Kentucky Center For School Safety
Promoting Safe Schools Across the Commonwealth

We Pledge to Stop Bullying!
Finally and equally important, some

Well, if history truly does repeat itself, we will begin to see many school districts resume efforts toward enhancing . . . school safety habits and update or replace security equipment (which is long overdue for update or replacement.) Then, school districts will use these increased funds to assist in hiring a full-time School Resource Of
ci
er, a proven attribute
to any school’s overall security level. All in all, school districts will now be able to better address the safety concerns that they identify each year in their safety plans.

As the director of the Center, I plan to work diligently to restore

many of the services that we at KCSS have had to place on hold during the previous six years. Regional trainings throughout the state will be restored; the Classi
ed Employee
Institute will be revived, as will the DPP/Truancy Symposium; more Safe School Assessments will be conducted and more
tech
ical services will be rendered to schools upon request. Also, an enhanced Safe Schools Conference will be held in 2015, as well as an expanded Youth Symposium.

In summary, our school officials and
their staffs have once again been
given the funding to strengthen their overall safety plans and intensify their efforts toward school safety. Again and as such, we have much for which to be grateful and even more upon which to work. We must be good stewards of these funds and make good things happen throughout our Commonwealth . . . all under the umbrella of keeping kids and their school staffs safe each and every day.

Guiding the work of the Center is a 12-member Board of Directors, each of whom has a term limit, appointed by the governor
Since 2003, KCSS has conducted (755) safe school assessments in (162) school districts in Kentucky. The waiting list of districts requesting assessments grows each month, which is a resounding testament to the value school officials and their staffs have placed on the assessment process.

The Safe School Assessment Process

- Superintendent makes request for assessment (typically in spring).
- KCSS schedules assessment with Safe Schools Coordinator and school principal (summer).
- KCSS sends perceptual surveys to school (8 weeks prior to school visit).
- School administers surveys to students, staff and parents.
- School mails completed surveys back to KCSS at EKU, along with staff and student handbooks, etc. (4 weeks prior to school visit).
- KCSS tallies survey responses and writes school survey report.
- Assessment Team of (6) educators visit school for (1) full school day to personally interview students, staff, parents; observe supervision practices and patterns; observe staff and student interactions; conduct physical walk-through of school and campus.
- Assessment Team Leader meets with principal and others to discuss preliminary findings from the assessment day and the survey report (afternoon of school visit).
- Comprehensive Assessment Report is mailed back to district superintendent and school principal (4-6 weeks after assessment visit).
- Wrap-around services are made available to the school to address any "area of concern" noted on the assessment report at no cost to the school or district.

For additional information, contact barbara.gateskii@eku.edu or call 877-805-4277
Several principals of schools assessed during the 2013-2014 school year offer feedback of their perceptions of the safe school assessment and the KCSS teams that conducted them throughout the 2013-2014 school year:

**Dr. Diane Hatchett**
Hancock County Middle School
Thanks for your support and the opportunity to work with such a wonderful team. The school safety team members were awesome. They provided suggestions, listened and it was more like working with a mentor than an evaluator. They were there to gather information, compile it and disseminate in a manner that would be beneficial to students, faculty and staff. I greatly appreciated their time and efforts on behalf of our students, faculty and staff. The school safety assessment was extremely beneficial. It reinforced the positive and allowed us to pause and regroup in areas that needed attention. The assessment is meant to help and enhance schools’ abilities to provide safety. The assessment validated our efforts and showed that the entire culture of the building revolves around doing what is best for students. Our students feel safe and we want to keep it that way.

**Robert Tuck**
Butler County Middle School
As a school administrator, I always like to have feedback on how our school is doing and ideas on how we might improve. I really appreciated the positive feedback BCMS received from the KY Center for School Safety. We have been working since to implement those suggestions as we continue to make BCMS the best place as possible for the students we serve.

**Denise Adams**
The Providence School, Jessamine County
Our school greatly benefited from the safety assessment conducted by a team of professionals from the Kentucky Center for Safe Schools. Due to the number of people they interviewed, we obtained good feedback from all stakeholders about the strengths and weaknesses in our school’s culture and safety plans. Our safety committee is already working to implement suggestions made by the assessment team. I would strongly recommend that all schools utilize this service to improve their school’s safety procedures and overall culture.

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**Robin Hurst**
Lyon County High School
By participating in the safe school assessment, our faculty and staff are more aware of the priority of keeping our students safe. The assessment brought things to the forefront that teachers may not have considered to be potential areas of concern. It was beneficial to have an outside view of our school that included constructive criticism with potential solutions to issues.

**Robin Kelsch**
Augusta Independent School
The KY Center for School Safety team was professional and friendly. I really enjoyed the opportunity to meet with and learn from experts in the field of school safety. We all take the safety of our children very seriously, and take every measure possible to ensure our children are completely safe. With that being said, the different perspective and years of experience and knowledge of the team provided us with some very valuable suggestions and feedback to help us improve on what was already a pretty safe environment. We have already implemented many of the suggestions in an effort to keep our children as safe as possible.

**Michelle Shipley**
Painted Stone Elementary School, Shelby County
The Safe School Assessment has been EXTREMELY beneficial to us in our planning to be proactive in planning for safety in all areas of our school and its surroundings. The Safe School Assessment team was fabulous to work with and provided valuable insight into our next steps for creating optimal safe learning environments for our students, staff, and school community.

**Michelle Shipley**
Painted Stone Elementary School, Shelby County
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**Rhonda Callaway**
Crittenden County High School
Our Safe Schools Assessment in September of 2013 was a very positive experience for our staff, students and parents. The team was very insightful to the surroundings we may not see since we are here on a daily basis. Information that was provided back to the district and school allowed us to move forward with improving safety in areas of the building. My SBDM Council has reviewed the data and we’ve put ideas together in some cases for immediate improvement.

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**Dave Eckstein**
Bellevue High School
Bellevue High School was very pleased with the visit from the Kentucky Center for School Safety! The team highlighted many positives about our school. They also made “real world” suggestions on how to enhance our school and make it even safer. The team was helpful and extremely knowledgeable. I would encourage all principals to utilize this resource to improve your schools!
The Kentucky Center for School Safety supports the idea that school culture improves when a school-wide prevention plan consistently addresses the needs of all students to encourage a safe and healthy learning environment.

Kentucky School Boards Association:
- Provides quality training statewide
- Assists Alternative Education sites
- Sponsors conferences and workshops
- Serves as a resource for schools and community agencies

Kentucky Center for School Safety:
- Collects School Safety Data from all schools in the state
- Allocates School Safety Funds to all 174 school districts (as well as the KY School for the Deaf and KY School for the Blind)
- Supports state conferences dealing with school safety issues
- Contracts with KCSS delivery of innovative school safety programs

Eastern Kentucky University:
- Appointed by the Board of Directors to serve as the contract agency to coordinate all programs and activities of partners of the consortium
- Produces annual reports on school safety issues to governmental agencies
- Monitors the safe schools allocation to all school districts
- Facilitates relationships with state agencies regarding safe school issues and concerns

University of Kentucky:
- Provides support for expanding programs and research services
- Assists in identifying external grant opportunities
- Partner in P20 Innovation Lab initiative being launched by the College of Education
- In conjunction with EKU, developed RDMC website

Murray State University:
- Serves as the resource center for information regarding safe school efforts
- Provides safe school curricula for state colleges and universities
- Offers the only state approved post-secondary School Safety Educator Endorsement Program
- Provides training in best practices in classroom management for pre-service educators
- Works with state agencies to enhance school safety information
- Hosts KCSS website for information

KCSS Board of Directors:
- Kalon Bagby, Dept. of Community Based Services
- Merry Berry, KEA
- Kari Collins, Division of MHSA
- James Evans, KASA (school superintendent rep.)
- Kathy Hobbe, KESPA
- Shannon Jett, Dept. of Juvenile Justice
- TeAndra Parker, KASC (Parent)
- Sherri Clusky, Dept. of Education
- Donald Shively, KASA (local school rep.)
- Jeff Stumbo, School Board Member
- Erica Lee Williams, Circuit Court Judge

Governed by the Kentucky Center for School Safety (KRS 158.442)

A Partnership That Works
Kentucky’s School Resource Officers (SROs) enhance safety in every school environment they serve. Each SRO works with hundreds of students each day and, in some smaller districts, a single SRO can be expected to respond to the law enforcement needs of each of their schools in a given school day.

The men and women who serve as SROs are integral members of their respective school communities as they not only serve as law enforcement officers but educators, peer counselors, friends to staff members and students, etc. They walk the halls of schools, eat meals in school cafeterias and attend many co- and extra-curricular school events throughout the Commonwealth each day. Their role is clearly a versatile one, albeit unique and special. They have all of the powers (on school property) of any sworn police officer but their major focus is our kids.

JLET (Justice and Law Enforcement Training) Activities Include:

- Increasing the effectiveness of SRO programs in schools by providing training opportunities for both principals and SROs and developing standards that can be used to measure the effectiveness of the program.
- Assisting with the annual Safe Schools and Communities Conference
- Increasing awareness of the benefits of the SRO program by surveying SROS, publishing the results and posting articles on the KCSS website
- Providing leadership and technical support to KASRO (KY Association of School Resource Officers)
- Facilitating regional trainings for SROs and school administrators
- Maintaining a school database of SROs
- Providing videos, resource materials and examples of model interagency agreements to increase the likelihood that partnership models are effective in preventing school violence

Did You Know?

- Currently, there are 242 SROs in the state
- Well over half of the state’s school districts have SROs due primarily to partnerships formed between schools and local law enforcement agencies
- SROs receive specialized training through the Department of Criminal Justice and the National Association of School Resource Officers
- Most SROs are assigned to work in 2 or more schools and spend the majority of their days in middle and high schools
- In 2013, two Kentucky SROs and one SRO program were nationally recognized for their work in school safety

Eastern Kentucky University

In summary, The SRO program continues to thrive in the state of Kentucky. SROs are generally experienced law enforcement officers who enjoy their positions, work well with the school administrators at their school, and feel the schools in which they work are relatively safe environments. SROs...
The Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) and the Kentucky Center for School Safety proudly continue their partnership and make a collaborative effort to identify and coordinate needed and timely trainings for Kentucky’s schools and communities. This effort enables KSBA to offer and provide proactive and research-based school safety training and technical assistance to all school-connected stakeholders, including school administrators, teachers, parents, students, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, and many child-serving agencies.

Coordinated by former Grant County Superintendent Don Martin, KSBA’s training component has seen an increase in demand for these professional development opportunities each year since its inception.

Safe School Funds

DEDICATED TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF SAFE AND HEALTHY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS IN EACH OF KENTUCKY’S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The KY General Assembly has appropriated more than $144 million to support safe school efforts since 1999 as illustrated directly below.

Kentucky School Boards Association

How Kentucky’s School Districts are Using Those Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Safe School Funds Appropriated Since 1999 &amp; Allocated Through FY16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY99</td>
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<td>FY03</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY16</td>
<td>$18,348,300</td>
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175* Kentucky School Districts Safe Schools Funding

How the Kentucky Center for School Safety is Using Those Funds

Kentucky Center for School Safety Operations

Breakdown of Safe Schools Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Assembly</th>
<th>Kentuck Department of Education (Flow-Through Agency)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Includes the KY School for the Blind and KY School for the Deaf

Don Martin, Coordinator of Schools and Communities Training, KSBA

Schools and Communities Training

The Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) and the Kentucky Center for School Safety proudly continue their partnership and make a collaborative effort to identify and coordinate needed and timely trainings for Kentucky’s schools and communities. This effort enables KSBA to offer and provide proactive and research-based school safety training and technical assistance to all school-connected stakeholders, including school administrators, teachers, parents, students, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, and many child-serving agencies.

Coordinated by former Grant County Superintendent Don Martin, KSBA’s training component has seen an increase in demand for these professional development opportunities each year since its inception.

Technological Assistance

- Over 262,792 participants
- Active Shooter Training
- Bullying Prevention
- Bus Driver Behavior Management
- Crisis Management for Schools
- Gang Identification
- Impacts of Social Networking
- National Disaster Response
- Prescription Drug Use
- QPR (Suicide Prevention)
- Threat Assessment
- Working With Troubled Students
- Youth Leadership Symposium

State and Regional Trainings

- Over 25,560 participants
- Active Shooter Training
- Bullying
- Bullying Prevention Symposium
- Bus Driver Behavior Management
- Crisis Management for Schools
- Gang Identification
- Impacts of Social Networking
- National Disaster Response
- Prescription Drug Use
- QPR (Suicide Prevention)
- Threat Assessment
- Working With Troubled Students
- Youth Leadership Symposium

Collaborative Partner Trainings

- Over 21,636 participants
- Administrative Assistants
- College of Justice and Safety (EKU)
- Department of Criminal Justice Training
- Green River Educational Cooperative
- Job Corp
- KY Association of School Resource Officers
- KY Association of Superintendents
- KY Attorney General’s Office
- KY Center for Instructional Discipline
- KY Counselor Association
- KY Crime Prevention Coalitions
- KY DARE Association
- KY Department of Education
- KY Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children
- KY Homeland Security Office
- KY Parent Teacher Association
- KY Partnership for Families and Children
- KY Society for Technology in Education
- KY Teacher Education Program
- National Association of School Resource Officers
- National Dropout Prevention Network
- Office of Family Resource Youth Service Center
- Ohio Valley Education Cooperative
- South Central Educational Cooperative
- West KY Education Cooperative

KCSS Internal Operating FY13

$830,930

- Personnel $235,228
- Fringe $93,083
- Operating $28,904
- Services $418,554
- Travel 14,500
- Overhead $40,641

Don Martin, Coordinator of Schools and Communities Training, KSBA
The KCSS website provides current safety information to K-12 schools and higher education institutions with teacher education programs across Kentucky. The Kentucky Safe Schools Educator Endorsement has been offered to Murray State University since 2004. This endorsement prepares educators to plan and promote safe school environments.

**Website Stats and Facts**

- Total hits to website for the year 4.5 million
- Bullying Awareness Month (Oct) over 2 million hits
- Most Frequently Visited Topics:
  - Bullying
  - Cyber-bullying/Sexting
  - Emergency/Crisis Manual
- Social Media Networking:
  - Facebook Fanpage approx. 200 followers
  - Twitter approx. 550 followers

**Ky Safe Schools Week**

Kentucky Safe Schools Week addressed the cruelty of bullying, the fear of violence and the self-destruction of high-risk behavior on our campuses through education. During the third week of October, students, staff, parents and community members were encouraged to join in and be part of the school’s safety team to stop a multitude of safety issues.

- Over 250 updates/revisions were made to six safe school week webpages and the homepage to assist schools in their safe school campaigns.
- Disseminated over 7,000 pages of printed materials (not counting website downloads)
- Over 250 updates/revisions were made to six safe school week webpages and the homepage to assist schools in their safe school campaigns.

**PS Resources**

- Website pages with syllabi, standards, powerpoints, handouts and more...
- Social Network Alerts
- Presentations/Trainings
- E-Communications

**Operation Respect**

- Operation Respect developed the Don’t Laugh at Me programs, one for grades 2-5, another for grades 6-8. Free bully prevention curriculum was provided at a workshop in April on the campus of Murray State University.
- This program utilizes inspiring music and video along with curriculum guides based on the well-tested, highly regarded conflict resolution curricula.
- Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary held a concert, book signing and lead the workshop.

**Post Secondary**

- School safety research and development support quality programming at our state’s teacher preparation colleges and universities.
- The Kentucky School Safety Educator Endorsement has been offered at Murray State University since 2004. This endorsement prepares educators to plan and promote safe healthy learning environments.
Senate Bill 8/House Bill 354 (effective June 25, 2013)
Requires Kentucky’s schools and districts to:

1. Adopt an emergency plan to include procedures to be followed in case of fire, severe weather, or earthquake, or if a building lockdown as defined in KRS 158.164 is required; the principal shall discuss the emergency plan with all school staff prior to the first instructional day of each school year and shall document the time and date of any discussion.
2. Provide, after adoption, the emergency plan, along with a complete diagram of the facility, to appropriate local first responders.
3. Establish primary and secondary evacuation routes for all rooms located within the school and post the routes in each room by any doorway used for evacuation.
4. Identify severe weather safe zones to be reviewed by the local fire marshal or fire chief and post the location of safe zones in each room of the school.
5. Develop practices for students to follow during an earthquake.
6. Conduct, at a minimum, emergency response drills to include one (1) severe weather drill, one (1) earthquake drill and one (1) lockdown drill within the first thirty (30) instructional days of each school year and again during the month of January.
7. Develop and adhere to practices to control the access to each school building, including requiring that all visitors report to the front office of the building and provide valid identification, state the purpose of the visit; and provide a visitor’s badge to be visibly displayed on a visitor’s outer garment.
8. Follow (as much as possible) the recommendation that all classroom doors be locked during instructional time, if the door can be locked from the outside and opened from the inside without a key.
9. Require local boards to review Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Principles when constructing or renovating a school building.
10. Superintendent verification of district-wide compliance must be sent to KDE by November 1st of each school year.