

School Safety Today - A review of available information on recent approaches to safety and security in the field of K-12 education in America

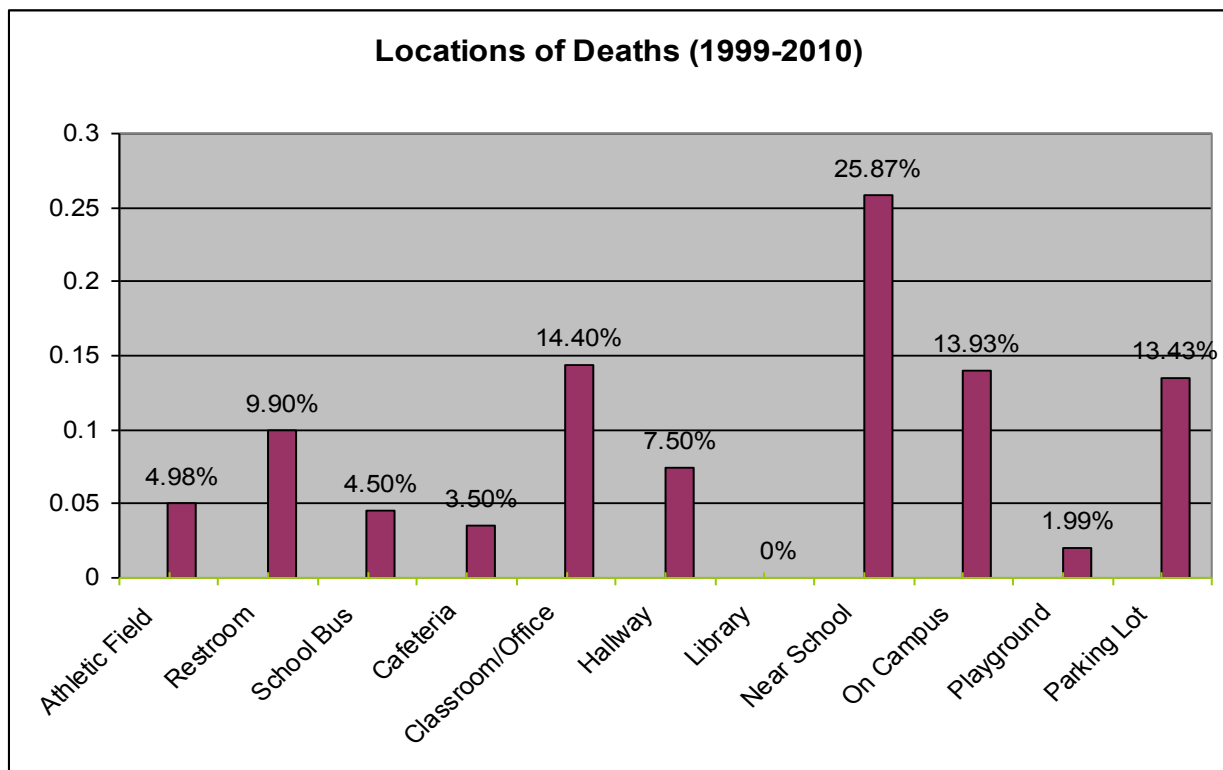
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I. Overview of Violent School Deaths in the United States

School-associated violent deaths, as defined by the National School Safety Center (2010) includes deaths resulting from homicide and suicide, caused by fighting, use of weapons on school property and heart attacks resulting from incidents of violence. This includes deaths on the campus itself as well as on school buses, or on the way to or from a school. The data shows that these incidents are statistically rare in the United States (U.S.). According to the Center's report (2010), there were a total of 201 school-associated deaths between school years of 1999-2000 and 2009-2010, or an average of 18.27 deaths per year during that period, in the U.S.

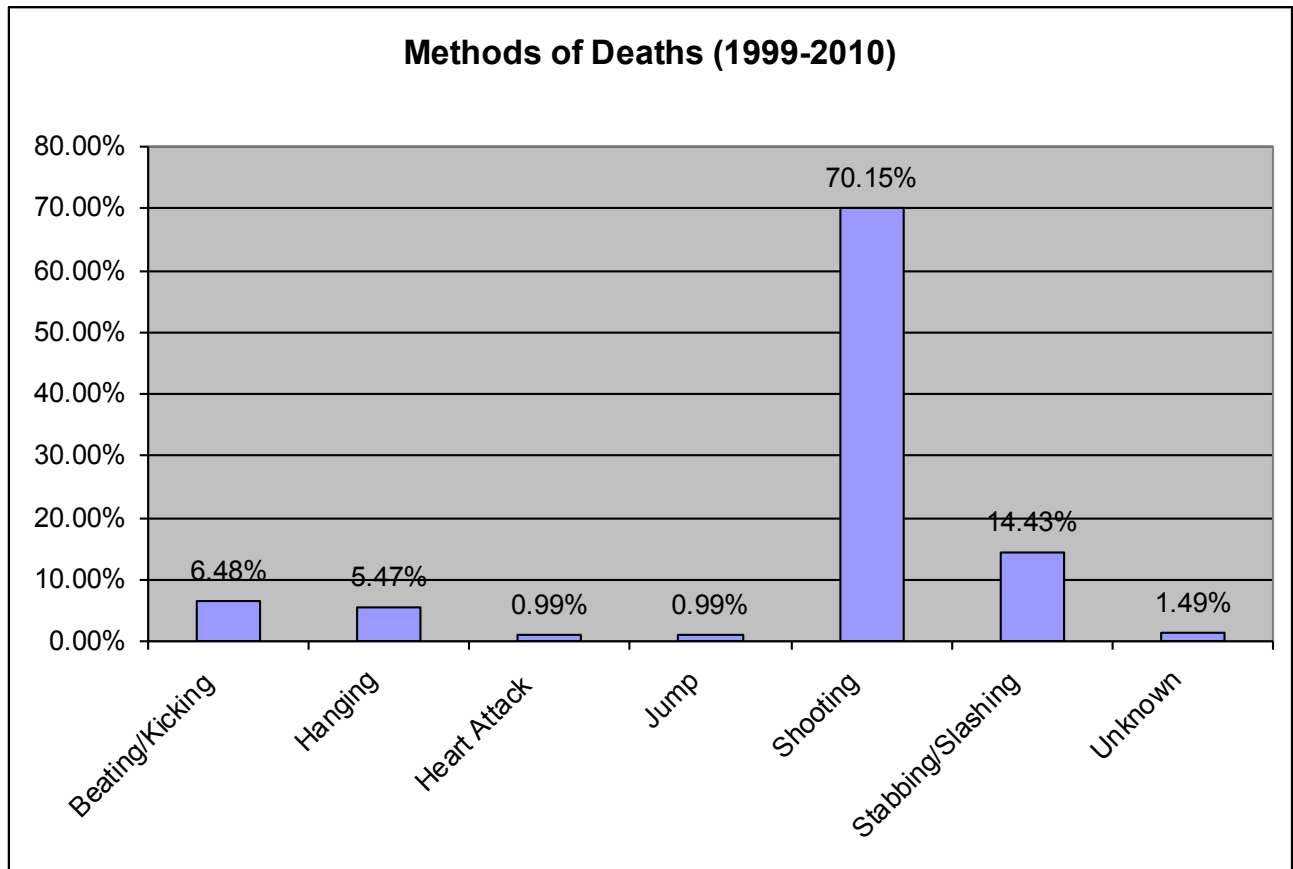
At the same time, according to the National Center for Education Statistics of the U.S. Department of Education (2012), there were an average of 130,639 schools, including public, private, or parochial elementary-k12, per school year during 1999-2000 and 2009-2010. This means that, in average, any given school in the U.S. will experience a violent death once every 7,150.47 years.

It should be noted that 38.65 percent of the deaths were near schools. We should also point out that though the report is considered by many in the field to be one of the more reliable listings of school related violent deaths, the incidents reported are typically based on information obtained from media accounts of incidents. The following charts provide additional insight to the locations of deaths reported in the report.



Adapted from The National School Safety Center's Report on School Associated Violent Deaths, 2010.

The report also showed a variety in the methods of death, as shown in the chart below:



Beating/kicking, shooting, and stabbing/slashing were among the most frequent causes of school-associated violent deaths. Adapted from The National School Safety Center's Report on School Associated Violent Deaths, 2010.

Sources for this section:

The National School Safety Center's Report on School Associated Violent Deaths (In-House Report of the National School Safety Center), Last Updated: March 3, 2010.

<http://www.schoolsafety.us/media-resources/school-associated-violent-deaths>

“How many educational institutions exist in the United States?”, U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2012)

<http://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=84>

Watershed Events in School Violence, 1764 through 2012

The following are key events in school violence in the United States that had a dramatic effect on the public consciousness and the ways in which we perceive and respond to school violence.

- July 26, 1764 – Enoch Brown Massacre: Greencastle, PA; 11 killed.
- April 9, 1891 – St. Mary’s School Shooting: [Newburgh, NY](#); Several wounded. This was the first known mass shooting in the U.S. in which an American citizen shot students.
- May 18, 1927 - Bath School Disaster: [Bath, MI](#); 43 killed. This is the deadliest mass murder using firearms and explosives at a K-12 school in United States history.
- December 1, 1958 - The Our Lady of the Angels School arson fire: Chicago, IL; 95 killed. This was the largest loss of life due to an act of violence in United States history.
- August 1, 1966 - [University of Texas Massacre](#): Austin, TX; 16 killed, 31 wounded.
- May 16, 1986 - [Cokeville Elem. Hostage Crisis](#): Cokeville, WY; 2 killed, 76 wounded.
- October 1, 1997 - [Pearl HS Shooting](#): [Pearl, MS](#); 3 killed, 7 wounded.
- December 1, 1997 - [Heath HS Shooting](#): [West Paducah, KY](#); 3 killed, 5 wounded.
- March 24, 1998 - Jonesboro MS Shooting: [Jonesboro, AR](#); 5 killed, 10 wounded.
- May 21, 1998 - Thurston HS Shooting: [Springfield, OR](#); 3 killed, 25 wounded.
- April 20, 1999 – Columbine Massacre: Littleton, CO; 15 killed, 24 wounded. This shooting became one of the most well-known school shootings and became a symbolic unifying point for the nation to start taking a concerted effort for school safety. This incident and others in the same time period prompted the creation of many of the school safety programs in existence today.
- February 29, 2000 - Buell Elementary School Shooting: [Flint, MI](#); 6-year-old, the youngest-ever school shooter, shot and killed classmate [Kayla Rolland](#).
- March 21, 2005 - Red Lake Shooting: Red Lake, MN; 9 killed.
- September 27, 2006 - Platte Canyon HS Hostage Situation: [Bailey, CO](#); Six girls were taken hostage and sexually assaulted. 2 killed
- October 2, 2006 – Nickel Mines Massacre: Nickel Mines, PA; 6 killed, 5 wounded. This particularly shocking attack took place in a one-room Amish schoolhouse.
- April 16, 2007 - [Virginia Tech Massacre](#): Blacksburg, VA; 33 killed, 17 wounded. This attack was similar to Columbine in the level of infamy due to the fact that the attack is the largest loss of life from an attack with a firearm in a U.S. school.
- February 27, 2012 - Chardon HS Shooting: Chardon, OH; 3 killed, 3 wounded.
- December 14, 2012 - Sandy Hook Massacre: Newtown, CT; 28 killed

II. School Safety Responses and Approaches by Federal Agencies

No.	Federal Agency	School Safety Efforts
1	Department of Justice	<p>The U.S. Department of Justice has supported a number of measures in regards to school safety, including the creation of a school safety resource toolkit, school safety task force projects, as well as providing funding through a number of grant programs as part of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant program, including School-Based Partnership grants, Safe Schools Grants and the “Secure Our Schools” Program.</p>
2	Department of Education (the Ed)	<p>The Ed developed and provided schools with “warning signs” guidebooks, giving advice on how to identify potentially violent students. It also provides resources and suggested best practices to schools for all-hazards four-phase emergency planning. Its Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools (OSDFS) also provides training and assistance in the form of federal grant programs to local schools to implement safety initiatives, increase staffing, and enhance training and equipment. In 2007, this agency released “Practical Information on Crisis Planning: A Guide for Schools and Communities”, which has served as the main federal document guiding schools on how to conduct emergency planning. The document, and the agency as a whole, is limited in what can be mandated for schools to do to prepare, but compliance can be required in order to receive federal grant funding. This has been one of the primary means for the federal governments to push schools to focus on safety. This approach has been used by state school safety agencies with some success as well. Federal grant funding has been greatly reduced in recent years, especially after the discontinuation of the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) grant program. The REMS program continues to provide assistance, training and resources for safe schools.</p> <p>http://rems.ed.gov/</p>
3	United States Secret Service - The National Threat Assessment Center Secret Service Safe School Initiative	<p>As part of the Safe School Initiative in 2002, the U.S. Secret Service partnered with the Ed to conduct a study of school shootings and school-based attacks. The study examined police records, school records, court documents, and other source materials relating to 37 incidents involving 41 student attackers that took place between 1974 and 2000. The research team also conducted interviews with 10 school shooters to gain information on their pre-attack behaviors and communications. The study found that school shootings are rarely impulsive acts, that many other students usually knew about the attacks beforehand but did not report them, and that there is no “profile” of the average school shooter. At the same time, most attackers showed warning behaviors before the attack and the study also identified key traits that can be used to conduct threat assessments to potentially prevent future attacks. This approach has been widely used with great success across the country. The Safe School Initiative resulted in two reports that detail the study findings and outlines a process for school threat assessment.</p>

4	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	FEMA provides training for school staff on topics related to the all-hazards four phase planning approach to emergency management. These training courses are provided free of charge through online independent study programs as well as live training programs that are provided at free or reduced costs to schools who opt to pay for their staff to travel to the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) campus in Emmetsburg, Maryland. Out of the hundreds of courses offered by the EMI, there are several that are specific to schools including Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools, school-specific training on the Incident Command System, mitigation measures for schools, and earthquake safety for schools. Many of the other general topics courses are also applicable to schools.
5	The American Clearinghouse on Educational Facilities (ACEF)	The ACEF was created with funding from the Ed but operates in a somewhat independent capacity to develop and maintain resources for schools. They have a section of resources dedicated to School and Campus Safety that contains 24 publications related to school safety, including research papers, resource listing, and video podcasts.
6	The National Clearinghouse on Educational Facilities (NCEF)	The NCEF was created with funding from the USDOE in 1998 to provide resources for creating safe, healthily, and high performing facilities for K-12 and higher education. Their database includes over 19,000 records on over 160 topics for schools, including dozens of publications, recommended publications, and other resources for school safety. These include checklists to enhance safety in school building design, documents on school security technology, risk assessment procedures, as well as recommendations for emergency planning. As of September 1, 2012 their resources will be provided only in archived format and no new publications will be released.
7	The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	This department provides some resources for school emergency planning, but most of these efforts focus on medical and disease related issues rather than school violence. One main focus is on flu preparedness, and there is an entire section on their flu.gov website with information for schools.
8	The Center for Disease Control (CDC)	The CDC has also focused on disease and health specific issues when it comes to school safety. There is some focus on youth violence prevention, which includes a list of publications with information on creating safer schools, but the CDC's main school safety efforts have been in the arena of prevention of illness, disease and other risk factors. To this end, much of their discussion on school violence is from the perspective of violence as a risk factor among several other variables, for example as one of six risk factor areas assessed with their Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.
9	The National School Safety Center	This organization was established by Presidential Mandate in 1984 by President Ronald Reagan as a joint program between the United States Departments of Education and Justice. Currently, the Center operates as an independent non-profit and provides training and technical assistance on safe school planning and crime prevention.

III. School Safety Responses and Approaches by State Agencies

School safety efforts have also been conducted by most of state agencies. Below is a review of the efforts by the primary agencies responsible for education and safety in different states. We classify these efforts as "passive" and "active". Passive efforts are those on which a state agency may make resources available to those who are looking, or may offer minimal training to those interested. Active efforts are those that are required and may include certification. The efforts of each state are up to the states to decide. A state may have established passive efforts because they feel that more active measures are not needed.

No.	State	Efforts	Status
1	Alabama	<p>Safe and Drug Free Schools: "The Safe and Drug Free Schools program is designed to support programs that prevent violence in and around schools; that prevent the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs; that involve parents and communities; and that are coordinated with related federal, state, school and community efforts and resources to foster a safe and drug-free learning environment that supports student academic achievement."</p> <p>http://www.alsde.edu/html/sections/section_detail.asp?section=70</p>	Passive
2	Arizona	<p>School Safety and Prevention: "We provide support for all school-based programs that actively promote learning and the development of healthy behaviors in schools and communities."</p> <p>http://www.ade.az.gov/sa/health/</p>	Passive
3	Arkansas	<p>Safe Schools Initiative Division (SSID): "The Safe Schools Initiative Division (SSID) provides programs and resources that assist in reducing violence and violence related behaviors in Arkansas schools. The Division takes a proactive approach to responding to crime and violence, both on the school campus and within the community. The Institute has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing to support SSID's School Resource Officer (SRO) Program. The program provides basic and specialty school safety training courses for school resource officers, school security officers, and school personnel. Upon request, SSID also offers anti-bullying in-service training to teachers and students across the state."</p> <p>http://www.arkansasafeschools.org/</p>	Active
4	California	<p>Safe Schools: "Provides training, resources and technical assistance to establish a school/community environment which is physically and emotionally safe, well disciplined, and conducive to learning."</p> <p>http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ss/</p>	Active
5	Colorado	<p>School Safety Resource Center: "The mission of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center (CSSRC) is to collaboratively assist educators,</p>	Active

		<p>emergency responders, community organizations, school mental health professionals, parents and students to create safe, positive and successful school environments for Colorado students in all pre K-12 and higher education schools.”</p> <p>http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPS-SafeSchools/CBON/1251621089752</p>	
6	Connecticut	<p>School Safety Center: “Our goal is to provide leadership and support in maintaining a healthy school environment by offering up-to-date information and all-inclusive resources on hot topics and current events, and by facilitating networking of schools across Connecticut as they develop effective ways of dealing with violence and other safety-related problems.”</p> <p>http://www.preventionworksct.org/ssc/index.html</p> <p>Update, April 2013:</p> <p>Since the original research was conducted in February of 2013, this page has changed and the web address now re-directs to a page about bullying information:</p> <p>http://www.preventionworksct.org/what/bullying/introduction.html</p>	Passive
7	Florida	<p>The Office of Safe Schools: “The Office of Safe Schools serves to promote and support safe learning environments by addressing issues of student safety and academic success on state, district, and school levels. Schools that implement school safety measures, drug prevention programs, and positive school climate that promote caring relationships either directly or indirectly facilitate rising student academic achievement.”</p> <p>http://www.fldoe.org/safeschools/</p>	Passive
8	Georgia	<p>Georgia Emergency Management Agency: School Safety Unit: “Legislation signed into law by the Governor on April 21, 1999 directs the Georgia Emergency Management Agency to provide training and technical assistance on the issues of school safety to the education, emergency management and public safety communities of Georgia. These services are provided through the staff of the School Safety Unit. OCGA 20-2-1185 mandates all public schools to develop a safety plan addressing natural disasters, hazardous materials, transportation concerns, weapons and potential terrorist activities. These plans must include students, parents, law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services. The staffing levels for this unit have been cut significantly since 2001 due to budget constraints.”</p> <p>http://www.gema.state.ga.us/</p>	Active

9	Hawaii	<p>Department of Education – School Safety: “Providing safe schools is both a legal and moral responsibility of the Department of Education. Schools are expected to comply with all applicable federal, state, and county laws, rules, standards, etc., relating to safety. Safe school policies and practices are integral components of standards-based education, as safe schools have a direct correlation with student achievement. All Department of Education employees are responsible for ensuring a safe and harmonious work environment according to the provisions of the Safety Policy. Schools are required to develop school safety plans that are submitted for review. Students, parents, and employees may be assured that schools are prepared to deal with problems swiftly and effectively. Recent school safety initiatives include the School Safety Manager and the Safety Resource Officer programs, using retired law enforcement personnel to coordinate the school safety activity.”</p> <p>The Department retained Safe Havens International, a non-profit school safety center to train a team of Department personnel to conduct school safety, security, climate, culture and emergency preparedness assessments at schools across the state.</p> <p>http://doe.k12.hi.us/about/intro_safety.htm</p>	Passive
10	Idaho	<p>Safe and Secure Schools: “The State Department of Education conducted the Safe and Secure Schools Assessment to assess the current status of the safety and security of K-12 facilities throughout Idaho and explore options for bringing all Idaho's public schools up-to-date in terms of security.”</p> <p>http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/safe_secure/</p>	Active
11	Illinois	<p>School Safety and Emergency Response: “The information on this page is designed to assist administrators, teachers and other school service personnel in locating resources relevant to school safety and emergency response. We encourage all schools to work proactively with local public health departments, law enforcement, fire departments and community groups to ensure that safety planning and response is inclusive of all relevant community partners.”</p> <p>http://www.isbe.net/safety/</p>	Active
12	Indiana	<p>Indiana School Safety Specialist Academy: “The Indiana School Safety Specialist Academy will provide ongoing, certified training and information on national and state best practices, as well as exemplary resources for school safety, security, intervention/prevention, and emergency preparedness planning. School safety specialists will be trained to lead the development and implementation of school safety practices, which will provide safe educational environments for all</p>	Active

		<p>students in Indiana.”</p> <p>The Academy retained Safe Havens International to train more than 300 attendees how to coordinate their own school safety, security and emergency preparedness assessments. The Academy has also licensed a set of school crisis planning tools to allow every public and non-public school in the state to develop custom four phase school crisis plans based on the United States Department of Education plan model. Demand for training slots in this program have steadily and markedly increased in the past ten years. The Academy is currently probably the most effective, robust and active state government school safety program in the nation.</p> <p>http://www.doe.in.gov/student-services/safety</p>	
13	Iowa	<p>Safe Schools: “Providing safe and secure learning environments is important to Iowa schools. The following information is provided to help school leaders plan for possible crisis situations, including natural disasters and violent incidents. In addition, the safety tips and action steps for parents and students are also included.”</p> <p>http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=769</p>	Passive
14	Kansas	<p>Kansas Safe Schools Resource Center: “KSDE believes that Kansas schools should provide physically safe and emotionally secure learning environments for all students and staff. Local USD policies should assist personnel in identifying problems associated with school safety, bullying, intimidation, and harassment, and provide a framework for an appropriate response that reinforces and encourages positive and productive conduct.”</p> <p>http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3878</p>	Passive
15	Kentucky	<p>Kentucky Center for School Safety: “Kentucky Schools focus on providing a warm culture and climate for both students and staff conducive to high levels of productivity and outstanding academic performance. In today's society, school safety is a daily issue that ranges from classroom management to school incident command for crisis situations. The Kentucky Center for School Safety staff is committed to providing training, resources, information and research.”</p> <p>http://www.kycss.org/index2.php</p>	Active
16	Maryland	<p>Proposed Maryland Center for School Safety: “In June 2011, the Task Force to Study the Creation of a Maryland Center for School Safety was established (Chapters 550 & 551, Acts of 2011). The Task Force is to consider issues of school safety, and determine whether creating a</p>	Active

		<p>Maryland Center for School Safety is the best way to address them.”</p> <p>http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/26excom/defunct/html/32schsafe.html</p>	
17	Michigan	<p>Michigan State Police – Safe Schools Initiative: “Every two to three months for the past five years, Michigan State University – School of Criminal Justice has facilitated the Michigan Safe School Initiative Workgroup. This group is comprised of representatives from the Governor’s Office, the Attorney General’s Office, the Michigan Department of Education, Michigan State Police (Emergency Management and Prevention Services), the Office of Drug Control Policy, and the Department of Human Services. There are also University Partners involved including the School of Criminal Justice, College of Education, School of Social Work, as well as Wayne State University and Ferris State.”</p> <p>http://www.michigan.gov/safeschools</p>	Active
18	Minnesota	<p>Homeland Security and Emergency Management, a Division of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety: “Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) provides school emergency planning, guidance and information to help schools develop comprehensive emergency plans, policies, and procedures to ensure the safety and security of all students.”</p> <p>https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/planning-preparedness/</p>	Active
19	Mississippi	<p>Mississippi School Safety Center Foundation: “The mission of the School Safety Center Foundation is to provide comprehensive school safety center services to those local education agencies and state education agencies that are not serviced by a state or United States Department of Education recognized school safety center. All services meet both generally accepted standards of school safety and the standards of the United States Department of Education Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance Center.”</p> <p>http://www.schoolsafetyfoundation.org/index.html</p>	Active
20	Missouri	<p>Missouri Center for Educational Safety: “The Center for Education Safety (CES) is an innovative, public-private partnership of the Missouri Department of Public Safety, Missouri Office of Homeland Security, and the Missouri School Boards’ Association (MSBA). Located at the MSBA Communications Center in Jefferson City—Missouri’s capital—the CES is dedicated to enhancing various aspects of emergency planning, preparedness, and safety and security in public and nonpublic education—pre-K, K-12, and post-secondary. The services</p>	Active

		<p>provided by the CES fall into three categories—Leadership, Information Resource, and Technical Assistance and Training.”</p> <p>http://moces.org/</p>	
21	Montana	<p>Montana Safe Schools Center: “The MSSC was endorsed by Montana’s Superintendent of Public Instruction, Linda McCullough, in 2005 and approved by the Montana University System Board of Regents in 2006. However, our organization has been working on numerous school safety grants and initiatives since 1999.”</p> <p>http://iers.umt.edu/Montana_Safe_Schools_Center/</p>	Active
22	New Jersey	<p>New Jersey School Safety Center: “The School Safety Center is a section of the site that provides various tools to enhance and further develop school or district safety and security initiatives.”</p> <p>http://www.state.nj.us/education/schools/security/safetycenter/</p>	Passive
23	New York	<p>New York State Center for School Safety: “The New York State Center for School Safety (NYSCSS) is a government agency which provides technical assistance and training to schools, students, families, communities and government organizations throughout New York State.</p> <p>The NYSCSS and its diverse staff are committed to providing research-driven, data-based solutions to school violence and the implementation of policy as directed by the New York State Education Department and the New York State Office of the Governor.</p> <p>The Center assists school districts in developing a comprehensive view of safety: physical plant safety as well as the school climate and culture. The NYSCSS plays a key role helping school districts implement the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) law and the Dignity for All Students Act. The Center has been actively involved in assisting with guidance for the school safety planning. It has also worked with districts to implement federally funded projects such as the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS). The Center provides consultation to the Federal REMS Technical Assistance Center in the Office of Safe and Healthy Students of the US Department of Education.”</p> <p>http://nyscenterforschoolsafety.org/</p>	Active
24	Pennsylvania	<p>Center for Safe Schools: “For nearly two decades, the Center for Safe Schools was funded to serve as a statewide clearinghouse for schools, law enforcement, parents and others on school safety and youth violence prevention. Through expert staff, as well as access to a network of state and national researchers and practitioners, the Center provides state-of-the-art professional development and</p>	Active

		<p>technical assistance to schools throughout the Commonwealth.”</p> <p>The center hosted one of the nation’s largest school safety conferences each year and had a team of experts from the Pennsylvania State Police, state department of education and other agencies complete an advanced five – day training program on conducting school safety, security, climate, culture and emergency preparedness assessments. This training program was delivered by Safe Havens International. The funding for the Center was recently cut eliminating most of the services they previously offered. Employees from the commonwealth department of education now deliver some school safety services previously provided by the center.</p> <p>www.safeschools.info</p>	
25	Rhode Island	<p>Rhode Island EMA’s School Safety Program: “The Rhode Island School Safety Program’s mission is to coordinate emergency planning and develop safety procedures for all hazards affecting RI Schools.”</p> <p>http://www.riema.ri.gov/schoolsafety/schoolsafetyhome/</p>	Active
26	Tennessee	<p>Center for School Safety: “The Center for School Safety assists schools and local communities in establishing safe and disciplined learning environments. Center activities include training and technical assistance, grants administration, and data collection. The center is administered by the Tennessee Department of Education’s Office of Safe & Supportive Schools. Grants and contracts with a variety of organizations are utilized to deliver training and technical assistance. The center was initially created as part of the State Board of Education’s 1994 School Safety Policy for Tennessee Schools and later codified by Tennessee's General Assembly in 1996.”</p> <p>http://www.tn.gov/education/safe_schls/safety_cntr/</p>	Active
27	Texas	<p>School Safety Center: “The Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC) was created in 1999 by Governor George Bush and authorized by the 77th Texas Legislature in 2001 to serve as a central location for school safety information, and to provide schools with research, training, and technical assistance to reduce youth violence and promote safety in the state. TxSSC is charged to conduct safety training that includes: development of a positive school environment and proactive safety measures to address local concerns, school safety courses for law enforcement officials, assistance for districts in developing a multi-hazard emergency operations plan, security criteria for instructional facilities, and a model safety and security audit procedure for the state. The center also collects school safety data for the state and provides a report to the public.”</p> <p>The Texas School Safety Center provides training and tools for schools</p>	Active

		<p>in Texas to perform their own safety and security audits. Safe Havens International provided assistance in the creation of this program by providing some of the information that we use during school safety assessments.</p> <p>http://www.txssc.txstate.edu/K12/</p>	
28	Virginia	<p>Center for School Safety: “The Virginia Center for School Safety (VCSS) at the Department of Criminal Justice Services reflects Virginia’s commitment to providing safe and productive learning environments for all students and staff in our schools today. The VCSS is a resource and training center for information and research about national and statewide school safety efforts and initiatives. The VCSS was created through Virginia Code § 9.1-184 and is mandated to provide training for Virginia public school personnel, serve as a resource and referral center for Virginia school divisions, collect and disseminate information on school safety initiatives and school safety data, among other things.”</p> <p>www.dcjs.virginia.gov/vcss/</p>	Active
29	Washington	<p>School Safety Center: “Provides resources to schools and parents on a broad spectrum of safety related topics such as bullying, internet safety, substance abuse prevention, suicide prevention, discipline and truancy. We also help schools develop comprehensive safe school plans that prepare schools for on-campus emergencies, security issues, and large scale disasters. A quarterly meeting with the School Safety Advisory Committee complements our commitment to keeping all students safe at school each and every day.”</p> <p>http://www.k12.wa.us/safetycenter/</p>	Active
30	Wisconsin	<p>Wisconsin School Safety Coordinators Association (WSSCA): “WSSCA, founded in 1968, is an association of professionals dedicated to the task of improving security, safety, and health in Wisconsin schools. WSSCA is a non-profit and non-government organization that includes administrators, supervisors, teachers, building and grounds personnel, health and nursing personnel, safety coordinators, security coordinators, school resource officers, school districts as well as private/public businesses through district, corporate and student memberships. The business of the association is conducted by a thirteen member board with an executive director. This group is further guided by several technical advisors with professional backgrounds in a variety of school safety and security related fields.”</p> <p>http://www.wssca.org/</p>	Active

IV. School Security and Law Enforcement Officers

In an effort to enhance school safety, security and/or law enforcement officers are utilized by many schools. School based officers range from sworn law enforcement officers, sworn law enforcement officers with school-specific training (i.e., School Resource Officers [SROs]), armed and unarmed security officers, and untrained civilians. The National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) offers a carefully developed and time-tested training program for school resource officers.

NASRO also offers a variety of advanced training programs for officers who have completed their basic training program. Another private organization offers a training program for school resource officers but this training is not as well established as that offered by NASRO. The Georgia Police Academy offers a longer and well-established training program for school resource officers and annual advanced training sessions for school resource officers.

A review of requirements for being a non-sworn security officer for each of the 50 states reveals that the requirements vary from state to state, with some only requiring that an agency declare a person to be a security guard to others requiring specific training and coursework requirements in order to receive and maintain a state license. The following questions are used in our review:

- Are there legal requirements for licensed security guards?
- Are there legal requirements for armed, licensed security guards?
- Are there legal requirements for licensed school security guards?
- Are there legal requirements for armed, licensed school security guards?
- Does the state have a National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) Chapter?

The following table shows the results state by state. A blank indicates that no information was found.

State	Legal req's for licensed security guards?	Legal req's for armed, licensed security guards?	Legal req's for licensed school security guards?	Legal req's for armed, licensed school security guards?	Does the state have a NASRO Chapter?
Alabama	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Alaska	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Arkansas	Yes	Yes	–	–	No
California	Yes	Yes	–	–	Yes
Colorado	Yes	Yes	–	–	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	Yes	–	–	No

State	Legal req's for licensed security guards?	Legal req's for armed, licensed security guards?	Legal req's for licensed school security guards?	Legal req's for armed, licensed school security guards?	Does the state have a NASRO Chapter?
Delaware	Yes	Yes	–	–	No
Florida	Yes	Yes	–	–	Yes
Georgia	Yes	Yes	–	–	No
Hawaii	No	No	–	–	No
Idaho	No	No	–	–	No
Illinois	Yes	Yes	–	–	Yes
Indiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Iowa	Yes	Yes	–	–	Yes
Kansas	Yes	Yes	–	–	Yes
Kentucky	No	Yes	–	–	Yes
Louisiana	Yes	Yes	–	–	No
Maine	No	No	–	–	No
Maryland	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Massachusetts	No	No	–	–	Yes
Michigan	No	No	No	No	No
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	–	–	No
Mississippi	No	Yes	–	–	Yes
Missouri	No	No	-	–	Yes
Montana	Yes	Yes	–	–	No
Nebraska	No	No	–	–	No
Nevada	Yes	Yes	–	–	No
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes	–	–	No

State	Legal req's for licensed security guards?	Legal req's for armed, licensed security guards?	Legal req's for licensed school security guards?	Legal req's for armed, licensed school security guards?	Does the state have a NASRO Chapter?
New Jersey	Yes	Yes	–	–	Yes
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	–	–	Yes
New York	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
N. Carolina	No	Yes	–	–	Yes
N. Dakota	No	No	–	–	No
Ohio	No	No	–	–	Yes
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	–	–	No
Oregon	Yes	Yes	–	–	Yes
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes	–	–	No
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	–	–	No
S. Carolina	Yes	Yes	–	–	Yes
S. Dakota	Yes	Yes	–	–	No
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	–	–	Yes
Texas	Yes	Yes	–	–	Yes
Utah	Yes	Yes	–	–	No
Vermont	Yes	Yes	–	–	No
Virginia	Yes	Yes	–	–	No
Washington	Yes	Yes	–	–	Yes
West Virginia	Yes	Yes	–	–	No
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes	–	–	No
Wyoming	No	No	–	–	Yes

About the co-authors

Michael Dorn serves as the Executive Director of Safe Havens International Inc. a non-profit school safety center. A full-time campus safety practitioner at the K-20 levels for more than 30 years, Michael has authored and co-authored 26 books on school safety and his work has taken him to Mexico, Central America, Canada, Europe, South Africa, Asia and the Middle East. A graduate of the 181st Session of the FBI National Academy, Michael also participated in an intensive 14-day fellowship to study antiterrorism and community policing in the State of Israel through a fellowship from Georgia State University. Michael can be reached at www.safehavensinternational.org

Stephen Satterly, Jr., serves as the Director of School Safety for the Community School Corporation of Southern Hancock County. He is a certified Indiana School Safety Officer, and has Active Shooter certification from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. He served in the US Army for 12 years as an Infantry Drill Sergeant and Officer, and has numerous FEMA certifications. He is a 2007 Alumnus of the FBI Citizen's Academy, and was recently a REMS Project Director. Stephen can be reached at satterly.steve@att.net

Phuong Nguyen has assisted in major school safety assessment projects for the Center for Safe Schools, Pennsylvania Department of Education, the Hawaii Department of Education, the Wisconsin Homeland Security Council, the Indiana Department of Education and numerous public school systems across the United States. Ms. Nguyen has provided oversight and reporting for school safety assessment projects covering more than 2,000 public, private, charter, independent and parochial schools. Ms. Nguyen has also assisted with dozens of Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools projects funded by the United States Department of Education.

*Chris Dorn has authored and co-authored five books on school safety and published a paper on schools and terrorism in the Journal of Emergency Management, the most widely circulated peer-reviewed journal in the field of emergency management. Mr. Dorn has served as a trainer for the U.S. Office of Homeland Security, FEMA, Israel National Police, International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Association of Pupil Transportation, Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and numerous state departments of education, law enforcement and emergency management. His book *Innocent Targets – When Terrorism Comes to School* is in use by emergency management and homeland security officials in all 50 states and by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as well as public safety agencies around the world.*