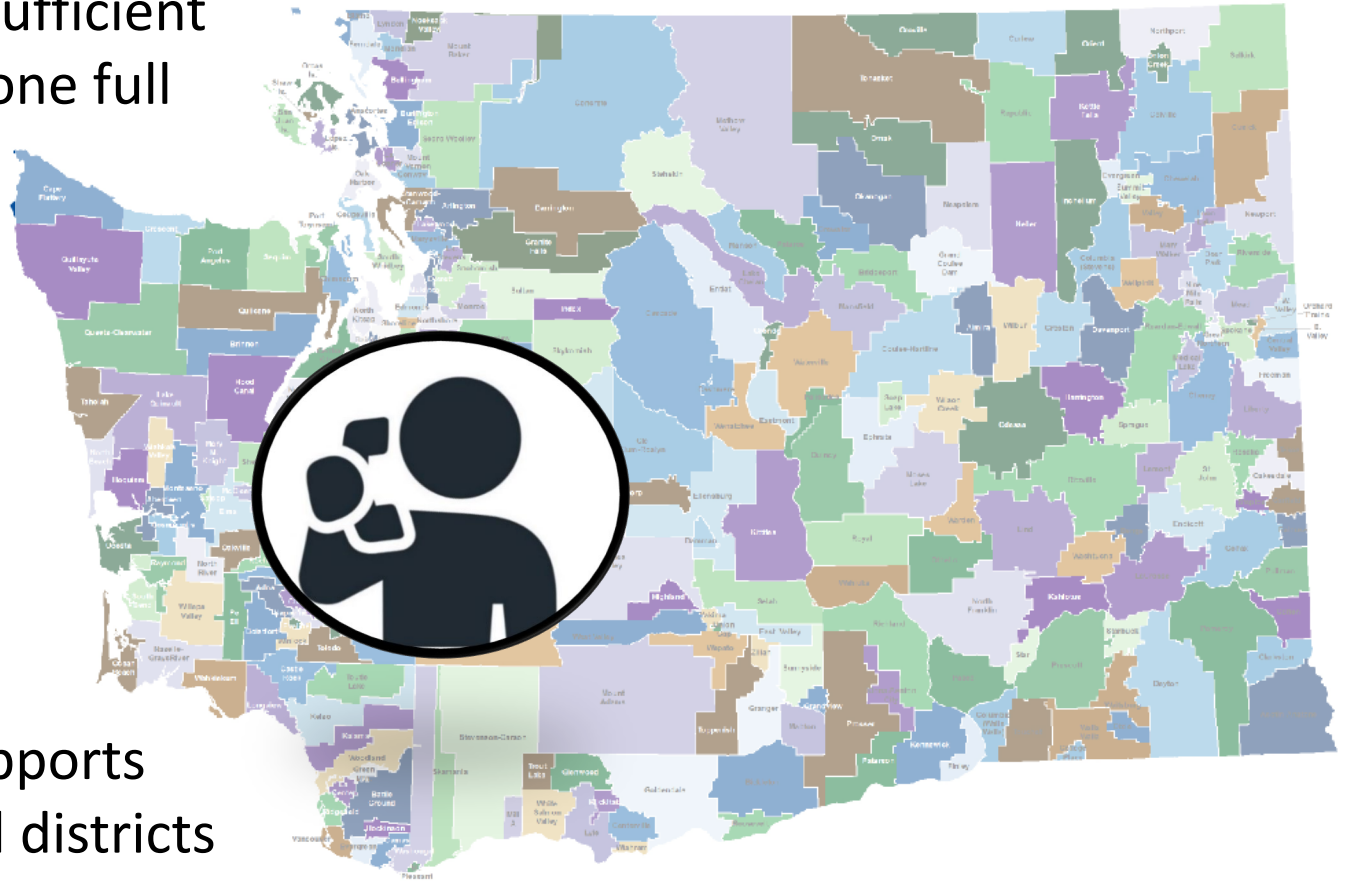
No oversight mechanism to ensure plans are complete

- No requirement for plan review or documentation at local level except “to the extent funds are available”
- No state or local agency required to check plans



No budget increase for OSPI's School Safety Center in 15 years

- Allocation insufficient to fully fund one full time position



- One full-time employee supports all 295 school districts

No stable funding to maintain state mapping system

Central High School
1420 Broadway Plz, Tacoma, WA 98402

RapidResponder

Search Regional Incident Contacts Emergency Plans Teams Log Out

Routing Security Site Fire Tactical Staging Utility
Static Map GIS Display Evacuate Best Access

Print

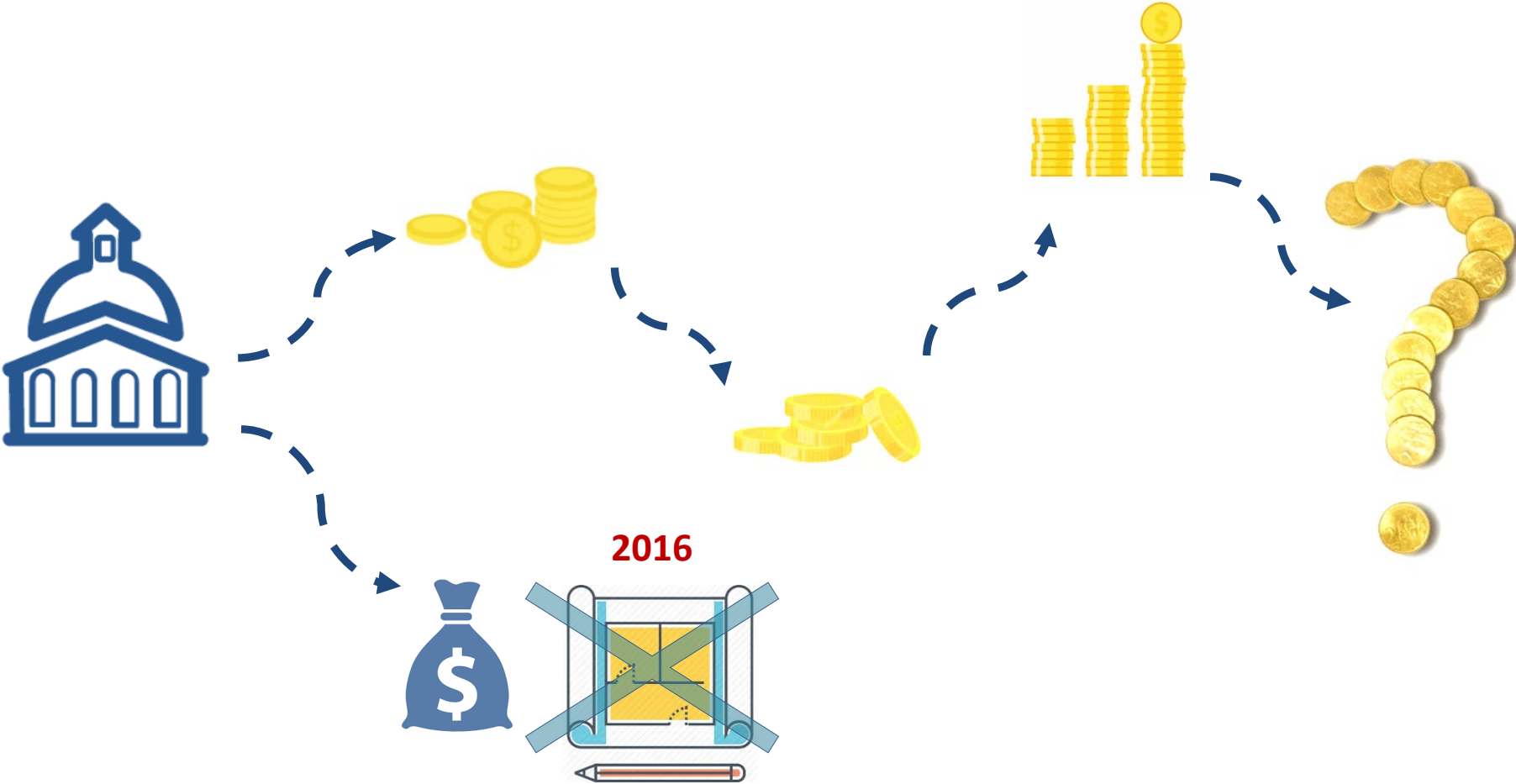
Most Toolboxes

Save Map
Save / Home

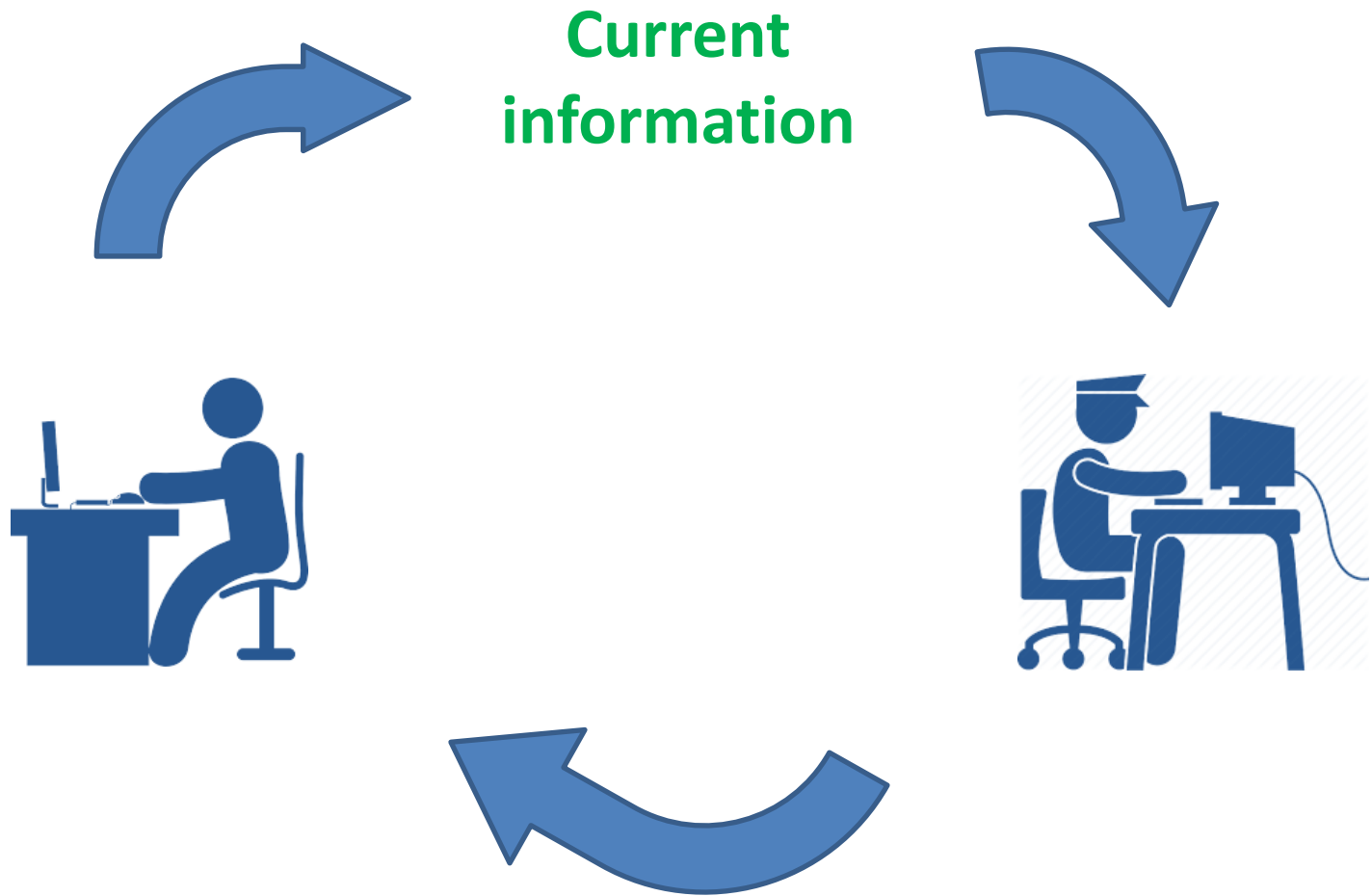
School Site Fire Forward Tactical Observation Point Decontamination Zone Bus Staging
Inner Perimeter Fire Base Landing Zone Triage Volunteer Staging
Outer Perimeter Police Forward Tactical Emergency Collection Evacuation Point Medical Transport Media
Command Post Police Staging

- Floor plans
- Utility shut-offs
- Evacuation routes
- Satellite and geospatial imagery
- Interior and exterior photos
- Staging areas
- Hazardous materials

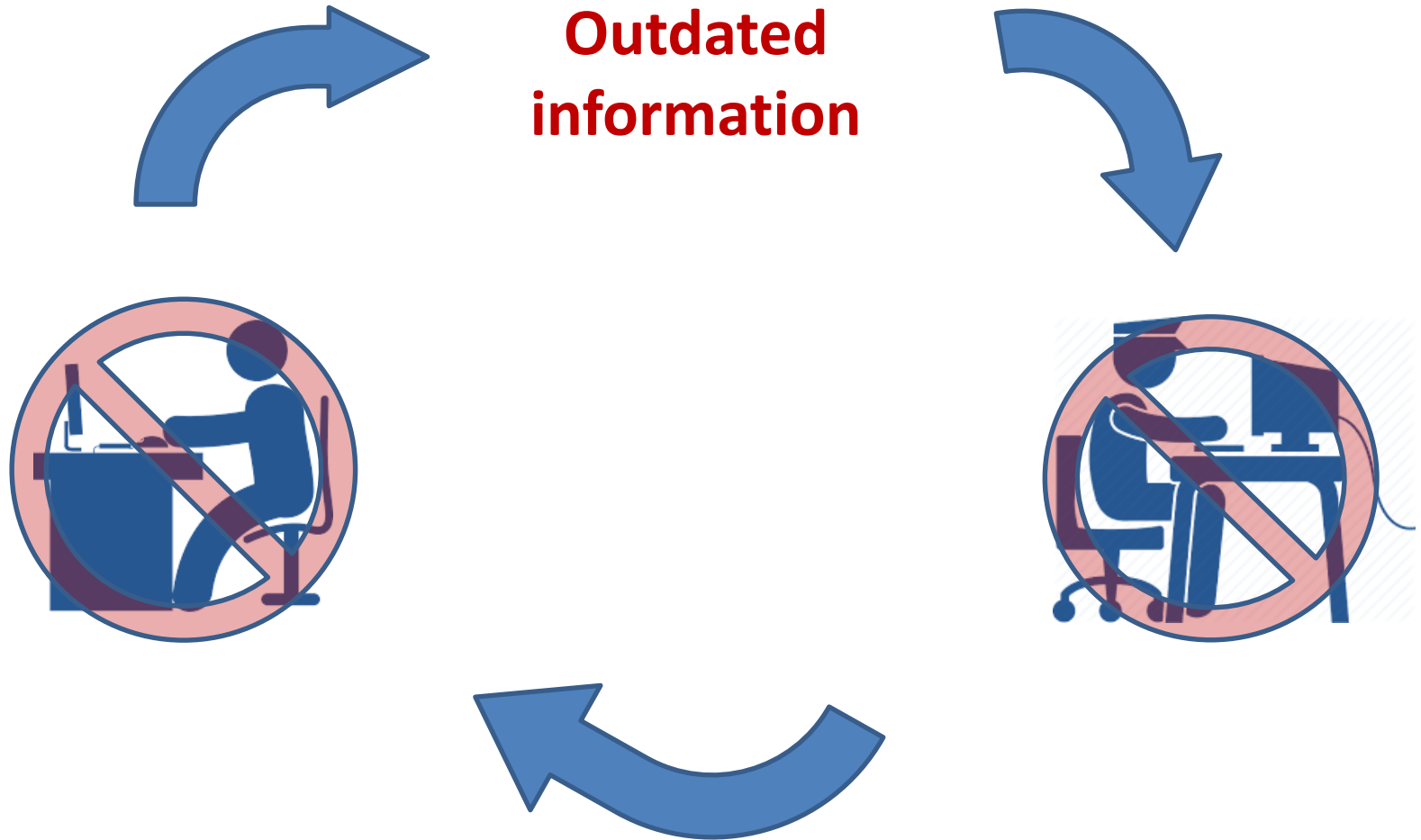
Rapid Responder funding variable year-to-year



Circular problem of system use



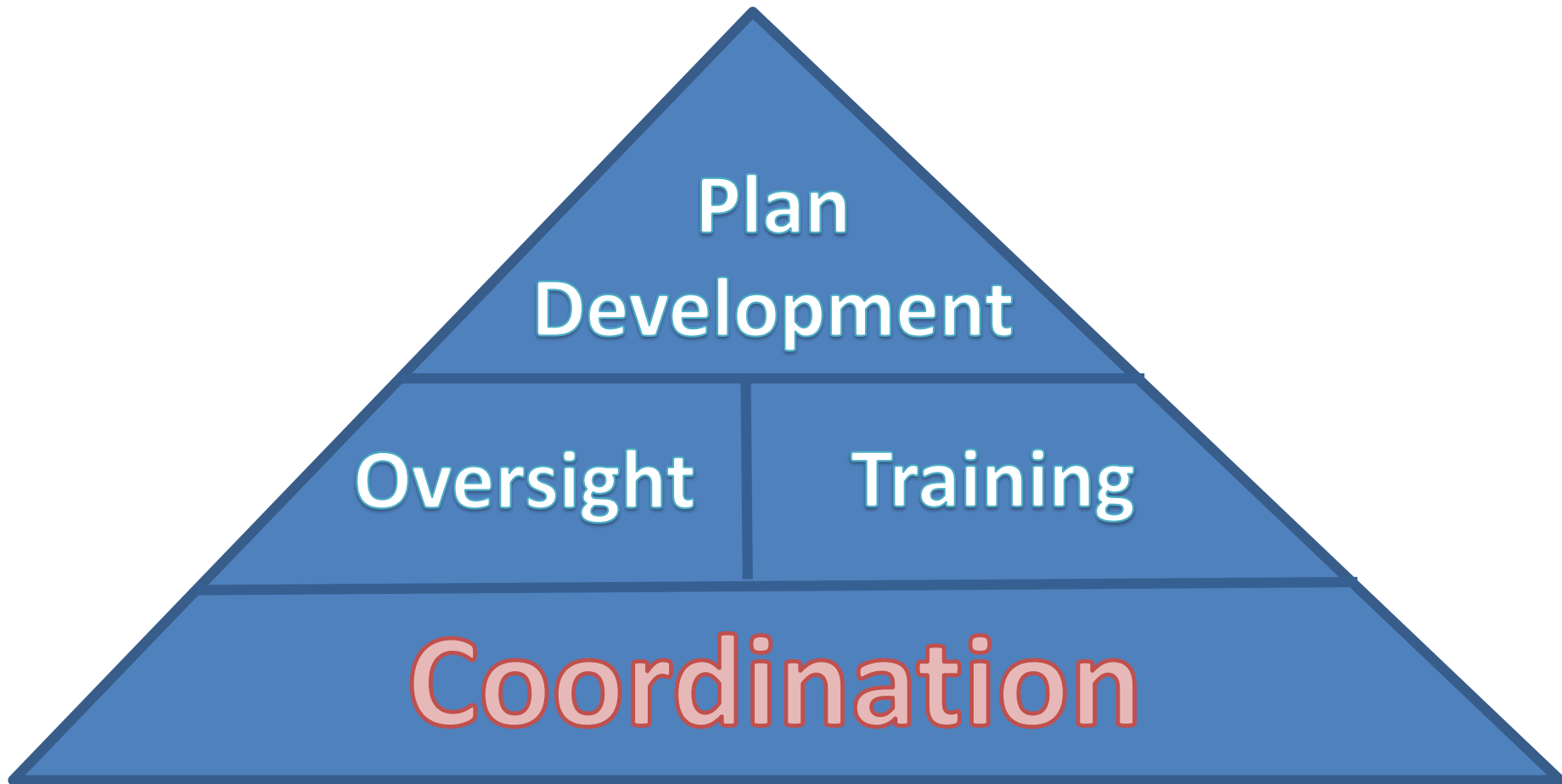
Circular problem of system use



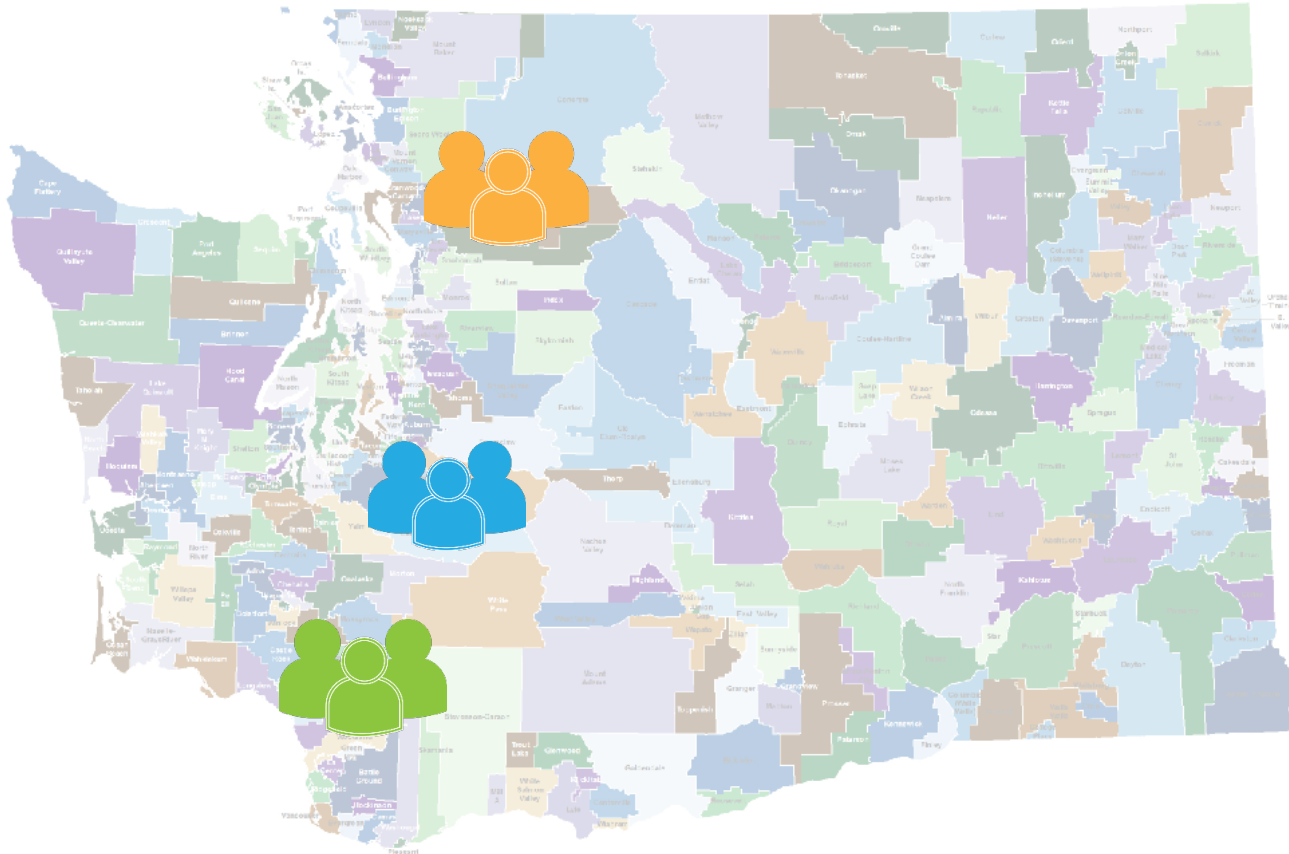
Competing priorities can place safety low on the list

- Priorities set by district leadership may not place safety preparedness ahead of other needs
- State-provided funding for school safety may be used for other purposes

Coordination underpins safety planning



Coordination through regional meetings



Washington Education
Safety and Emergency
Managers Association
(WESEMA)

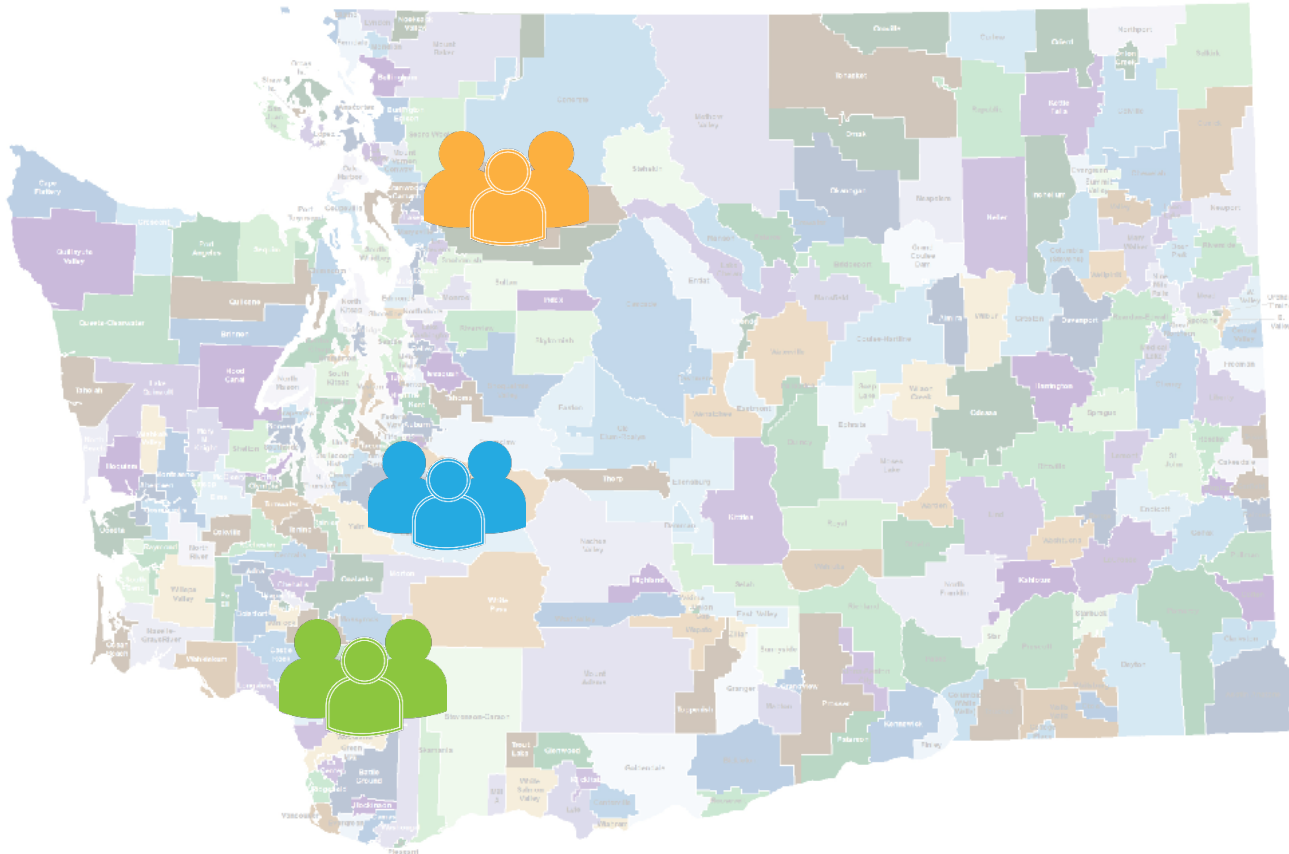


Pierce County
Consortium



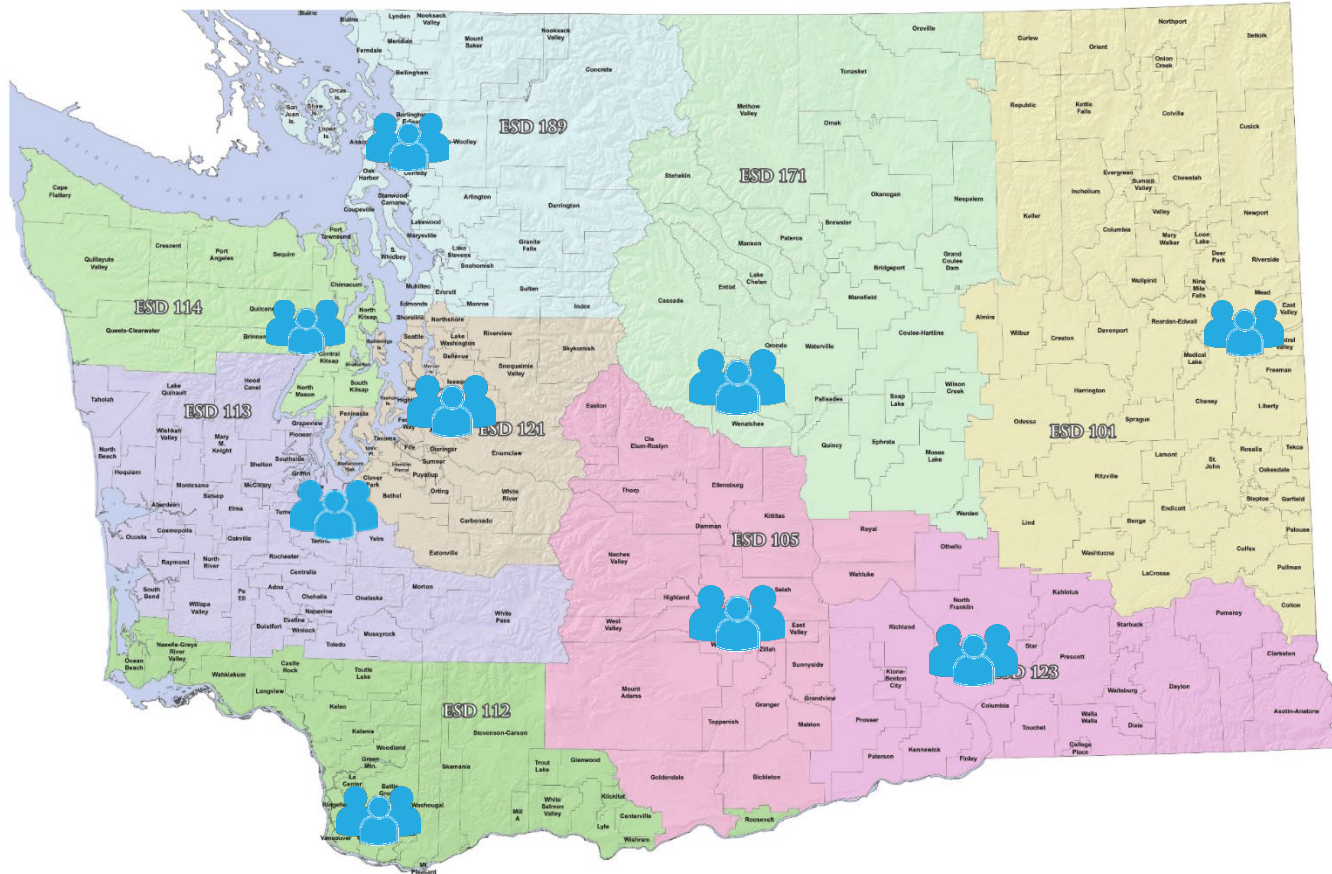
Cowlitz County
Safegroup

Coordination through regional meetings



- ✓ Peer feedback
- ✓ More consistency
- ✓ Extra accountability
- ✓ Lessens workload
- ✓ Eliminates redundant meetings

ESDs as regional safety centers



- One fully operational safety center
- ESDs recognized as promising model, but lack funding to establish statewide
- District buy-in a challenge due to cost

Recommendations

OSPI

- Determine resources required to implement a regional school safety program through the ESDs
- Make funding request to the Legislature
- As funding permits, lead the effort

WASPC

- Determine resources required for a comprehensive review of the statewide school mapping system
- Make funding request to the Legislature
- As funding permits, convene a workgroup to consider the mapping system's current use and capabilities

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