Risk Analysis Steps Exercise

Directions: Read the following scenario carefully, and then spend a few minutes with a partner jotting down answers to the questions below. We will discuss the questions and compare answers as a whole group.

Jackson Consolidated Community Schools was established approximately twenty years ago, coming together via a merger of several elementary, middle, and high schools in the same town. The eight buildings (one high school, two middle schools, four elementary schools, and the central office) that make up the school system are on average five miles apart. The campuses are connected via a T1 (1.544 Mbps) WAN (Wide Area Network) connection, and Internet connectivity is achieved through the E-rate program.

As for hardware, there are 12 computer labs that are not properly secured, 12 servers running unmanaged services, 24 printers and approximately 500 PC’s without anti-virus software spread across the school system. The following is a list of most of those services the technology coordinators (4) provide to the administration, teachers, staff and students:

- Application and Print Services
- Distance Learning via the Indiana Telecommunications Network (ITN)
- Email & Calendaring
- Student Records Management
- Centralized Grade Book/ Attendance
- Internet Access (Unfiltered)
- Remote Dialup Access (Teachers Only)

Questions:

1. What is the purpose of a risk assessment?

2. What assets can you identify in the above scenario?

3. What is the purpose of a threat and vulnerability assessment?

4. What threats and vulnerabilities can you identify in the given scenario?

5. What types of controls should be in place to foster a secure environment?

6. Should monitoring and auditing be taking place? If so, what type and why?

7. What are some legal implications that the school system may face if an incident were to occur?

8. What federal regulations apply to the school? Why?