

Comparison of Safety and Emergency Preparedness Procedures and Policies in US and Turkish K-12 Schools*

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ABSTRACT Safety and emergency preparedness in U.S. and Turkey Kindergarten thru 12th grade public school system that are potentially applicable to other educational systems are discussed first within the context of the laws that set the legal ground for safety issues. The main purpose of this study is to develop a clear understanding regarding issues surrounding Safety and Emergency Preparedness Procedures and Policies in the USA and Turkey. The main question of this study is how similar or dissimilar the two cases are. The similarities and differences are examined within the following contexts: 1) accidents, injuries and illnesses, 2) utility problems, 3) health security, 4) mental health crisis, suicide threat, and death, 5) custody procedures, 6) fire safety procedures, 7) possession of prohibited substances (drugs etc.) and weapons, 8) searches and seizures, 9) secret organizations (Gangs etc.), 10) field Trips, 11) security personnel, 12) threats from outside the school, 13) disappearance of children, hostage-taking or kidnapping, 14) protection from inbound threats from their parents and relatives of the students, 15) physical and psychological violence towards students and teachers, and 16) traffic rules on school grounds. According to the results of content analysis, the guidelines for some safety issues are more formally structured and explained in a more detailed manner in US public schools than it is in the Turkish public schools.

INTRODUCTION

Each child has the right to a complete and productive life. It is up to the countries to guarantee their children grow up in settings that build confidence, security, friendship, and happiness, regardless of a child's family conditions or background.

Study after study by developmental specialists, neuroscientists, physicians, economists, and social scientists show that protecting their young population is one of the most effective investments countries can make in their economic future because creating a smarter, stronger, healthier, and more productive country is only possible by ensuring health and safety of their youngsters

Countries need to ensure that they have a unified and consistent approach that defines roles and responsibilities to protect the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.

Keeping children safe from harm requires a watchful and informed community that is confident in making decisions and is insistent in taking actions. It is essential that all practitioners working with children and young people are able to understand the role each plays in protecting children.

Safety and Emergency Preparedness policies and procedures must be based on the principle of partnership and shared responsibility. As such countries need to provide a common framework for respectful communication which will enable professionals, including school, licensed children's services and child protection staff to ensure timely and effective intervention for children and young people who may be at risk of abuse or neglect.

The challenge of protecting children is everybody's responsibility: parents, schools, communities, governments and businesses. Everybody has a role to play.

Countries need to take preventive measures to make sure that children are safe. An example for USA, a child dies because of a malfunctioning lock for retractable folding lunch tables in Pennsylvania and first the state and then the whole country bans use of these kind of lunch tables at schools. An example for Turkey, a sink at a daycare center falls over a young child and kills him instantly, and then the country take measures after. All school safety reforms need to be done before children get hurt not after.

In this study, safety and emergency preparedness in U.S. and Turkey Kindergarten

through 12th grade public school system are reviewed within the context of the most common issues that come across at schools highlighting the rules and regulations in U.S. and Turkey.

METHODOLOGY

This study is in qualitative research design. Qualitative research is a variety of scientific investigation that tries to answer questions, collects data, and produce findings. This type of research is particularly effective in getting culturally specific information about the values, thoughts, manners, and social contexts of specific people. Qualitative research is inquiry that focuses on studies that are in depth and therefore smaller samples can be used. In essence qualitative research is an exploration of a research question or situation in depth. The definition that Shank (2002) provides for qualitative research is “a form of systematic empirical inquiry into meaning” (p. 5). This means that this type of inquiry is systematic and highly complex. Denzin and Lincoln (2000) state that qualitative research includes an interpretive and naturalistic approach. This means that inquiry takes place in its natural setting. The researcher tries to make sense of what occurs and tries to make sense of the experiences he or she is seeing. This type of research can help us often identify situations or issues that may be intangible such as gender roles, religion, ethnicity, norms and socio economic status. Qualitative research usually tells us the story of the human aspect of an issue that is often inconsistent manners, beliefs, emotions, relationships and thoughts.

Two qualitative research methods were used in this study such as; document analysis, and interviews. These two methods were used in two stages in this study. Firstly, researchers reviewed and compared related educational laws and policies on school safety rules and procedures in Turkish and American public school system with the document analysis method. Secondly, by using convenience sampling method, 82 school managers working at the schools at the Kindergarten through 12th grade public school system in Turkey were selected and interviewed. Semi structured interview form was used to interview these school managers. Semi-structured interview form had sixteen questions related to the school safety issues, which are also the subtitles of this study (for example, accidents, inju-

ries, and illnesses, utility problems, health security etc.). In each question, the school managers were requested to answer that; 1) What do you perform when you encounter such a situation, 2) What kind of difficulties and problems are there that complicates coping with this situation, 3) Do you have any suggestions to solve these problems and alleviate these difficulties. Data obtained from the interviews were analyzed by content analysis method. Results and discussion sections have direct and indirect quotes from these interviews. Next to participant quotations, how many of the 82 participants agreed on that related comment was coded by using fractions (.../82) or only the frequency of the related view was indicated within the brackets.

RESULTS

1) Accidents, Injuries and Illnesses

US Case

Hazardous Material Accident

In case of a hazardous material accident, if hazardous materials are inside the building evacuation of the building is initiated according to fire drill procedures. If hazardous materials are outside the building, students must be kept away from them and administrator on duty must be contacted (As cited in Hazardous Materials Accidents 2011; Hazardous Materials Accidents 2011).

Major Accident or Serious Injury/Illness

If the person(s) involved in the accident or injury is seriously injured or sick, emergency contact number, for example, 911 in U.S., is to be called immediately. Administrator on duty and the nurse are to be contacted. The injured shall be approached only if the area is safe to enter. If there is blood or other bodily fluid, contact must be avoided. Protective gears shall be worn if available. Injured person(s) is not to be moved. Someone shall stay with the injured person(s) until help arrives. Emergency contact numbers of the injured person(s) have to be called and they shall be informed of the situation, for example, the name of the hospital where the injured is transported to. Higher authorities in the district such as the Superintendent Liaisons Office in

U.S. shall be notified and the media must be referred to the District's Director of Communications (Krishnan and Campbell 2007; as cited in Incident Management and Reporting Guidelines 2010).

Turkish Case

According to primary school institutions regulations article 139, administrators should take precautions inside and around the school for the health of students. In the regulations related to Nursery Regulations Change, it is reported that "school health nurses" who work in the schools, are to operate on the health problems accidents and injuries of the students and the staff. Preschool education institutions Regulations, in article 27, it is reported that it is essential to have an expert doctor on child health, if not possible, it is necessary to get help from the closest health institutions.

According to the statements of administrators; during these events first operation is done by school nurse if there is one, if there isn't, help taken from the teachers who know first aid, 112 emergency number is called at the times of situations which is beyond nurse in the school and the first aid staff in the school can do (32) family of the student is informed administrator or responsible teacher reports it at the place of accident (13) National Education Administration is informed in case of heavy situations that send to hospital (9) if there is a student who cause the accident deliberately send to discipline council (6).

According to school administrators; at the times of emergency, in the schools which do not have health staff, there happens problem and most of the staffs do not have enough knowledge about it (26) to prevent these problems first aid education should be given (34) to teach what to do in case of accident or illness, practices should be done sometimes (11) the equipment for first aid are not enough in most of the schools and each school should have all needed equipments (23), in many schools, there is not enough health staff in case of emergency and enough budget should be reserved for qualified health staff placement (15) there should be a first aid room and there should be a health staff in it in each school.

2) Utility Problems

US Case

Schools have procedures in the case of utility problems such as electricity problems when the power lines are down. In such a case, the area of danger must be cleared of all students and staff. An administrator must be notified. Emergency contact number, for example, 911 in US, must be called if fire or safety hazard is evident. If necessary, "Secure in Place" alert must be called to lock down the building until safety hazard is removed, or if warranted, the building must be evacuated keeping students and personnel away from hazards (As cited in Dallas Harmony Charter Schools 2007-2008 Student Handbook for Elementary School Students 2007). The custodian must be available when emergency personnel arrive. If the utility problem is a gas leak, then again the Administrator on duty must be contacted. Fire alarm, intercom or other electrical equipment must not be activated. Any flame producing items or candles in or near the building must not be used. The building must be evacuated using a room-to-room notification. The building shall be exited according to the normal fire drill procedures and the students must be taken at least one block away from the building. Wind direction must be taken into consideration. Students shall not be moved to or remain in an area downwind from the leak (As cited in Utility Emergencies 2011; Emergency Procedures Manual 2005).

Turkish Case

In Ministry of National Education Primary Schools' Regulation, Issue 139, the need of supplying a secure education environment at school and around school area, the need of removing the materials which threaten the health and secure of the students, the appropriateness of the heat, lightening and ventilation among the whole kinds of school facilities, the need of emergency box in case of emergent issues additionally the items and materials about the issue's availability are indicated. In Indoor Buildings' Regulations it is also cited that it is urgent to organise the electricity system at school in order not to threaten the health and the life of humans and to take the suitable precautions for this.

School Principals have expressed that there are some about the issues threatening the stu-

dents, in order to end up these problems it is an obligation that the electricity sockets and safety fuses should be at the places to where the students cannot reach, some measures for this should be taken for high voltage lines because they are close to some school areas; the accidents should be prevented by placing washbasins and fountains according to the heights of student; sharp materials at school should be kept in places where students cannot reach; some detailed evacuation plans in case of emergency should be organised although most schools don't have, the students shouldn't enter into the places such as cafe, kitchen where there is danger of gas leak, burn and boiling.

3) Health Security

US Case

Control of Contagious Diseases

When there is suspicion of an outbreak of a contagious disease, nurse and an administrator are notified. This information of the existence of a contagious disease is not shared with anyone to avoid a state of panic. If deemed necessary, all teachers are notified of the disease and a note is sent to students' home to parents by the school administration (As cited in Infectious Disease Control Guide for School Staff 2004).

Drug Overdose/Poisoning/Allergic Reaction

In case of serious medical conditions due to drug overdose, poisoning or an allergic reaction, emergency contact number, for example, 911 in U.S., is called. Administrator on duty is contacted and nurse is notified. In case of poisoning, Poison Control Department in US or a similar department in other countries is contacted (As cited in Emergency Manual: Assault on Student or Staff 2011; Dove Schools Student/Parent Handbook 2007).

Turkish Case

National Education Ministry, Primary School Institutions Regulations, an article 139 reports that have the student health and security service in primary school institutions a healthy education-teaching environment is needed to be provided for students, health treatments and

necessary injections of the students are needed to be done periodically, first aid board with first aid bag and equipments are necessary to have. Public Health-Protection Law with 1593 number and health ministry basic health service general ad-ministry documentary with 01.02.2005 date and 2005/15 number stress the cases preserving school health recovering building and health situations of all schools, protecting students and staff from harmful and addictive substances, preserving from contagious and epidemic illnesses. Moreover in the circular published by Ministry of Education, Department of Health, to advance awareness of healthy eating for school staff and students, to prevent poisoning infectious diseases, inadequate and unbalanced nutrition, school principals have been instructed to provide central of goods in the canteens of the school, not allowing harmful foods in the school. According to preschool education Institutions regulations, the students who can't follow the school because of contagious illness, with doctor report from health institutions can continue to school. With that, the other students are protected from contagious illness.

Based on all this law, regulations and circular, school principals stated that they took precautions about these cases; the necessary vaccines are done according to development level of the student as a precaution for contagious illnesses (17) water storages are chlorinated periodically (5) drinking waters are sent to be analyzed in laboratories periodically (7) in the case of contagious and epidemic illness 112 is called and health team is called (399) family of the related students are interviewed (32) students are informed about healthy eating (24) fried foods, chips, energy drinks and carbonated drinks are not allowed to sell (27), the goods which are out of date are collected (129) on this case, canteen controlling council does the necessary controls (6) students are warned about not buying drinks and foods out of school (13) when unhealthy goods are seen around the school, security administrations is informed (9).

According to school principals to solve such cases; teachers and other staff should be educated about what to do in case of illness, poisoning and allergic reaction (22) at the beginning of the school and during the school time all students health should be tested periodically (14), if the delivery of the milk will continue, there should be a cold air storage, otherwise there

increase food poisoning (2) the places which are selling unhealthy foods and travelling sellers around the school should be prevented (19) health institutions should control inside and outside of the school if it is suitable for health standards, apart from routine treatments and vaccines (6) to advance hygiene and decrease illnesses, ministry should provide cleaning staff for the schools which cannot afford (4).

4) Mental Health Crisis, Suicide Threat, and Death

US Case

Mental Health Crisis/Suicide Threat

In case of a mental health crisis or a suicide threat, first administrator on duty is contacted. Administrator calls the parent or emergency contact and asks them to come to the site. Administrator calls the Guidance and Counseling Office as well. If a parent or emergency contact cannot be located, the police officer on the scene contacts a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officer in the U.S. case or a similar authority in other countries for assistance. If the student, staff member, or visitor is armed or violent, emergency contact number, for example, 911 in U.S., is to be called immediately. The student or staff member is to be isolated and it must be made sure he/she cannot hurt him/herself. Such a student or staff member has to be kept under constant supervision (As cited in Procedures in the Event of Mental Health Emergency or Crisis 2011; Campus Emergency Procedures Guide for Faculty, Staff, and Students 2011).

Death of a Student or Staff Member

School's principal is contacted in case of a death of a student or a staff member of the school and then the principal or other administrator contacts the staff, including the counselor, and has a statement prepared for them to share with their students if needed. Administrator shares the information with students in the classroom setting. Death of a student or staff member is never announced over the intercom. A room is made available for counseling and for escorting students or staff who need assistance. A staff meeting is called after school to discuss how the day went and to identify the students that

need to be watched and to share new information (As cited in Coping with the Death of a Student or Staff Member 2007).

Turkish Case

In the circular about "Crisis Intervention Services" of general management of Ministry of education, Private education and Guidance services, it is expressed that there should be a "Crisis Intervention Team" in each school after educations are given about intervention to the crisis to the teachers in the school, administrators and parents. This team consists of the Guidance adviser of the school, agent of teachers and students and parents headed by Principal or the other administrator. The members of this team are educated about how they will intervene in such subjects. In case of a mental health crisis, a suicide threat and death, they intervene to these events; try to help teachers and students who are in crisis or suicide threat, call the authority and professional teams to help.

Principals indicated that: In case of a mental health crisis, a suicide threat or a death, they immediately contact with the police officer and emergency (21), guard teacher and administrator guard with the person related (17), try to avert themselves and the environment until the help comes (9), and try to help by making a conversation with the related person.

5) Custody Procedures

US Case

Administrative personnel at the front office and the administrators are responsible of maintaining accurate records regarding custody, court orders, or special releases. Students with special custody situations must be known by any employee of the school who may be responsible for releasing students to adults. If a parent telephones stating that the school needs to release their child to someone other than him/herself, the call is followed up with a call back to the parent using the telephone numbers given in the student's file to verify that it was indeed the parent who called. Parent(s) are asked to provide such a request in writing if at all possible. A student cannot be released solely on the word of the person who comes to pick him/her up. Student's registration card is always checked

for the names of individuals allowed to pick up the student. If someone comes to pick up a student who does not have custody of the student, administrator on duty is called immediately. The student is not allowed to come in contact with the adult that does not have custody and if necessary police is contacted. If the police are called, the media may become aware of the situation and in such a case they are referred to the School District's Director of Communications or to a similar authority in countries other than U.S. (As cited in Pennsylvania Child Custody Procedures 2011).

Turkish Case

In Turkish education system, there are no clear regulations on how much and where to keep students in custody on which guilt. It is seen that the school administrators behaves according to their initiatives in case of preventing the students. Justice Ministry, according to Catching, Custody and Examining Regulations; the children who are under 12 can't be caught because of their guilts, when they have a guilt, they are kept for detection of guilt and identity, and soon after guilt and identity information is reported to Republic Attorney General. In this regulation and other similar regulations there is no article on the authority of school administrators on preventing the guilt.

According to the statements of school administrators who are interviewed, when the guilts are beyond authority of school, police is informed and if needed police keeps the student (18) if there is a case threatening student, to keep him safe, he is not left put (14) if the parents are late, student is kept and family is informed (22) especially primary class 1 students and preschool students mix, miss their school bus or their parents are late, in such cases students are kept and the family is informed (12) if the one who come is not a parent, student is not given and family is called (9) student is not kept out of school hours (3), if the student is needed to be kept, family is informed (7) without any serious reason keeping the student in school and limiting is a guilt.

Some of the school administrators report that about this case there is no clear statement and they worry and hesitate about committing offense when they have to keep the student, so it is needed to prepare a detailed regulation (11).

Some school administrators reported that when they have to keep the students, they should do that without hurting, humiliating the student (6) in these cases to rehabilitate or to change bad actions more help is necessary to be taken from guidance service and experts.

6) Fire Safety Procedures

US Case

In case of a fire, nearest fire alarm is pulled. Office is called to sound the alarm if a fire alarm cannot be located. Administrator on duty is to be contacted. Administrator calls the emergency contact number, for example, 911 in U.S. If possible, doors around the fire must be shut to contain it. Putting the fire out is to be attempted only if trained in the use of a fire extinguisher and if the fire is in its beginning stages, and only after evacuation has started. The Administrator on duty should have available location of fire, knowledge of missing people, all building keys, and a floor plan of the building to the Fire Department upon their arrival. Building must be evacuated according to predetermined procedures. When doing so wind direction has to be considered. No one shall remain in, or move to, an area downwind from the fire. Everyone shall move at least 300 feet away from the building. If evacuation of the building is not possible, a safer area must be sought as far from the fire as possible. All doors and vents must be sealed with cloth or other materials. All means must be tried to communicate the location of the temporary safer area to rescue personnel. Students can be returned to the building only on advice of Fire Department personnel. Attendance should be taken after returning to the room by teachers and any missing students must be reported to the administrator on duty. If safety permits, appointees should check bathrooms and unoccupied rooms.

Every educational institute must schedule sufficient number of fire drills and other safety drills if required any. Scheduled fire drills shall be announced ahead of time only to the school personnel during staff meetings. Along with scheduled fire drills, there must be unscheduled fire drills as well. A fire drill procedure handout must be developed and handed out to school personnel. Normally, buildings for educational institutions are approved by government in re-

guards to the fire code. However, if this is not the case or if the building is old or for other reasons the fire code is violated, then via these drills school administration shall fulfill the fire code and other safety codes. A safety committee among the staff shall be appointed to deal with drills and other safety issues. This committee does not replace discipline committee (As cited in Virginia Educator's Guide for Planning and Conducting School Emergency Drills 2001; Fire Safety Practices: Focus on Children 2009).

Turkish Case

"Ministry of Education, Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting Instructions" and "Ministry of Education, Fire Protection of Buildings based on the" schools, various measures are taken to protect against fire, and the fire When the various provisions of these regulations are implemented. According to these regulations; the school principal is responsible for the school to take appropriate measures in this regard, to be used for fire-fighting equipment kept in an active state and task teams for delivering. School principals interviewed in this context expressed that; they give first priority to be saved by fire cabinets labeled buildings (6), they take the necessary precautions against fire in the building (19), they don't allow the students to approach the flammable materials and to come to school in order to reduce the risk of fire and flammable substances (8), they prepare fire-fighting corners (12), and they periodically check fire-tubes, the bells and other related equipments (14), they call 110 in case of an emergency (24), they make the fire evacuation ladders ready (11), they check periodically the electrical equipment of the school to reduce the risk of fire (5), they carry out fire drills through the civil defense club.

Interviewed school principals reported on the measures to be taken regarding fire fighting that, personnel lack a lot of information (10), they don't have the sufficient fire fighting equipment (13), they don't have detailed emergency response plans (15), they don't have fire escapes (5), fire-fighting teams are formed only as a token and created on paper (7). School principals to remedy shortcomings in this area expressed that; measures should be taken against fire, students and staff should be more educated on what to do in case of fire (24), materials to be used to extinguish a fire should be in a place accessible to students and other staff (2), there should be a

creation of regulations that are required for fire fighting teams to make more active and functional (17), fire exercises should be applied in a more engaging way to increase the level of awareness on this issue and regulation (12).

7) Possession of Prohibited Substances (Drugs etc.) and Weapons

US Case

Weapons

A weapon is any object, which is dangerous or capable of inflicting harm. When a weapon suspected on student; administrator on duty has to be contacted and emergency contact number, for example, 911 in US, must be called. The student suspected of having a weapon shall be tried to be isolated, while police is to disarm the student upon their arrival. Confrontation with the student suspected of weapon possession must be avoided. The student must not be allowed to access to his/her locker or backpack. Student's parents must be called and informed of the incident (As cited in Required Language in Districts' Gun Free School Policy 2011).

When a weapon is found on property; administrator on duty has to be contacted and emergency contact number, for example, 911 in US, must be called. Weapon must not be touched unless absolutely necessary. Incident area must be cleared of all students. A staff member must stay with the weapon until police arrive. Students' parents must be called and informed of the incident (Sheley and Wright 1998).

Texas State law Subchapter E. Penal Provisions, Section 37.125 entitled "Exhibition of Firearms", a person commits an offense if the person, by exhibiting, using, or threatening to exhibit or use a firearm, interferes with the normal use of a building or portion of a campus or of a school bus being used to transport students to or from school-sponsored activities of a private or public school (As cited in TEA (Texas Education Agency) Rules and Regulations Related to Discipline Matters Exhibition of Firearms 2008). An offense under this section is a third degree felony. § 12.34, Third Degree Felony Punishment of Texas Penal Code states that an individual adjudged guilty of a felony of the third degree shall be punished by imprisonment in the institutional division for any term of not more than

10 years or less than 2 years. In addition to imprisonment, an individual adjudged guilty of a felony of the third degree may be punished by a fine not to exceed \$10,000 (As cited in Texas Constitutions and Statutes Chapter 12 Third Degree Felony Punishment 2011).

Drug Possession

If a student is suspected of drug possession, first an administrator is contacted. Administrator calls the emergency contact number, for example, 911 in U.S. The investigation of the incident is the responsibility of the Police Department. The school districts have no tolerance policy for drug possession. Higher authorities in the district such as the Superintendent Liaisons Office in U.S. are notified. Student's parents are called and informed of the situation. In this regard, Texas State law Sec. 37.122 entitled "Possession of Intoxicants on Public School Grounds" (As cited in TEA (Texas Education Agency) Rules and Regulations Related to Discipline Matters, Possession of Intoxicants on Public School Grounds 2008) states that a person commits an offense if the person possesses an intoxicating beverage for consumption, sale, or distribution while:

- a. On the grounds or in a building of a public school; or
- b. Entering or inside any enclosure, field, or stadium where an athletic event sponsored or participated in by a public school of this state is being held.

An administrator on duty is contacted if a student is suspected to be under the influence of drugs. Emergency contact number, for example, 911 in U.S., is called if medical assistance is needed. Nurse is notified. Student's parents are called and informed about the situation. An officer of this state who sees a person violating this section immediately seizes the intoxicating beverage and, within a reasonable time delivers it to the county or district attorney to be held as evidence until the trial of the accused possessor. Such an offense is considered a Class C misdemeanor, in which the individual adjudged guilty of such misdemeanor shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500 (As cited in Ordinary Misdemeanor Punishments, Chapter 12, Subchapter B, Title 3, 2011).

Turkish Case

The school principals interviewed expressed that student or teacher caught on immediately

report any dangerous or harmful substance is being held (18), they inform the security immediately when they notice or catch substances which is a crime, the families of the students are immediately informed in such cases (9). The school principals expressed that, the teachers who experience such a case immediately informs the school offices (2), school administrators immediately confiscates the relevant goods (4), resistance in this respect that they help meet special security guard (3), in more serious cases, they have to call the police (12). In addition, alcohol, drugs, and so on. Students who abuse substances found in most cities in Turkey AM-ATEM (Alcohol and Substance Abuse Research, Treatment and Training Center) centers (8) or by determining the problems in this regard in order to receive expert assistance of RAM (Guidance Research Centers) centers (14) reported being routed. Regulation for Primary Education Institutions, Article 109 Ministry of Education, killing and wounding tools to bring to school, possess them, alcohol and drugs acts, such as the introduction or promotion of these substances kulaniminin, brought the goods according to the nature and degree of the offense warning, reprimand or "expulsion to another school" should be punished as stated. If the teachers caught on the hazardous and noxious substances, they also warn According to Law No. 657 on Civil Servants, ranging from reprimand and fines can reach away from the profession. School principals, schools, X-ray equipment must be taken to prevent ingress of dangerous substances (4), which is particularly prone to violence and their families and guidance to the students on the service of such substances captured more of these behaviors underlying problems should be resolved by entering into co-operation (6), students with substance abuse is detected, which leads them to lose them in giving direct punishment (8), guide service and expert assistance to recuperate these students and their families, these children must be educated (15) stated.

8) Searches and Seizures

US Case

To conduct searches and seizures in school, a "reasonable suspicion" must be present. A policy should be available for locker search. Other types of searches provided reasonable suspi-

cion are strip search, metal detector search, and canine search. Random drug testing is also one of the common means to investigate drug possession incidences. Laws such as Texas State Law Section 37.016 entitled Report of Drug Offenses; Liability states that “a teacher, school administrator, or school employee is not liable in civil damages for reporting to a school administrator or governmental authority, in the exercise of professional judgment within the scope of the teacher’s, administrator’s, or employee’s duties, a student whom the teacher suspects of using, passing, or selling, on school property (As cited in TEA (Texas Education Agency) Rules and Regulations Related to Discipline Matters Report of Drug Offenses, Liability 2008);

- a. Marihuana or a controlled substance, as defined by Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code;
- b. A dangerous drug, as defined by Chapter 483, Health and Safety Code;
- c. Anabusable glue or aerosol paint, as defined by Chapter 485, Health and Safety Code, or a volatile chemical, as listed in Chapter 484, Health and Safety Code, if the substance is used or sold for the purpose of inhaling its fumes or vapors; or
- d. An alcoholic beverage, as defined by Section 1.04, Alcoholic Beverage Code.

Private institutions are not subject to fourth amendment of U.S. constitution, that is ‘the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.’

Turkish Case

Some principals stated that, students and teachers of students at certain intervals in order to prevent threats that can damage and searches have been done on them, and utensils (65), in particular the state of the students suspected and possessions are searched more often (22), and sometimes the students searched for a particular complaint (8), sometimes in certain classes or school-wide search for events such as theft, they (13). Most of the managers (65/82), in spite of the schools at various times to express what

they call a clear articulation of the foundations in this regard are not able to legally. It is written that 21th item Regulation of Judicial and Prevention calls areas they are responsible for protecting the security guards and 25th item of Article Article inputs and outputs of the public institutions without the need for a search warrant can search the authorities. Some of the interviewed school principals reported that, school students or goods uzerlerinin when, how and by whom should be sought, which the powers of agents and which agents to confiscate confiscation powers on issues such as whether the current regulations, there is no specific information on what to do in such situations and experiences, sometimes doubts (13). School principles stated that they immediately put their right on such materials as, cigatrette (28), make-up materials (15), flammable (12), addictive (9) and the cutter (19) materials, the materials that can cause mentally and physically damage to the students (9), lost or stolen items (16) harmful publications (7), as well as by phone or play instruments captured within the course time (10).

Interviewed school principals stated that, a sufficient number of schools, security guard (18), X-ray device (23) and metal detectors (12) must be included in the search for adjusting the reactions of students, teachers and administrators to involve in male and female security guards at the entrance of the school and that at certain points in should play a more active role in the issue (5), does not lead to negative reactions calls for the students and their pride without breaking the calls must be made respecting the students (15).

9) Secret Organizations (Gangs etc.)

US Case

Prevention of secret organizations and political organizations is important to prevent disciplinary cases that are usually committed not by individuals but by a group such as bullying, hazing, gangs, drug possession and use, etc. Public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang means an organization composed wholly or in part of students of public primary or secondary schools that seeks to perpetuate itself by taking in additional members from the students enrolled in school on the basis of the decision of its membership rather than on the

free choice of a student in the school who is qualified by the rules of the school to fill the special aims of the organization. The term does not include an agency for public welfare, for example, in US Boy Scouts, Hi-Y, Girl Reserves, DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, Pan-American Clubs, scholarship societies, or other similar educational organizations sponsored by state or national education authorities. Texas State law Subchapter E. Penal Provisions, Section 37.121 entitled "Fraternalities, Sororities, Secret Societies and Gangs" regulates such incidences stating that a person commits an offense if the person is a member of, pledges to become a member of, joins, or solicits another person to join or pledge to become a member of a public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang; or is not enrolled in a public school and solicits another person to attend a meeting of a public school fraternity, sorority, secret society, or gang or a meeting at which membership in one of those groups is encouraged (As cited in TEA (Texas Education Agency) Rules and Regulations Related to Discipline Matters Fraternalities, Sororities, Secret Societies and Gangs 2008). A school district board of trustees or an educator shall recommend such students placing in an alternative education program. Such an offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor. Class C misdemeanor requires that an individual adjudged guilty of such misdemeanor shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500 (As cited in Texas Constitutions and Statutes Title 3, Chapter 12, Subchapter B 2011).

Turkish Case

School administrators expressed that, the ones who are members of secret organizations, teachers or students engaged in the propaganda of these organizations or political parties warned before (37), these verbs and minutes are kept of such persons being investigated (29). According to 109th item of the school managing rules, students within the school and outside the political parties, trade unions and other organizations to make propaganda, to participate in their activities, they collect money on behalf of the help and "expulsion to another school" requires punishment. Teachers and school administrators to perform similar acts is prohibited by the Civil Servants Law No. 657. According to the Civil Servants Law No. 657, public employ-

ees to make propaganda for the organization of political parties, or any "halt the progression of stages" sentence requires the officers to be members of political parties or organizations is illegal "state from civil service as" punished. Some school principals, according to various organizations we believe to be harmful to the propaganda of various political parties who are members of or after the stimulation of individual students, their families and guidance of these acts giving up their service should be provided in co-operation (14). It is expressed that, according to some school principals, especially those engaged in acts of punishment of students away from them more this kind of social life, and so organizations can increase their commitment to their families and to gain work in partnership to convince them to try it out until the end of the path (8).

10) Field Trips

US Case

Permission slips from legal guardians are obtained by the school before the field trips (As cited in 2007-2008 Dallas Harmony Charter Schools Student Handbook for Elementary School Students 2007; Permission Slip for Field Trip 2011; Field Trip Permission Slip 2011). Only approved vehicles and destinations must be considered during field trips. For instance, 15 passenger vans are not allowed to be rented and used for field trips in the State of Oklahoma for safety concerns with those vans.

In case a problem arises, field trip teachers call the emergency contact number, for example, 911 in U.S. if necessary. Administrator on duty must be contacted at the site, if one is not available at the site of the field trip, then school must be called to speak to one. Administrator contacts the parents with information about their child(ren). All parties involved shall complete an incident report.

Turkish Case

Ministry of Education, Elementary and Secondary Education Institutions, in Social Activities Regulation 21th Article, travel plans, school administration should be given at least 7 days prior to your trip plan and participate in a tour of the administrators, teachers, students and parents have the names, addresses, phone num-

bers, a list of relatives of reach of preparation should be given a copy of the school administration, before the trip written permission from parents for students to be taken, the provincial approval of the trips, according to the contents of the trip would be made by the principal or director of national education, the provincial trips outside the city or county approval civilian authority (prefect or governor) specified by the given. In addition, within the same regulation, the provincial trips in and out of province, for the student accident insurance, trip destination selection tools, and other issues, School Trips stated that compliance with the provisions of the Framework Agreement. Given in the annex of this regulation (Appendix: 12) in the School Trips Framework Convention, safety measures, the head of delegation to make one of the managers, each responsible for a trip in a car trip to the authorities for a length of teachers and students have to keep under constant surveillance, for a length of trip trip plan administrators mentioned teachers, students and parents that no one outside the vehicle must not be specified.

School principals interviewed stated that, especially for long trips, students 'control and supervision of the students' parents have provided the participation of a few people in the tour (4), recently assigned teachers to guide them according to the number of students (16), a first aid kit in the car bulundurduklarini (7), trips before the security bilgilendirdikleri students and teachers about the measures and warned to be careful (21), to check the students for them to follow each other and with each other eslestirdiklerini (3), the means and insured students are taken on a tour (19), making the night journey Sakindiklerini (13) and the security problem avoided going to places (8).

Some school principals reported that there were some problems in this regard, and some suggestions. In this context, it is reported that travel and study clubs are not active enough, and these clubs are can be activated and will serve the objectives of education and training should be organized more frequently in trips (5), trips, first aid supplies and first aid staff understands the need (11), out of school for trips to and this is where a lot of unnecessary correspondence and transactions allow a more realistic non-functional security measures should be taken rather than bureaucratic procedures (9).

11) Security Personnel

US Case

Security Personnel

In Texas State Law Subchapter C, Law and Order Section 37.081 entitled "School District Peace Officers and Security Personnel" it is stated that the board of trustees of any school district may employ security personnel and may commission peace officers to carry a weapon (As cited in TEA (Texas Education Agency) Rules and Regulations Related to Discipline Matters School District Peace Officers and Security Personnel 2008). The jurisdiction of a peace officer or security personnel under this section shall be determined by the board of trustees and may include all territory in the boundaries of the school district and all property outside the boundaries of the district that is owned, leased, or rented by or otherwise under the control of the school district and the board of trustees that employ the peace officer or security personnel. A peace officer has the powers, privileges, and immunities of peace officers; may enforce all laws, including municipal ordinances, county ordinances, and state laws; and may, in accordance with Chapter 52, Family Code, take a juvenile into custody (As cited in TEA (Texas Education Agency) Rules and Regulations Family Code, Title 3, Chapter 52, 2011). A peace officer shall protect the safety and welfare of any person in the jurisdiction of the peace officer; and the property of the school district. A school district peace officer may provide assistance to another law enforcement agency as well. A peace officer assigned to duty and commissioned under this section shall take and file the oath required of peace officers and shall execute and file a bond in the sum of \$1,000, payable to the board of trustees, with two or more sureties, conditioned that the peace officer will fairly, impartially, and faithfully perform all the duties that may be required of the peace officer by law (As cited in TEA (Texas Education Agency) Rules and Regulations Related to Discipline Matters School District Peace Officers and Security Personnel 2008). The bond may be sued on in the name of any person injured until the whole amount of the bond is recovered. Any peace officer commissioned under this section must meet all minimum standards for peace officers

established by the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education.

Turkish Case

Private security officers are responsible for the safety of the school during the day. Issues related to security guards to be employed in schools are explained in "Law on Private Security Services." According to this law, the Ministry of National Education, General Directorate of Personnel describes the security guard employment plan. After the permission from "provincial security committee" chaired by the Governor, the number of security personnel schools need is transmitted to the Ministry of Education. According to the budget the Ministry of Finance will allocate private security staff is determined. Given positions are distributed to the provinces. In the 8th article of the same law it is explained that security officers who work in educational institutions cannot carry firearms and it is pointed out that which safety instruments except firearms will be specified by the "provincial security committee". In the 7th article of the same law powers of private security officers are as follows:

Asking the people who want to enter the institution to show their IDs and searching them with detectors, asking them to pass through sensitive door, passing their equipment through X-ray or similar security systems.

Capturing and searching people around their task area, who are to be captured, arrested or convicted.

Entering the workplaces in their task area and houses in case of natural disasters such as fire, earthquake.

Safekeeping the goods, which constitutes a crime or causes damage or that, may be an evidence during the search on the condition of reporting to general law enforcement.

Safe keeping the abandoned and found goods.

Capturing a person in order to protect the person's body or health from an existing danger.

Private security guards are in charge of the safety of the school during the day; at night watchman does the same job. In accordance with 89th article of the Regulations of the Ministry of National Primary Education Institutions, if the number of the servants in a school is 2 or less, security services are not being held responsible

and these schools report their situations to the police department every 6 months. In larger schools night watchman is employed or servants watch the school at night in turn.

According to the statements of the interviewed principals, relying on the 138th article of Regulations on Primary Education, schools which do not have private security guards keep students at the entrance of the schools and these students make identity checks (32), relying on the 71st article of Regulations on Primary Education teachers stand at certain points for the safety of the school (25), security guards are not subject to an election being held by the principal because these people are assigned as servants in school. (17)

37 school managers out of 87 interviewed stated that there is not a security guard in their schools. 33 of these school managers stated that they could not hire a security guard because of financial insufficiency and they could not receive grant from National Education Directorate. These principals stated that they could not employ staff because enough budget is not allocated by the center so they face problems ensuring safety (33), that they want more budget for their school (28), and they expect more support from families in material terms (5). 38 of the principles in whose school security guards work said that they pay the salary of this staff by themselves with the help of the school's parent association. School principals in the schools with security guard said that they are not satisfied with their security guards about some issues, for this reason they recommend that security guards should be chosen among the people who are more educated (17), whose behaviors will be example for students (11), and who are physically look better (4).

12) Threats from Outside the School

US Case

Criminal Checks of Volunteers

Checking the criminal records of volunteers and visitors are of utmost importance since it is a law that people charged with sex offenses, child molestation, etc. cannot come nearby schools. Thus, schools obtain criminal history record of a volunteer or a visitor and this information is kept confidential (As cited in Volunteer Applica-

tion and Confidentiality Agreement 2011; Volunteer Background Checks 2011; School Volunteer Records Check 2011; Volunteer Form for Durham Public Schools 2011; Criminal History Background Checks of Volunteers in Public Schools 2005).

Visitor Procedures

All visitors must sign in at the front office including volunteers. A school can obtain criminal history record of a volunteer, which should be kept confidential. At no point, should visitors be in the building without an identity (ID) badge. Any staff member seeing someone in the building without a badge must escort him or her to the front office. Office staff shall ask for an identity (ID) and place in the raptor ID machine to verify that the visitor is OK to enter the building. Upon verifications, an ID sticker with their name and picture is to be given to the visitor to wear. If verification comes up with a problem, office staff should contact an administrator. Under no circumstances should this person be allowed to enter the building. If this occurs, procedures for confrontational person must be followed (As cited in A Visitor's Guide: Safety and Security Procedures 2007; Visitors in Schools Framework: Policy and Procedures 2005; School Visitors Procedure 2008; 8 Step Procedures for Visitors 2011).

Trespassing

Trespassing by definition is a wrongful entry upon another's land. Texas State law Subchapter D, Protection of Buildings and Grounds, Section 37.105 entitled "Unauthorized Persons: Refusal or Entry, Ejection, Identification" states that the board of trustees of a school district or its authorized representative may refuse to allow a person without legitimate business to enter on property under the board's control and may eject any undesirable person from the property on the person's refusal to leave peaceable on request. Identification may be required of any person on the property (As cited in TEA (Texas Education Agency) Rules and Regulations Related to Discipline Matters Trespass on School Grounds 2008).

Texas State law Subchapter D, Protection of Buildings and Grounds, Section 37.107 entitled "Trespass on School Grounds" states that an

unauthorized person who trespasses on the grounds of any school district commits an offense. An offense under the section is a Class C misdemeanor, in which the individual adjudged guilty of such misdemeanor shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500 (As cited in Texas Constitutions and Statutes Title 3, Chapter 12, Subchapter B 2011).

Turkish Case

According to the 139th article of Ministry of National Primary Education Regulation, school administrators must provide a safe and healthy educational environment in and around school. According to the 7th article of "The Law on Private Security Services" security officials in the school have the power to ask the people who want to enter the institution to show their IDs and search them with detectors, ask them to pass through sensitive door, pass their equipment through X-ray or similar security systems. School principles stated that school entries and exits are controlled, if exists, security guards (37), if not, by duty student (32), people who enter the school are recorded with dates (29), visitors are given visitor cards (25), students are not allowed to go out until the end of school hours for their safety (18), sellers or foreigners are not allowed to enter the school (22), visitors are not allowed to enter the schools with dangerous instruments on them (11) they call the police when they see suspicious people around school (16), and they inform the police about suspicious cars around the school (7), they observe the certain points, entrance of school with cameras (9), entries are done only from controlled doors (4).

School principals stated some problems and their solutions related to this issue they experienced: men who molest especially female students are seen mostly outside of the school and more help from the police is required (13), principals have difficulty in challenging entertainment centers, game rooms, and other similar threats located near schools and they need help to keep the students away from these places (19), the schools to be equipped with more cameras (28), introduction of X-ray devices to the doors (21), card security system to be established in order to prevent foreigners to enter the school (3) are recommended, budget allocation for the receipt of the security guards to the schools are recommended (23), and security guards not the students should guard the school gates (8).

13) Disappearance of Children, Hostage-taking or Kidnapping

US Case

Missing Child

In case of a missing child, administrator on duty is to be contacted. Administrator conducts a search of the school. If the student is not found, emergency contact number, for example, 911 in U.S., is called. Student's parents are to be called as well and be informed of the situation. Friends and associates of the student are to be contacted to gain information on the student's whereabouts (As cited in London Good Practice Guidance for Safeguarding Children Missing from School 2005; Missing Child Procedure 2010; Emergency Procedures: Missing Children Policy 2006; Missing Child Policy 2009).

Hostage Situation

In case of a hostage situation, emergency contact number, for example, 911 in US, is to be called. The caller shall be specific about the hostage situation so police can respond without sirens. Administrator on duty must be contacted and further instructions from administration are to be followed by the staff (Daniels et al. 2007; as cited in Managing a Hostage Situation 2011).

Kidnapping

In case of kidnapping, emergency contact number, for example, 911 in U.S., is to be called and administrator on duty must be contacted. Administrator calls for "Secure in Place" alert if warranted (As cited in Dallas Harmony Charter Schools 2007-2008 Student Handbook for Elementary School Students 2007). Administrator contacts student's parents or legal guardian and inform them about the event. Administrator shall have student information, including picture, if possible, along with all witnesses ready for the police (As cited in How to Protect Children from Kidnapping 2011).

Turkish Case

There is not a detailed description and specific regulations on what school administration

should do when a student is kidnapped or lost. interviewed school principals said that when they faced such a problem first of all they call the police (75), then they call the parents (67), school report is prepared on the subject and top authorities are informed (32), security camera records are checked (26), witnesses are listened (13), places where child can go are searched (3), if the student is kidnapped or attacked by a foreigner, the school complains (18), if the kidnapping or the attack is performed by another student, this student is punished "expulsion to another school" according to the 109th article of Ministry of National Primary Education Institutions Regulation (15).

According to the school principals interviewed, in order to follow such events and detect the criminals cameras should be used more widely in schools (39), children who are under threat should be reported to the school administration and the police and tighter security measures should be taken for these children (17), security staff and teachers should be more careful about these issues and they should report suspicious people to the authorities immediately (21), schools are very open to attack, and the police are required to check more frequently around the school (14).

14) Protection from Inbound Threats from Their Parents and Relatives of the Students

US Case

Sex Offender Parents

Sex offenders cannot be allowed to serve as volunteers by federal law. School personnel shall notify law enforcement of child safety zone violators. School officials can ask sex offender parents not to come in school building, and pick up the child in the remote parking lot. Districts can ban sex offenders from campus (As cited in Sex Offenders on School Property Procedures 2011; Registered Sex Offenders 2007).

Parents with Drugs, Alcohol, or Weapons

Against parents with drugs, alcohol, or weapons, school personnel call emergency contact line, for example, 911 in U.S. An oral or written trespass warning can be given. Suspected abuse shall be reported to CPS or to a similar institu-

tion at another country other than U.S., when appropriate. Relevant warning signs on campus parking lots should be posted (As cited in Drug/Alcohol and Weapons Policy 2011).

Turkish Case

Law No. 6284 on the Protection of the family, the existence of the parent's physical or psychological violence on the child and sexual abuse by parents are prohibited. When these conditions are detected, the parent is prohibited to approach the child or to enter the house drunk or taking drugs. Turkish Civil Code article 273 and Law on Social Services and Child Protection Agency articles 22 and 23 permits another family or institution to look after the child if the family in a condition to disrupt the child's physical and mental health. According to the 9th article of the Law on Child Protection, in such a case the child is immediately taken under care and supervision by the Social Services and Child Protection Agency.

School principals have expressed the things they did in such cases: when family violence or sexual abuse is suspected, first the school guidance counselor interviews the child (28), and if the school guidance counselor becomes sure, he informs the police (22), parents are called to school (19), school guidance counselor and parents meet and the counselor informs the parents about how to behave the child (17), in such a case communication with the provincial prosecutor, the child police and social services worker is established (8), crime report is sent to Public Prosecutor's Office (5), in such cases the child in need of rehabilitation is directed to guidance service (25), if the situation is more serious, child is transferred to Counseling and Research Center (RAM) (14).

15) Physical and Psychological Violence Towards Students and Teachers

US Case

Assault on Student or Staff

When an assault or attack is identified either on a student or staff, it is common that the administrator on duty is called first. If necessary, emergency contact phone number is also called, for example, 911 for U.S. Nurse is notified in case

urgent medical attention is needed. One of the staff members is assigned by the administrator to gather witnesses and/or suspects. If the offender is in custody, he/she or they should be kept isolated from others but always under supervision as long as doing so does not pose a danger to anyone (As cited in Emergency Manual: Assault on Student or Staff 2011).

Turkish Case

Regulation for Primary Education Institutions 109th article states that the students attack to school administration, teachers, and other staff, organize or provoke such kind of activities such as molestation, insultation, slunder, threat, inside or outside of the school should be punished in the way of expulsion to another school.

The Turkish Penal Code (TCK)'s 86 According to article students with physical or psychological violence against teachers are punished by fines or jail (4 months to 1 year).

According to the statements of principals, teachers, violence is applied to the students by the teachers inspectors open investigation to the teachers (5).

If students are applying violence to each other, disciplinary regulations are read, described to these students, and students are asked to pay attention to these conditions (9)

If related students do these violent behaviors again, they have condemnation to article 109.

Students who are prone to violence are directed to guidance service (13) if violence is a further dimension; they are referred to the discipline (24)

According to school principals, in order to deal more effectively with the general violence to the students, teachers and other staff, security guards should be used more effectively within or out of the school (5) and there must be enough security guards (11), there must be cameras all around the school (17), Seminars should be organized for parents, teachers, and students aimed at reducing the severity of violence (6).

16) Traffic Rules on School Grounds

US Case

Regarding traffic rules; for instance Texas State law Subchapter D, Protection of Buildings

and Grounds, Section 37.102 entitled “Rules; Penalty” states that the board of trustees of a school district may adopt rules for the safety and welfare of students, employees, and property and other rules it considers necessary including rules providing for the operation and parking of vehicles on school property (As cited in TEA (Texas Education Agency) Rules and Regulations Related to Discipline Matters Rules 2008). The board may adopt and charge a reasonable fee for parking and for providing traffic control. An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor. Class C misdemeanor requires that an individual adjudged guilty of such misdemeanor shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500 (As cited in Texas Constitutions and Statutes Title 3, Chapter 12, Subchapter B 2011).

Texas State law Subchapter D, Protection of Buildings and Grounds, Section entitled “Vehicle Identification Insignia” states that the board of trustees of a school district may provide for the issuance and use of suitable vehicle identification insignia (As cited in TEA (Texas Education Agency) Rules and Regulations Related to Discipline Matters Vehicle Identification Insignia 2008). The board may bar or suspend a person from driving or parking a vehicle on any school property. Reinstatement of the privileges may be permitted and a reasonable fee assessed.

Turkish Case

According to Article 147 of the Highway Traffic Regulation; all drivers approaching pedestrian and school crossings which do not have an officer on duty or an illuminated traffic sign but are located by another traffic sign, must slow down their vehicles, give the first right of way to the pedestrians who are crossing or about to cross these crossings and abide by the signal and instructions the school crossing officers give if there are any. The same regulation states that; in order to enable the safe entrances in and exits out of the school of primary and secondary school students at the school crossings and in front of the schools the “school crossing officers” carrying a sign, wearing a special uniform and that have a document given by the traffic police are commissioned and authorized to conduct the traffic in these locations.

In Article 8 of the Highway Traffic Law and in the duties and authorities of the Ministry of National Education part of Article 10 of the Highway Traffic Regulation, the Ministry of National Education has a duty as follows: preparing a general traffic education plan regulating the pre-school, intraschool and out-of-school traffic education and implementing it through cooperation with relevant organizations. Within this framework the central organization of the Ministry of National Education is making plans and giving educations in these subjects. In these laws it is also stated that regulating the traffic of the school perimeters is mostly the duty of the traffic police. The schools are mostly authorized to organize the schoolyards located in the school borders and the parking places belonging to the school. According to Article 147 of the Highway Traffic Regulation, in order to regulate the traffic flow in the school perimeters a training and following it a certificate will be given by the police department to people selected from the students, teachers, parents or other citizens and only these people will be authorized to regulate the traffic flow in the school perimeters.

The statements of the interviewed school principals on the implementations they have done on this subject are as the following: the security officers of the school are doing the necessary controls in the schoolyard and the school perimeters (17), the help of the traffic police is received generally and especially for the school entry and exit hours of the students (8), during the entry and exit hours the administrator on duty, duty teacher and the students on duty are working actively (11), the school crossing officers are playing an active role especially at the entry and exit hours (5), aid of the municipality is received for the arranging of the parking spots in the school perimeters (4), the school administration is regulating the traffic and parking spots in the school (7), the drivers are warned by the traffic warning signs placed at the school entrance and exits (9), the student shuttle drivers are warned to follow the traffic rules (16), the students get on and off of the shuttles under the supervision of the teachers on duty (12), speedbumps have been constructed in front of the school with the help of the municipality (2), overcrossings have been made in front of the school with the aid of the municipality (2), pedestrian crossings have been made in front of the school (3).

The interviewed school principals have stated the problems and their solution suggestions on this subject as the following: there aren't any overcrossings in front of many of the schools located on the main street, relevant organizations should be contacted for help in order to allocate resources for this subject for the safety of the students (3), more help should be received from the traffic police to regulate the traffic during the school entry and exit hours of the students (5) and school crossing officers should be selected out of teachers or students (4), the aid of the municipality should be asked for to arrange the parking spots in front of the school and in the schoolyards (2), attention should be given to the traffic safety issue during the selection of the places to build a school and the construction of the schools (8), more warning traffic signals and signs should be used in the school perimeters for the drivers (12).

DISCUSSION

To summarize, safety and emergency issues are taken very seriously at U.S. public schools and paid utmost importance. General safety guidelines are communicated and relevant trainings are given to school personnel and additional trainings are provided for discipline, first aid, safety and emergency committees. In Turkish public schools, there are still not detailed guidelines in some safety issues, some school managers do not know what they should perform in some of the emergency situations, and school managers declared that they are in need of training for first aid, safety and emergency issues and that necessary trainings are not given in these issues sufficiently.

American school staff makes more mistakes during an emergency because American public schools are overly structured in terms of school safety and emergency preparedness. In other words, school administrators and staff has less freedom during an emergency coming up with creative solutions. On the contrary, Turkish school staff acts more calmly during an emergency because they are not afraid as much of making mistakes following whatever the rules are in their loosely structured schools. An example for a loosely structured environment would be, in a Turkish school, school administration might put a student at the entry assuming school security job for community service hours and

this would be absolutely unacceptable in American public school system.

In the 16 headings analyzed in this study, there are some similarities and differences between the implementations in the two countries. Generally looking, some of the common implementations done in both of the countries are these; in emergency situations the telephone number specified for that country is called and help is asked for, when needed help is asked from medical personnel such as doctors, nurses, when necessary in some emergency cases the student parents are notified, the concerned people or situations are taken under control by the administrator on duty until help comes, an investigation is opened against students, teachers or other personnel who harms or attempts to harm others and criminal action is taken against them, from time to time drills take place for emergency situations such as fire, if found necessary searches are carried out and hazardous objects are seized, similar precautions are taken for the school trips, an identity control is done for outsiders entering the school, the record of people entering and exiting is kept, the entrance of suspicious people to the school is prevented, similar measures are taken in order to prevent the threats to the child from the parent and protect the child, for the school security legal regulations determining how the vehicles should park in the school perimeters and how the traffic should flow exist.

Some differences between the US and Turkish education systems draw the attention. Although in US the rules of what the school administrators, teachers, students and other personnel should do for each emergency situation or security issue are determined in detail, in the Turkish education system the rules for certain emergency situations or security issues aren't defined transparently (for example, in certain emergency situations which precautions will be taken in which order and by whom, in which circumstances the students can be searched, how long the students can be withheld etc.) and in certain subjects the school administrators do not know the limits of their authority. Besides while it is observed that in the US the existing rules are tried to be implemented in a more serious manner, it is also seen that in Turkey certain rules are still just on paper, sometimes due to the lack of pecuniary resources and sometimes because of the negligence or lack of knowledge of

the administrators some precautions for emergency situations aren't taken.

Taking into consideration the statements of the interviewed school principals, generally it is seen that; the administrators and teachers working in the schools in Turkey have a lack of knowledge concerning responding to emergency situations and do not fully know the details of the subjects in the existing regulations, some students and their parents aren't conscious enough about what to do at an emergency situation, in some schools due to the negligence of the administrators and teachers although the precautions to take are known they are not implemented, in some issues there is need for more elaborate regulations or instructions, some schools do not have the necessary pecuniary resources to take certain precautions, in some schools there aren't enough medical or technically expert personnel to respond to an emergency situation or reaching the experts outside the school is difficult, in many schools due to financial impossibilities there aren't any security officers, the school administrators face some situations exceeding their power and authority concerning dealing with certain factors in the school perimeters.

The school principals interviewed in order to generally overcome the deficiencies and solve the problems made the following suggestions; trainings should be given to the school administrators, teachers, students and parents on their relevant part of what should be done in emergency situations and in order to eliminate the negligence the awareness on these subjects should be raised, the beneficial usage of technological devices such as cameras and X-Ray machines should be increased, the regulation and instructions related to responding to emergency situations should be updated to solve the present problems and new regulations should be made in the subjects where there are legal loopholes, schools should be given medical, psychological and technical expert personnel support who can respond to emergency situations, sufficient pecuniary resources should be transferred to schools to employ the necessary number of security officers, the cooperation with public institutions and police forces to arrange the conditions in the school perimeters in the frame of preparing for emergency situations should be increased.

NOTE

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