Cyber Tabletop Exercises

Increasing Student Engagement & Workforce Readiness

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What are Tabletop Exercises?

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What are Tabletop Exercises

➢ Simulation or training exercise in which students discuss and evaluate their responses to a hypothetical scenario

  ➢ Typically related to emergency or crisis management in critical infrastructures or organizations.

  ➢ Scenarios could involve a range of events such as natural disasters, cybersecurity incidents, public health emergencies, or other crises that the organization may potentially face

➢ Students choose a role, often key stakeholders or members of an organization's emergency response team.

➢ Students then discuss their roles, responsibilities, and actions they would take in response to the unfolding situation.

What are Tabletop Exercises

➢ The goal of tabletop exercises is to:

➢ Evaluate and validate emergency plans and procedures.

➢ Identify strengths and weaknesses in the organization's response capabilities.

➢ Enhance communication and coordination among team members.

➢ Familiarize students with the decision-making process during a crisis.

➢ Provide a forum for learning and improvement without the pressure of a real-life emergency.

Examples of Tabletop Exercises

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Examples of Tabletop Exercises

- **CISA: Critical Infrastructures**

- **Natural Disaster Response:**

  - Scenario: A severe hurricane is approaching the organization's location.

- **Cybersecurity Incident:**

  - Scenario: A cyber attack has compromised the organization's network and sensitive data.

- **Pandemic Preparedness:**

  - Scenario: A highly contagious infectious disease is spreading in the community.

- **Supply Chain Disruption:**

  - Scenario: A key supplier experiences a major disruption, affecting the organization's supply chain.

Examples of Tabletop Exercises

- **Terrorist Threat:**
  - Scenario: The organization receives a credible threat of a terrorist attack.

- **Mass Casualty Incident:**
  - Scenario: A workplace accident or external event results in a large number of casualties.

- **Power Outage:**
  - Scenario: A widespread power outage affects the organization's facilities.

- **Financial Crisis:**
  - Scenario: Economic challenges impact the organization's financial stability.

Examples of Tabletop Exercises

➤ These examples illustrate the diverse nature of tabletop exercises, which can be tailored to address specific risks and challenges faced by an organization.

➤ The key is to create realistic scenarios that allow students to engage in meaningful discussions and decision-making processes related to their roles and responsibilities.

Increasing Student Engagement

# *Increasing Student Engagement*

➢ **Peer Collaboration:**

  ➢ Promote collaborative learning through group projects, discussions, and peer teaching.

  ➢ Encourage students to share their knowledge and learn from each other.

➢ **Active Participation:**

  ➢ Encourage students to ask questions, express opinions, and share their thoughts.

  ➢ Foster a culture where curiosity is valued and rewarded.

➢ **Continuous Improvement:**

  ➢ Seek feedback from students about their learning experiences and use it to continuously improve the Tabletop exercises.
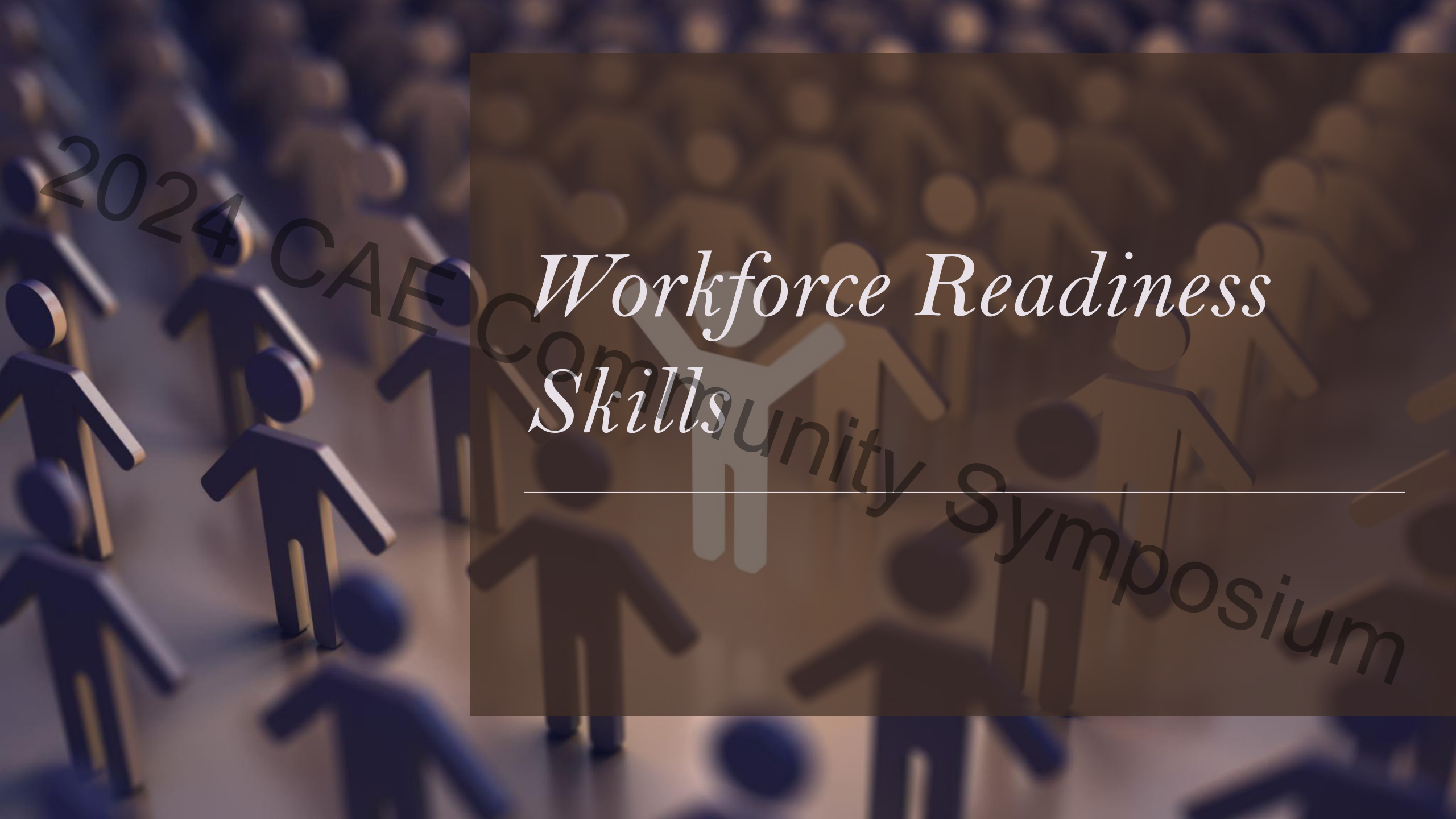
Workforce Readiness Skills

Workforce Readiness Skills

1. **Critical Thinking:**

   1. students must analyze the presented scenario, identify potential risks, and make informed decisions to address challenges.

2. **Decision-Making:**

   1. Tabletop exercises require students to make timely and effective decisions based on the information available, simulating the decision-making process in real-world situations.

3. **Problem-Solving:**

   1. students work together to solve complex problems and address unexpected challenges that arise during the simulation.

4. **Communication Skills:**

   1. Effective communication is crucial during tabletop exercises. students need to convey information, share insights, and coordinate actions with team members.

Workforce Readiness Skills

➢ **Collaboration and Teamwork:**

 ➢ Tabletop exercises often involve multiple stakeholders working together. students learn to collaborate, delegate tasks, and leverage each other's strengths to achieve common goals.

➢ **Adaptability:**

 ➢ Simulated scenarios may evolve, requiring students to adapt their strategies and actions accordingly. This helps develop flexibility and the ability to respond to changing circumstances.

➢ **Leadership Skills:**

 ➢ students may take on leadership roles during tabletop exercises, providing them with opportunities to practice leadership skills such as decision-making, delegation, and communication.

➢ **Time Management:**

 ➢ Tabletop exercises are typically time-sensitive. students learn to manage their time effectively to address issues and make decisions within the simulation's timeframe.

Workforce Readiness Skills

- **Crisis Management:**
  - Simulating crises helps students develop skills related to crisis management, including maintaining composure under pressure, prioritizing tasks, and taking decisive action.

- **Resource Allocation:**
  - students learn to allocate resources strategically, whether they are physical resources, personnel, or information, to achieve the best outcomes in a given scenario.

- **Risk Assessment:**
  - Identifying and assessing risks is a key aspect of tabletop exercises. students learn to evaluate potential risks and develop strategies to mitigate or manage them.

- **Ethical Decision-Making:**
  - Some scenarios may involve ethical dilemmas. students learn to navigate these situations, considering the ethical implications of their decisions.

Workforce Readiness Skills

➤ **Interpersonal Skills:**

   ➤ Building positive relationships, resolving conflicts, and fostering effective communication with team members are essential interpersonal skills that can be honed during tabletop exercises.

➤ **Reflection and Continuous Improvement:**

   ➤ After the exercise, students often engage in debriefing sessions, reflecting on their actions and identifying areas for improvement. This encourages a culture of continuous learning and self-improvement.

➤ Overall, tabletop exercises provide a valuable experiential learning opportunity that prepares individuals for the challenges they may encounter in the workforce, particularly in roles that require effective communication, decision-making, and collaboration under pressure.

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How to Implement in Your School

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Involve Cyber Clubs

Make it a Competition with Prizes (Each Semester, Annually, etc.)

Build it into a lab for a cyber course

Provide extra credit for students who participate (Weekly, Monthly, etc.)

Add the Experience to Students' Professional Portfolios

Offer it both In-Person and Remotely

Involve all classes that teach cybersecurity in their curriculums

How to Implement in Your School

➢ By implementing tabletop exercises in schools, you not only enhance emergency preparedness but also contribute to the development of valuable life skills in students and staff members. It's an investment in creating a safer and more resilient school environment.

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Questions??

Thank You

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