The following levels are designed to assist school communities in determining the awareness levels and capabilities of students and staff. These levels are helpful when considering appropriate education and training activities. A corresponding age window (in parentheses) is included solely to provide general guidance; districts, educators, and parents are encouraged to adapt policies and training programs as per specific audiences and settings. Individual levels may vary greatly due to the unique developmental, cultural, educational, and personal profiles within a community or classroom. It is imperative that school communities consider the individual psychological backgrounds and special educational needs of students when determining awareness levels and considering appropriate education and training. It is essential to include parents in consideration of their child’s developmental level, education, and training readiness.
TOOLKIT ONE: ASSESS
DEVELOPMENTAL LEVELS OF SAFETY AWARENESS

PROFESSIONAL
Responders, Military, Security Professionals

ADVANCED
Professionally Trained Adults or Staff Members

INDEPENDENT
High School & Adult

PROFICIENT
Intermediate-Middle School

PRACTICED
Upper Elementary

DEVELOPING
Early Elementary

EARLY
PreK-Kindergarten

• Demonstrates a general understanding of danger.
• Heavily or completely reliant upon adult direction and management during an emergency.
• Capable of practicing basic safety options such as “Get Out” (Evacuate) and “Hide Out” (stay out of sight, lights off, remain quiet).
• Capable of understanding the concept of “Keep Out” (whereby an adult will lock and barricade classroom entries to “keep out” danger).
EARLY
PreK-Kindergarten

DEVELOPING
Early Elementary

PROFESSIONAL
Responders, Military, Security Professionals

ADVANCED
Professionally Trained Adults or Staff Members

INDEPENDENT
High School & Adult

PROFICIENT
Intermediate-Middle School

PRACTICED
Upper Elementary

• Demonstrates the characteristics of Early Awareness.
• Capable of providing basic assistance in an emergency (turning off classroom lights, retrieving the first aid kit, or closing blinds at the command of an adult).
PRACTICED
Upper Elementary

DEVELOPING
Early Elementary

EARLY
PreK-Kindergarten

PROFESSIONAL
Responders, Military, Security Professionals

ADVANCED
Professionally Trained Adults or Staff Members

INDEPENDENT
High School & Adult

PROFICIENT
Intermediate-Middle School

• Demonstrates the characteristics of Developing Awareness.
• Capable of assisting an adult in emergency actions such as closing a door, moving furniture, helping to barricade an entry, or calling 911 at the command of an adult.
• Demonstrates the characteristics of Practiced Awareness.
• Capable of performing practiced actions independently in an emergency without adult command or direction.
• May or may not demonstrate the ability to disrupt the actions of an attacker.*

*The issue of student involvement during an attack must be examined and addressed at the community level. Protocols developed must consider that the response of any individual under attack is unpredictable. Adults must not rely upon or expect student action or cooperation during a crisis.
DEVELOPMENTAL LEVELS OF SAFETY AWARENESS

- **PROFESSIONAL**
  Responders, Military, Security Professionals

- **ADVANCED**
  Professionally Trained Adults or Staff Members

- **INDEPENDENT**
  High School & Adult
  
  - Demonstrates the characteristics of Proficient Awareness.
  - Demonstrates automaticity of response in a variety of safety situations.
  - Demonstrates the ability to independently apply and adapt safety skills and knowledge in a variety of situations.
  - May or may not demonstrate the ability to disrupt or thwart the actions of an attacker.*

- **PROFICIENT**
  Intermediate-Middle School

- **PRACTICED**
  Upper Elementary

- **DEVELOPING**
  Early Elementary

- **EARLY**
  PreK-Kindergarten

*The issue of student involvement during an attack must be examined and addressed at the community level. Protocols developed must consider that the response of any individual under attack is unpredictable. Adults must not rely upon or expect student action or cooperation during a crisis.
TOOLKIT ONE: ASSESS
DEVELOPMENTAL LEVELS OF SAFETY AWARENESS

- **PROFESSIONAL**
  - Responders, Military, Security Professionals

- **ADVANCED**
  - Professionally Trained Adults or Staff Members

- **INDEPENDENT**
  - High School & Adult

- **PROFICIENT**
  - Intermediate-Middle School

- **PRACTICED**
  - Upper Elementary

- **DEVELOPING**
  - Early Elementary

- **EARLY**
  - PreK-Kindergarten

- Demonstrates the characteristics of Independent Awareness.
- Capable of leading others in an emergency.
- Capable of decision-making when confronted by an emergency.
- May or may not be capable of counteractive behavior when confronted by an attacker.*

*Protocols developed must consider that the response of any individual under attack is unpredictable.
PROFESSIONAL
Responders, Military, Security Professionals

ADVANCED
Professionally Trained Adults or Staff Members

INDEPENDENT
High School & Adult

PROFICIENT
Intermediate-Middle School

PRACTICED
Upper Elementary

DEVELOPING
Early Elementary

EARLY
PreK-Kindergarten

• Demonstrates the characteristics of Advanced Awareness.
• Capable of high-level decision making during an emergency.
• Trained and equipped to provide tactical response and counter attack measures to protect life in an emergency.