Great strides have been made over the past 13 years in Kentucky since the Safe Schools Act of 1998 was passed by our General Assembly to enhance school safety throughout our state. Since then, the Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS) has dedicated its efforts to providing school officials with the training, technical support and information they needed to enhance their school safety efforts.

In part, due to the concerted effort of school districts working with KCSS, Kentucky’s schools are safer today than ever before. Are the schools in our state 100% safe? Obviously, the answer is “No.” That’s why it is absolutely critical for school officials, in cooperation with KCSS, to continue to address any and all issues that may arise in a school that could upset the normal daily activity of a school and thus interfere with student achievement.

It is with this constant safety goal in mind and before all educators that I am pleased to submit our 12th Annual Report. This report will provide you with an up-to-date briefing of our Center’s activities as we have worked with our school districts’ officials in addressing specific school safety issues as they evolved during the 2010-2011 school year. Without reservation, I can report that, in Kentucky, the safety of our children far outweighs any other services that our schools may provide. Clearly, that says that safety in Kentucky’s schools is not being neglected, but rather it remains a “front burner” issue. Collectively, we recognize that kids have to feel safe before they can learn.

To that end, we remain grateful for the support of the Kentucky General Assembly, Governor Beshear, the Kentucky Department of Education, Commissioner Holliday and our supportive colleagues at Eastern Kentucky University’s College of Justice and Safety. In addition, we are most fortunate to have a very strong, collaborative partnership with the Kentucky School Boards Association, Murray State University and the University of Kentucky. Without them, the comprehensive services KCSS provides would not be possible.

As we move on to our next school year, we are prepared to handle most issues as they present themselves in our schools. However, no one can know what new issues may evolve in the area of school safety. What I do know, however, is that you can be certain that whenever any new problem does arise that the Kentucky Center for School Safety will aggressively address it and provide our school districts with as much information that we can gather to assist them.

Your Kentucky Center for School Safety stands ready to assist our colleagues in our K-12 schools whenever we are called upon to do so. School Safety is everyone’s continued responsibility.

Sincerely,
Jon R. Akers, Director

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**Message from the Director**

**FACT:** Teachers cannot teach and students cannot learn in an environment in which they do not feel safe.

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**A Glance at the Kentucky Center for School Safety in 2010**

The Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS) was established in 1998. A 12-member Board of Directors, appointed by the Governor, guides its work.

KCSS has been housed at Eastern Kentucky University since its establishment. Its scope of work requires a state-wide collaboration of resources. Therefore, to date, KCSS partners with the Justice and Law Enforcement Training (JLET) and the Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA). Additionally, the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) works with KSFI (Kentucky School Boards Insurance Trust) and KCSS to provide the services of Loss Control Specialists for schools/districts. These collaborative efforts enable the Center to provide for:

- Fiscal oversight of the KCSS operating budget
- Distribution and oversight of Safe Schools funds to the local school districts
- Establishment of a clearinghouse of information/materials
- Safe School Assessments
- Environmental/Community-related services (by request) of the Kentucky Center for School Safety
- Safe School Assessments • Surveying school superintendents and principals annually regarding their satisfaction and needs from the Center
- Studies involving issues that could impact school culture and climate
- Post-secondary services, including a 12-hour Kentucky School Safety endorsement from Murray State University, materials and curricula on best practices in school safety and assistance with grant funding opportunities
- Data analysis and reporting
- Communication with the Governor’s office, Kentucky Board of Education, General Assembly and public
- Establishment of a clearinghouse of information/materials on violence prevention
- Promotion of interagency efforts to address school discipline and safety issues in collaboration with other post-secondary institutions and juvenile delinquency prevention councils
- Advisement to the Kentucky Board of Education on administrative policies/regulations
- Facilitation and oversight of statewide trainings and technical assistance for schools and districts

The KCSS staff takes great pride in being able to fully accommodate superintendents, principals and other school personnel as well as parents and community members whenever they contact the center for assistance. That requires that the Center offer a myriad of services, some of which are outlined above. KCSS is an agency that is completely service oriented; the needs of school officials in their on-going efforts to maximize school safety largely dictate what those services will be. It is truly a collaborative effort.

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**What to Emphasize at School about “Sexting”**

Educate (staff, students and parents) review policies and handbooks relating to AUP, digital communication and Internet abuse
- Simply policies from KSBA, 1-800-931-6228 (Ky.) or 1-800-800-3332 (Out-of-state), State consequences clearly and be consistent

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**Safe Schools Week 2010 Pledge**

I pledge to:
- Be responsible for the Internet sites I search as well as social network communications
- Stand up for anyone who is being bullied and never bully anyone myself
- Prevent bullying by reporting any inappropriate behavior
- Explore my options by talking with a trusted adult when I feel sad or alone
- Control my texting and cell phone use by not sending/sharing anything that is inappropriate
- Take a stand and be respectful to adults, students and myself.

---

The Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS) was established in 1998. A 12-member Board of Directors, appointed by the Governor, guides its work.
Inarguably, the use of information and technology has become sophisticated so quickly that most find it challenging to stay on top of the latest advances. One thing we do know is that many schools across Kentucky are dealing with student disciplinary issues daily that started when students were communicating via a social medium (such as FACEBOOK, TWITTER, etc) or texting. Many times, these issues begin outside of school but rapidly manifest themselves in the schools. Last year, KCSS conducted safe school assessments at nearly sixty schools and most of the middle and high school staffs expressed their frustrations (to assessment teams) over difficulty addressing this growing problem.

The Kentucky Center for School Safety strives continually to assist the schools with areas of concern relating to technology. One of the services that KCSS provides is a clearinghouse of assessment materials that can be used by schools to address and cell numbers. The assessment process involves the school’s stakeholders (students, staff members and parents). Sometimes when the opportunity to provide input is given such as it is with the assessment process, people are more conciliatory to changes and efforts to improve.

Staff and students are generally grateful to superintendents for requesting that a safe school be conducted at their respective schools. Everyone appreciates every effort made for safety.

### Frequently Cited Area of Concern on Assessments

Cyber-Bullying: What is it? (i-Safe) 
*When one student targets another on-line*

- Mean, vulgar or threatening email
- Forwarding a private communication to others
- Humiliating text sent over a cell phone
- Website mocking others
- Posting embarrassing photos or video
- Impersonating someone else to spread rumors
- Intentionally excluding someone from an online group
- Posting sensitive, private information about another person

### How can you prevent being cyber bullied?

- Don’t give out private information (Passwords, PIN)
- Be careful about posting personal information such as name, address and cell numbers
- Don’t share buddy lists
- Delete messages from people you don’t know
- When something doesn’t sound right, leave the chat room
- Assume that no digital communication is private

### Remember the 4 R’s from i-Safe

**RECOGNIZE** techniques used by online predators to deceive their victims.

**REFUSE** requests for personal information.

**RESPOND** assertively if you are ever in an uncomfortable situation while online. Exit the program, log off or turn off the computer, and notify your Internet Service Provider or local law enforcement.

**REPORT** to law enforcement authorities any suspicious or dangerous contact that makes you or your child feel uncomfortable.

---

**Safe School Assessments Across Kentucky**

### Why Many Kentucky Superintendents Say They Request Safe School Assessments in their School Districts

Since 2002 when the first safe school assessment was conducted until the completion of our final assessment during the 2010-2011 school year, the Kentucky Center for School Safety has conducted safe school assessments in (504) schools in (141) school districts across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The assessment has become quite popular with superintendents around the state, requiring KCSS to keep an ongoing waiting list due to the number of requests. Below are some of the reasons that several superintendents have given for requesting assessments, as well as comments some school officials have made after the conclusion of an assessment.

- The assessment is valuable in that it demonstrates to parents and the entire school community that the school administration is making yet another proactive effort to maximize the school’s safety level.
- The assessment offers an objective and independent view of the school community’s perceived level of safety of the school.
- The assessments are conducted by seasoned educators, most of whom have held administrative positions in school districts across the state. (On nearly every assessment, the assessment team leader has been a principal of one or more schools with students of the same grade levels and age range.)
- Safe school assessments are free for all school districts, and follow-up services to address targeted concerns are offered by the Kentucky Center for School Safety.
- For each “area of concern” listed on the final report, there are multiple “considerations” given to address each concern. (The “considerations” are best practices or promising practices that have been used in other schools with success.)
- The school and campus “physical walk-through”, which is a component of the assessment, helps the school to ensure that they are in compliance in many physical areas with state and federal rules and regulations. (One of the six assessment team members spends the day examining the physical aspects of the school and campus. His findings become part of the final report mailed to the school’s principal and superintendent within 6-weeks after the completion of the assessment.)
- The assessment report provides a work-plan for safety improvement at a school. Schools can use the report to guide improvement activities and to measure progress. (Some assessment reports have been used in Comprehensive School Improvement Plans (CSIPs) and District Improvement Plans (CDIPs).)

### Safe School Assessments Around the State since 2003

**Chart 1**

<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
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<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
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<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Chart 2

**Well this the website come from educators, parents and students seeking information regarding strategies to safeguard their students, children, or themselves from some of the threats posed by the cyber-world (cyber-bullying, sexting, identity theft, etc.).**

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**REPORT** to law enforcement authorities any suspicious or dangerous contact that makes you or your child feel uncomfortable.
The Kentucky Center for School Safety credits its Governor and General Assembly for the resources that have been dedicated to the enhancement of safe and healthy learning environments. The KY General Assembly has appropriated more than $114 million to support safe schools efforts since 1999. The table to the right illustrates those safe schools allocations.

### Breakdown of Safe Schools Funding

**176th Kentucky School Districts**
- **Safe Schools Funding**
- **Kentucky Center for School Safety Operations**

### How Kentucky’s School Districts are Using Those Funds

**FY 10 Allocations to 176th School Districts**: $3,878,370

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<tr>
<td>Indirect</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes the Kentucky School for the Blind and the Kentucky School for the Gifted

### How the Kentucky Center for School Safety is Using Those Funds

- **Kentucky Department of Education (Flow-Through Agency)**
- **General Assembly**

### Fast Facts About Kentucky’s School Resource Officer Program

- Kentucky has had (3) of the past (4) National School Resource Officers of the year
- The first SRO program in Kentucky began in Jefferson County in 1977; in 2005, over half of the state’s counties had 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
- Approximately 80% of SROs have more than five years of law enforcement experience
- Most SROs are assigned to work in two or more schools and spend the majority of their days in middle and high schools
- Many of Kentucky’s SROs have received national award recognition over the (3) previous years

### Justice and Law Enforcement Training

JLET activities include:

- Increasing the effectiveness of School Resource Officer 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. This conference is co-sponsored by the Kentucky Association of School Resource Officers, the Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition and the Kentucky DARE Association
- Mentoring officers in new SRO programs
- Increasing awareness of the benefits of the SRO program by conducting surveys of SROs, publishing the results, and posting articles on the KCSS website
- Providing leadership and technical support to the Kentucky Association of School Resource Officers
- Facilitating regional trainings for SROs and school administrators
- Maintaining a statewide database of SROs
- Working closely with the courts and legislature to insure that schools receive notifications of serious crimes committed by students
- Providing videos, resource materials and examples of model interagency agreements to increase the likelihood that partnership models are effective in preventing school violence

**“Safe Schools Have School Resource Officers (SRO’s)”**

The SRO is defined by Kentucky statutes as a sworn law enforcement officer who has specialized training to work with youth at a school site. SROs serve in a variety of roles in the schools, including law enforcement officer, law-related educator, problem solver and community liaison. There are 230 SROs in over half of Kentucky’s counties.
Kentucky School Boards Association:
- Provides quality training statewide
- Sponsors conferences and workshops
- Serves as a resource for schools and community agencies

KCSS Board of Directors:
- Governs the Kentucky Center for School Safety (KRS 158.442)

KCSS Staff at KSBA
- Kerri Schelling (donated services), Chrsytal Osborne and Lee Ann Morrison

KCSS Staff at EKU
- Dr. Lars Bjork (donated services)

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

KCSS Staff at EKU
- Dr. David May (donated services), Jon Akers, Terry Carr, Nadine Johnson and Barbara Gateskill

Eastern Kentucky University:
- Appointed by the Board of Directors to serve as the contract agency to coordinate programs and activities of all 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

KCSS Staff at MSU
- Dr. Jack Rose (donated services), Karen McCulston and Kayla McIntosh

KCSS Belief Statement
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.

KCSS Staff at MSU
- 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
The Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS) continues to provide services to Kentucky school districts that are helpful, exemplify best practices and are timely. In an effort to provide superintendents throughout the state with the opportunity to provide feedback regarding KCSS services, we sent a questionnaire to all Kentucky superintendents in July 2010. Superintendents were asked a number of questions regarding areas where KCSS had been helpful to them and/or areas where KCSS could improve its efforts. Responses to the questionnaire yielded overwhelmingly positive results. As the questionnaire administered this year was identical to ones used in previous years, we now have seven years of data regarding superintendents’ perceptions of the effectiveness of the KCSS. The results from those data collection efforts suggest:

- In 2010, over 96% of the superintendents agreed that KCSS provided timely responses to requests from their districts.
- In 2010, over 97% of the superintendents perceived that their districts were safer because of the leadership, service and programs provided by the KCSS.
- In 2010, over 99% of the superintendents agreed that KCSS kept them updated on available programs to effectively reduce school violence.
- In 2010, more than 98% of the superintendents agreed that the technical assistance provided by KCSS is helpful to their district.

The number of disciplinary actions for board policy violations for the 2009-2010 school year decreased by 9.2%, or 6,045 actions, between 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. Regional comparisons of disciplinary actions for law violations are illustrated in Maps 1 and 2.

The Kentucky Safe Schools Data Report was released in April 2011. Highlights of that report are provided below.

KCSS is committed to working with schools, districts and the Kentucky Department of Education to enhance the quality of the data report. Through a continuous process of review, assessment and modification, this report will continue to provide richer data to schools and districts in order that more effective interventions can be planned and implemented.

For a more detailed account of the 2009-2010 Kentucky Safe Schools Data Report, please visit our website at www.kysafeschools.org.
Steve Kimberling, who worked for the Kentucky Department of Education for 27 years as the state’s Safe and Drug Free Schools/Drop-Out Prevention Branch Manager, had a passion for school safety. Admirably, he believed that everyone had a moral obligation to contribute to it and that never should any of us think that our goal of achieving perfectly safe schools had been reached. Steve, like many, saw school safety as being in a common state of flux due simply to the myriad of factors, both human and non-human, affecting it each day.

Considered by many of us to be a gentle giant in school safety in Kentucky as well as one of the key catalysts of the Annual Safe Schools Conference, Steve Kimberling foresaw value in assembling people of like minds on school safety each year in a setting where all could learn from one another of new trends, innovative practices, and evolving, far-reaching legislation that would impact (or currently were impacting) heavily on school safety.

Sadly, Steve died after courageously battling cancer in February of 2008. His legacy in school safety, however, will never die. As a tribute to his legacy, the Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS) and the Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) created the “Steve Kimberling Youth Leadership in School Safety Award.” Given each year at the annual conference, this award is meant to acknowledge a person or group that has taken an innovative leadership role in school safety.

This year, KCSS and KSBA were extremely proud to bestow this most special award upon the students and staff in the Pulaski County Schools for their production of a DVD entitled “School Safety: It’s Up To Us!” (They produced two DVDs, one for elementary; the other, for secondary.) Coordinated by their Safe Schools Coordinator, Wanda Johnson, and masterfully and professionally narrated by Pulaski County students, this DVD detailed emergency response protocols, personal safety relating to bullying, harassment, weapons, suicide-awareness, and alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATOD). It was a truly innovative production featuring a diverse group of public school students who were clearly proud to speak out about school safety and “how everyone could contribute to the safety of all.” Steve Kimberling would have been so proud! So … his wife, Vicki, and daughter, Heather, were on hand to tell them and their superintendent, Steve Butcher, “Good Job!”

Steve Kimberling Youth Leadership in School Safety Award Winners in 2010

From left: Steve Butcher, Pulaski County Superintendent, Wanda Johnson, Safe Schools Coordinator (Zaretell Wilson, Abbie Neal, Cooper Gibson, Madison Gregory, student), Pat Richardson, Principal (SWHS), Heather Kimberling (Steve’s daughter) Vicki Kimberling (Steve’s wife).
The Web...
The Kentucky Center for School Safety website is available at www.kysafeschools.org. It provides critical information and resources for Kentucky schools on safety and related topics. Mark it as a favorite...

Current Topics:
- Bullying
- Internet Safety
- Gangs
- Emergency Management
- Lockdowns
- Natural Disasters
- Cyber bullying
- Classroom Management
to name a few...

New Topics:
- Parent Information
- Facilities Safety
- Social Networking
- Health Safety
- Sexting
- Safety Resource Publications

Resources:
- School Safety
- “In the News” (Daily)
- Calendar providing training dates
- Searchable Library
- Database
- School Safety Data
- (Annual)
- School Resource Officer Information
- and News
- *Ealert
- Grant Announcements
- Reproducible Handouts and Brochures
- and much more...

Safe Schools Week...
This year’s theme was R-E-S-P-E-C-T and the pledge spans topics from bullying, cyber bullying, sexting, to suicide. It encompasses the idea that respect of one’s self and others will help to eliminate problems surrounding a variety of school safety issues.

Realize that violent actions have real consequences and do not solve any problems

Encourage others and myself to be responsible for the internet sites I search as well as social network communications

Stand up for anyone who is being bullied and never bully anyone myself

Prevent bullying by reporting any suspicious behavior

Explore my options by talking with a trusted adult when I feel sad or alone

Control my texting and cell phone use, by not sending/sharing anything that is inappropriate

Take a stand and be respectful to adults, students and myself

In School...
A key function of the Resource Center is to support the needs of schools staff and the other school safety stakeholders. Per request and availability the following topics have been presented at schools and various venues:

- Anti Bullying Information
- Classroom Management Skills
- Crisis Communications
- Crisis Team Roles and Responsibilities
- Cyber bullying/Sexting
- Emergency Management Planning
- Internet Safety
- School Climate and Culture
- Violence Prevention Curriculum

Post Secondary...
The preparation of teachers and administrators to face school safety situations both current and future is imperative. Murray State University serves as the point of contact for Kentucky Center for School Safety post-secondary activities.

The focus of the post-secondary education component of the Kentucky Center for School Safety addresses the needs of both pre-service and practicing educators, ensuring that the safety and security of Kentucky’s educational communities are better served.

Resource Center Highlights for 2010

Website– In ’10 the website had approx 4 million hits, with an avg daily of 11,705. There were over 1,15 million pageviews and a daily avg of 3,265. The website has 4,306 files/pages of contents rich information and over 4,500 links (which is over double from last year) to current research and school safety information.

Mini Grants– Murray State University College of Education approved the printing of 100 Emergency Management Guides and the purchase of 50 Classroom Response Backpacks for use in schools.

Safety Presentations to Schools & Universities– From participating in functional drills at the school district level to delivering “Sexting and Cyberbullying” presentations to teachers, students and pre-service teachers across the state, Resource Center staff have presented a myriad of topics to over 4,507 school safety stakeholders this year. At times we are called upon to share with other states, Washington, D.C. requested two presentations. The first was Active Shooter Sceneries and the second was an overview of Crisis Management for the Arch Diocese School of Washington D.C. Both presentations provided an opportunity for Kentucky to highlight “Best Practices.”

Safe Schools Week– The Safe Schools Week Proclamation was signed by Attorney General Jack Conway to commence the 2010 Kentucky Safe Schools Week. An outstanding number of over 18,600 students, teachers, community members, and parents took the new online “R-E-S-P-E-C-T” pledge. This year’s pledge addresses issues of bullying, cyber bullying, internet safety and much more. Below is a list of six new safety resource pages added to enhance Safe Schools Week.

* Administrator Resources
* Teacher Toolbox
* Student Resources 9-12
* Student Resources 5-8
* Student Resources K-4
* Parent & Community Information

Post-Secondary– Provided services to 28 higher education teaching institutions. Presented to 1,500 attendees at conferences and university classes across Kentucky on school safety related topics. Presented a session on “Sexting” at the Safe Schools Conference to include the Task Force and held a sharing session. Communications through emails, elerts and website resource pages are ongoing.

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Website– In ’10 the website had approx 4 million hits, with an avg daily of 11,705. There were over 1,15 million pageviews and a daily avg of 3,265. The website has 4,306 files/pages of contents rich information and over 4,500 links (which is over double from last year) to current research and school safety information.

Mini Grants– Murray State University College of Education approved the printing of 100 Emergency Management Guides and the purchase of 50 Classroom Response Backpacks for use in schools.

Safety Presentations to Schools & Universities– From participating in functional drills at the school district level to delivering “Sexting and Cyberbullying” presentations to teachers, students and pre-service teachers across the state, Resource Center staff have presented a myriad of topics to over 4,507 school safety stakeholders this year. At times we are called upon to share with other states, Washington, D.C. requested two presentations. The first was Active Shooter Sceneries and the second was an overview of Crisis Management for the Arch Diocese School of Washington D.C. Both presentations provided an opportunity for Kentucky to highlight “Best Practices.”

Safe Schools Week– The Safe Schools Week Proclamation was signed by Attorney General Jack Conway to commence the 2010 Kentucky Safe Schools Week. An outstanding number of over 18,600 students, teachers, community members, and parents took the new online “R-E-S-P-E-C-T” pledge. This year’s pledge addresses issues of bullying, cyber bullying, internet safety and much more. Below is a list of six new safety resource pages added to enhance Safe Schools Week.

* Administrator Resources
* Teacher Toolbox
* Student Resources 9-12
* Student Resources 5-8
* Student Resources K-4
* Parent & Community Information

Post-Secondary– Provided services to 28 higher education teaching institutions. Presented to 1,500 attendees at conferences and university classes across Kentucky on school safety related topics. Presented a session on “Sexting” at the Safe Schools Conference to include the Task Force and held a sharing session. Communications through emails, elerts and website resource pages are ongoing.

Emergency Management Materials, Eastern KY University’s Safe School Endorsement, Classroom Response Backpacks, Continued communications through emails, elerts and website resource pages.
The Annual Report was written and produced by Kentucky Center for School Safety staff.

For more detailed information, please visit our website at www.kysafeschools.org
Click on Annual Report Appendices.

Appendices Include:

- KCSS Board of Directors
- Quarterly Reports
- Safe Schools Funding Distribution List
- 2010 Safe Schools Data Report
- School Safety Endorsement Standards
- Safe School Assessment Program
- House Bill 330
- 2010 Superintendent and Principal Safe School Assessment Survey

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