

# PREVENTING SCHOOL VIOLENCE: IMPROVING PHYSICAL SECURITY TO PROTECT THE K-12 COMMUNITY

## JEREMY BULLOCK SAFE SCHOOLS SUMMIT

### AUGUST 2023

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# AGENDA

- **K-12 RISKS & THREAT ENVIRONMENTS**
- **SCHOOLSAFETY.GOV TOOLS AND RESOURCES**
- **IMPROVING SCHOOL PHYSICAL SECURITY**
- **ENCOURAGING BYSTANDER REPORTING**



# OUR SCHOOL SAFETY PERSPECTIVE

## OVERVIEW

THE CISA SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE (SSTF) WAS ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS IN STRENGTHENING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12 (K-12) SCHOOLS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THE SSTF'S WORK CENTERS AROUND BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF K-12 SCHOOL SAFETY COMMUNITY AND ADMINISTERING THE **FEDERAL SCHOOL SAFETY CLEARINGHOUSE** AND **SCHOOLSAFETY.GOV**

## SCHOOL SAFETY ISSUE AREAS

- > BULLYING AND CYBERBULLYING
- > CHILD EXPLOITATION
- > CYBERSECURITY
- > EMERGENCY PLANNING
- > INFECTIOUS DISEASE & PUBLIC HEALTH
- > MENTAL HEALTH
- > PHYSICAL SECURITY
- > SCHOOL CLIMATE
- > TARGETED VIOLENCE
- > TREAT ASSESSMENT & REPORTING



## MISSION

THE SSTF ENHANCES THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF SCHOOLS BY:



**FOSTERING CHANGE** THROUGH OUTREACH, ENGAGEMENT, AND EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS



**FACILITATING ACTION** BY CREATING, COORDINATING, AND DISSEMINATING RESOURCES, PRODUCTS, AND TOOLS TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS IN IMPLEMENTING AND STRENGTHENING THEIR PHYSICAL SECURITY POSTURES



**EQUIPPING STAKEHOLDERS** WITH TRAINING AND EXPERTISE TO APPLY RECOGNIZED BEST PRACTICES IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES, VENUES, AND SCHOOLS



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# PROTECTIVE SECURITY ADVISOR

Critical Infrastructure Protection and Vulnerability  
Mitigation Expert

# Protective Security Advisor Overview

- **Foster partnerships with school districts, school boards and local government emergency management**
- **Provide onsite assist visits to schools to identify all-hazards safety and security vulnerabilities**
- **Give options for consideration to mitigate identified vulnerabilities**
- **Provide online or in person school safety training resources**
- **Threat information sharing to law enforcement and school districts**





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# K-12 SCHOOL SAFETY RISK & THREAT ENVIRONMENT TRENDS

CISA SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE

# WHAT THE THREAT DATA IS SAYING...



## TARGETED VIOLENCE

77% PERCENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS RECORDED ONE OR MORE INCIDENTS OF CRIME, AMOUNTING TO 1.4 MILLION INCIDENTS. A RATE OF 29 INCIDENTS PER 1,000 STUDENTS.<sup>1</sup>



## CYBERSECURITY THREATS

MALICIOUS CYBER ACTORS ARE TARGETING SCHOOL COMPUTER SYSTEMS, DISRUPTING ACCESS, AND RENDERING THE SYSTEMS UNABLE TO PERFORM BASIC FUNCTIONS.<sup>2</sup>



## HOAX CALLS & SWATTING

FROM SEPTEMBER 2022 TO OCTOBER 2022 K-12 SCHOOLS REPORTED NEARLY 200 SWATTING AND HOAX INCIDENTS IN 28 STATES<sup>3</sup>



## MENTAL HEALTH

44% OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS REPORTED THEY PERSISTENTLY FELT SAD OR HOPELESS DURING THE PAST YEAR.<sup>4</sup>



## ANIMATING GRIEVANCES

LONE OFFENDERS' AND GROUPS MOTIVATED BY A RANGE OF IDEOLOGICAL AND/OR PERSONAL GRIEVANCES CONTINUE TO POSE A PERSISTENT THREAT TO SCHOOLS.<sup>5</sup>



Sources:

<sup>1</sup> DoE National Center of Educational Statistics, 2021. <sup>2</sup> CISA Partnering to Safeguard K-12 Orgs. from, Cybersecurity Threats, 2023. <sup>3</sup> National Public Radio, 2022. <sup>4</sup> Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022. <sup>5</sup> DHS NTAS Advisory Notice, 2023.



SchoolSafety.gov



# SCHOOLSAFETY.GOV

## FEDERAL SCHOOL SAFETY CLEARINGHOUSE

Federal and State Resources, Guidance, and  
Tools to Create Safe School Environments

## SAFETY TOPICS



BULLYING & CYBERBULLYING



CHILD EXPLOITATION



CYBERSECURITY



EMERGENCY PLANNING



INFECTIOUS DISEASES & PUBLIC HEALTH



MENTAL HEALTH



SCHOOL CLIMATE



TARGETED VIOLENCE



THREAT ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

## KEY TOOLS & FEATURES



SAFETY READINESS TOOL



STATE SEARCH TOOL



RESOURCE LIBRARY



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



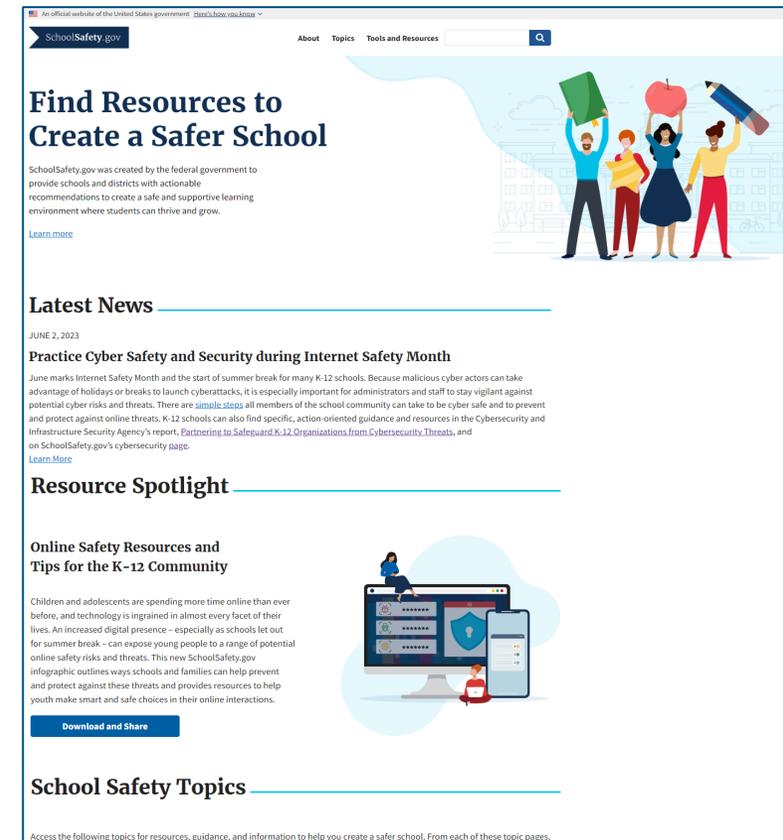
GRANTS FINDER TOOL



K-12 COMMUNITY BULLETIN



COMMUNICATIONS CENTER



# LOOKING TO GET SMART, QUICK?

## BULLYING PREVENTION

## CHILD EXPLOITATION

## ONLINE SAFETY

**SCHOOLSAFETY.GOV**  
**Bullying Prevention Strategies and Resources**

Create safer school environments by preventing and addressing bullying.

**What is Bullying?**  
Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior among school children that involves a real or perceived imbalance of power. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying is a widespread issue in the United States and negatively impacts those who are bullied, those who bully others, bystanders, and others in the school community. Bullying can threaten students' physical and emotional safety at school and negatively impact their ability to learn. It is linked to many negative outcomes including impacts on mental health, substance use, and suicide, and in some instances can play a contributing role in school violence.

**Bullying Prevention Strategies**  
While there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to addressing bullying, there are a number of things school staff can do to make schools safer and prevent bullying. The first step is properly identifying bullying and taking actionable steps to prevent it. Reducing bullying behavior in schools requires a multi-faceted approach that also includes immediate response and appropriate consequences and support for serious incidents. School-based programs that strengthen youths' skills and modify the physical and social environment have also been shown to reduce bullying or key risk factors. This includes the adoption of school climate initiatives and support for positive character development and digital citizenship. Everyone at school can work together to create an environment where bullying is not acceptable. The following are some strategies school leaders, teachers, and staff can consider implementing to help identify, address, and prevent bullying in schools.

**Develop and Implement an Assessment**  
Assessments, such as anonymous surveys, can help schools determine the frequency, locations, and types of bullying behavior. Assessments involve asking students and school community members about their experiences and thoughts related to bullying to help understand the current landscape, determine an appropriate intervention or prevention plan in response, and measure the results of efforts over time to ensure they are working.

**Safe and Supportive Environment**  
Elements of a positive school climate can establish a culture of inclusion that of respect in classrooms, monitor places like bathrooms, playgrounds, and the school staff that interact with and influence student where bullying is not acceptable.

**Emotional Learning**  
EL involves the processes through which people apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills they have acquired, and which have positive effects, establish and maintain positive life decisions. Research has shown that EL improves students' social-emotional skills and social interactions, and can help of school-wide SEL frameworks and classrooms are a few ways to include SEL into social and emotional skills.

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CREATE SAFER SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS BY PREVENTING AND ADDRESSING BULLYING. IN A 2019 SURVEY ABOUT BULLYING, ABOUT 22 PERCENT OF STUDENTS AGES 12-18 REPORTED BEING BULLIED AT SCHOOL.

**SCHOOLSAFETY.GOV**  
**Child Exploitation Resources**

Protect children from exploitation by recognizing the risk factors and warning signs, knowing how to respond, and supporting students who have been victimized.

Child exploitation can take many forms and affect young people of any background, demographic, or geographic location. Victimization can take place directly on school grounds as well as through online or social media platforms, and victimized students may suffer physical, mental, and emotional trauma.

Schools are uniquely positioned to support students facing exploitation, because of the regular interaction between educators and students, school personnel can help identify and report suspected cases of trafficking and exploitation and connect affected students to critical services.

Understanding the factors that make students vulnerable to exploitation, such as adverse childhood experiences, history of trauma, housing instability/homelessness, or lack of supportive adult figures, and recognizing the warning signs is the first step in identifying potential victims. Signs or indicators may include unexplained absences from school, abruptly discontinuing from family or friends, or significant changes in behaviors including online activity, and if observed can be an opportunity to ask more questions or help students get the support they need.

School leaders can provide training and resources on the risk factors and indicators of child exploitation so that teacher and school staff can recognize potential cases, as well as offer age appropriate safety education programs for students and engage with parents to raise awareness of the issue. School districts should also establish and articulate clearly defined policies, protocols, and procedures, supported by collaboration with relevant local community and law enforcement partners, for school personnel to follow in cases of child exploitation are reported or detected.

To respond to risk factors, identifying and building protective factors and a safe and supportive school community can help to prevent youth from exploitative and trafficking situations. Protective factors can include encouraging youth to seek help, identifying resources to meet student needs, and offering ongoing education about healthy relationships, respect, partner violence, and child sex abuse. Schools should also put in place campus security measures and screen visitors to school grounds and events. As well, providing teacher, team, parents, and teacher with information regarding the potential dangers of online environments and how to stay safe online can help prevent many instances of child exploitation.

**Resources**  
SchoolSafety.gov offers a variety of resources, programs, and guides that school communities can use to help prevent, identify, and respond to child exploitations, including:

- Guides and Reports**
  - Child Sex Trafficking in America: A Guide for Parents and Guardians** This guide offers information for parents and guardians on child sex trafficking, including an overview on the victims and perpetrators, tips for keeping children safe, and warning signs.

PROTECT CHILDREN FROM EXPLOITATION BY RECOGNIZING THE RISK FACTORS AND WARNING SIGNS, KNOWING HOW TO RESPOND, AND SUPPORTING STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN VICTIMIZED.

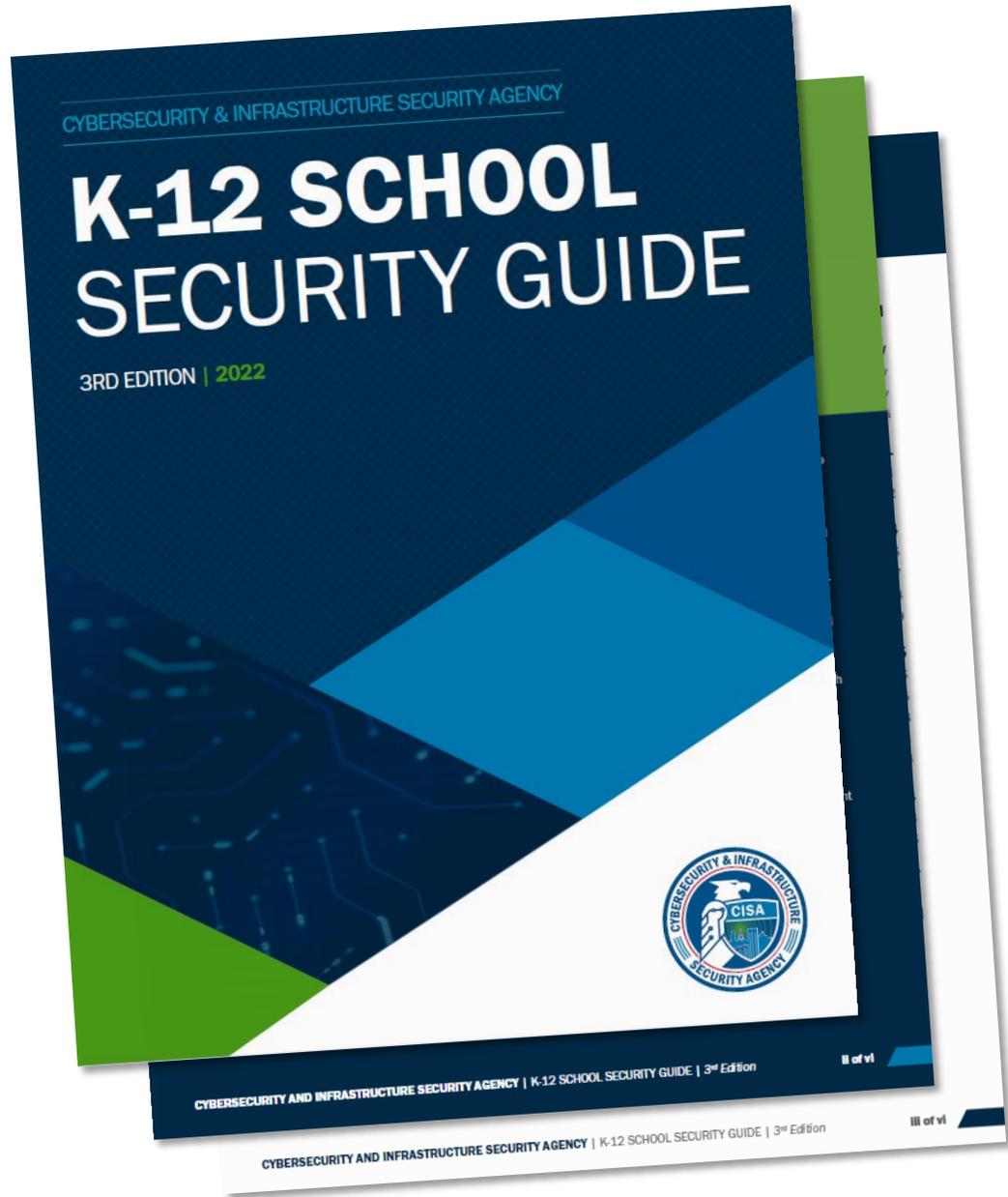
**SCHOOLSAFETY.GOV**  
**Online Safety Resources**

SchoolSafety.gov offers a variety of resources, programs, and tools that school communities can use to better and enhance student online safety, including:

- Guides and Reports**
  - Guidelines for Educators** This graphic novel communicates the dangers and risk associated with text messaging using social media and other communication platforms to spread gossip, social media harassment, and cyberbullying.
  - Cyber Safety Considerations for K-12 Schools and School Districts** This brief includes information on the most common online threats students face, including cyberbullying, and describes how school and school district administrators can prepare and respond to online threats.
  - Cyber Safety Policy Starter** This series of videos and accompanying fact sheets highlight common potential threats students and K-12 schools are likely to face online, as well as proactive steps individuals and institutions can take to stay safe.
  - Internet, Social Media, and Video: A Guide for Educators, Administrators, and Parents** This report educates the general public on the potential dangers of digital activities, which is defined as a range of aggression perpetrated through technology, and its role in public health, including among the school community.
  - Protecting Student Information in Schools** This guide serves to educate school personnel about at-risk behaviors and activities that expose students with relevant social and psychological consequences to violence as a method of resolving a grievance.
  - Understanding Cyberbullying** This website contains resources for youth, parents, schools, and others to better understand bullying and cyberbullying, including the warning signs, how participants of, and prevention tips.
  - Technology Tools to Reduce the Risk of Child Sexual Exploitation** This tool sheet provides a general overview on what computer electronic aggression, and what parents and caregivers can do to address and help prevent it.

THROUGH PROMOTING ONLINE SAFETY PRACTICES, IMPROVING DIGITAL LITERACY AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS, SCHOOLS, EDUCATORS, AND PARENTS CAN FOSTER DIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS THAT ARE SAFE AND SECURE FOR STUDENTS.





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# K-12 SCHOOL SECURITY GUIDE, ASSESSMENT TOOL AND PRODUCT SUITE

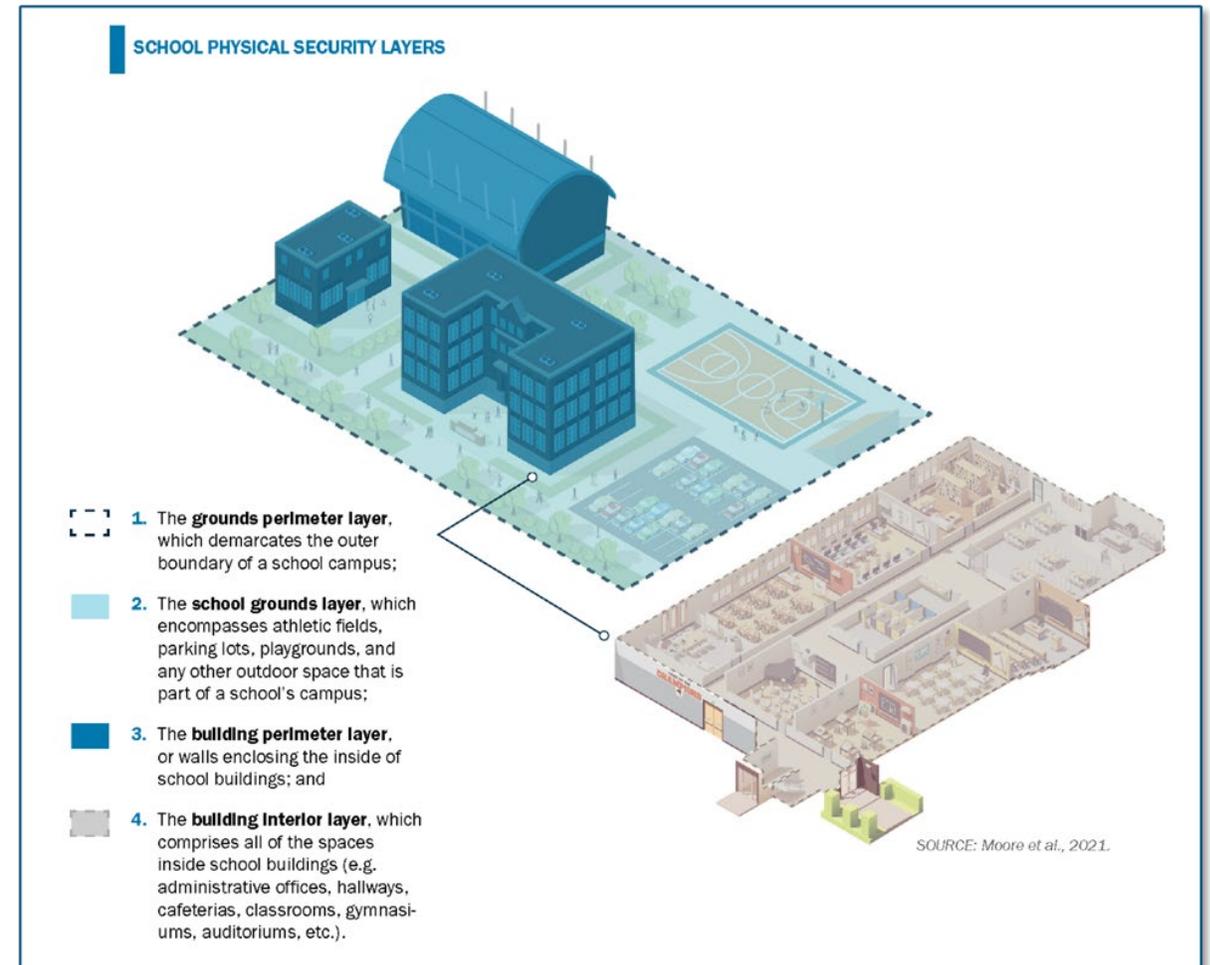
CISA SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE

3<sup>rd</sup> Edition | 2022

# K-12 SCHOOL SECURITY GUIDE

PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE DOCTRINE AND SYSTEMS-BASED METHODOLOGY TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS IN CONDUCTING VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND PLANNING TO IMPLEMENT **LAYERED PHYSICAL SECURITY ELEMENTS** ACROSS K-12 DISTRICTS AND CAMPUSES.

- ENHANCE UNDERSTANDING OF A SYSTEMS-BASED APPROACH TO LAYERED PHYSICAL SECURITY
- EXPLAIN THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SECURITY SYSTEM
- DESCRIBE COMMON CHALLENGES SCHOOLS FACE IN PLANNING OR MAKING IMPROVEMENTS



# SCHOOL SECURITY ASSESSMENT TOOL



## KEY FEATURES:

- > HIGHLY PORTABLE
- > SIMPLE IN LANGUAGE & DESIGN
- > CONSIDERS TRADE-OFFS
- > ENHANCES CURRENT STATE
- > PRIORITIZED RESULTS
- > RECOMMENDS NEXT ACTIONS

# TRAINING SUPPORTS



## GENERAL USER COURSE

DEVELOP A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT PHYSICAL SECURITY LOOKS LIKE IN K-12 SCHOOLS.



## TRAIN THE TRAINER COURSE

CREATED ADVISING SCHOOL PERSONNEL ON ISSUES RELATED TO SAFETY AND SECURITY.



# PRODUCT SUITE SUMMARY



**K-12 SCHOOL SECURITY GUIDE, 3<sup>RD</sup> EDITION**



**SCHOOL SECURITY ASSESSMENT TOOL (SSAT)**



**VIDEO: SSAT “HOW-TO” VIDEO**



**VIRTUAL TRAINING: GENERAL USER**



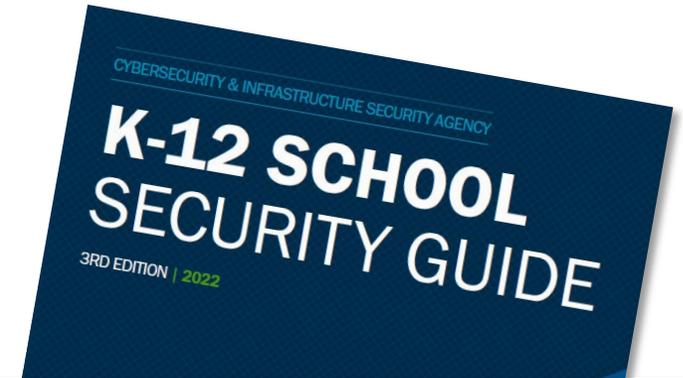
**VIRTUAL TRAINING: TRAIN THE TRAINER**



**K-12 GUIDE USER GUIDE**



**K-12 GUIDE TECHNICAL APPENDIX**

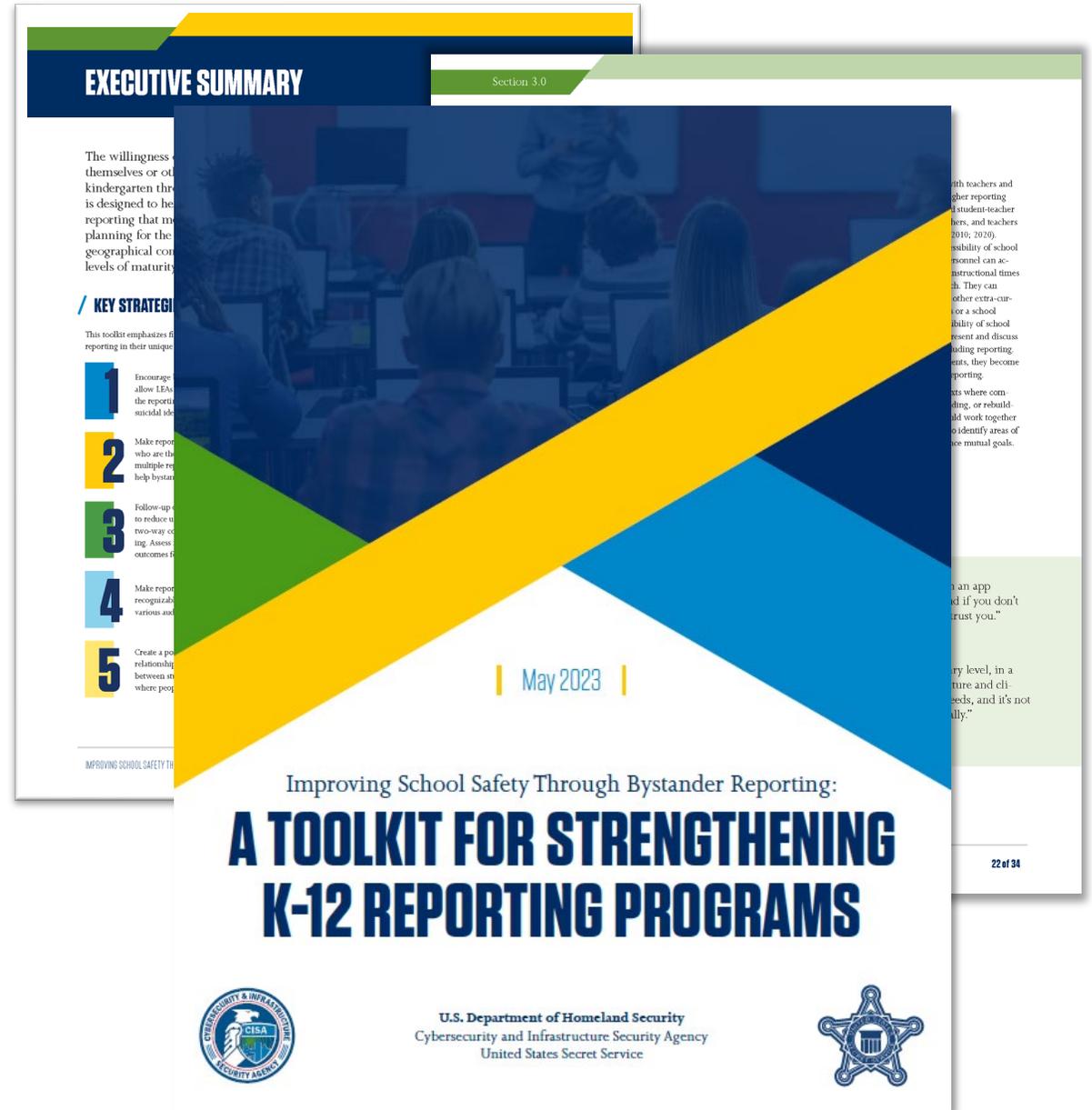




# CISA-USSSS K-12 BYSTANDER REPORTING TOOLKIT

SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE (SSTF)  
NATIONAL THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER  
(NTAC)

1<sup>st</sup> Edition | 2023



# IMPORTANCE OF EARLY IDENTIFICATION

THE FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO YOUTH VIOLENCE ARE COMPLEX AND FAR-RANGING, BUT RESEARCH SHOWS THAT **EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF THREATENING OR CONCERNING BEHAVIORS AND INTERVENTION REDUCES VIOLENCE.**



DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR PRIOR TO THE PANDEMIC, **80 PERCENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS** RECORDED THAT ONE OR MORE INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE, THEFT, OR OTHER CRIMES HAD TAKEN PLACE, AMOUNTING TO **1.4 MILLION INCIDENTS.**



IN 2020, STUDENTS AGES 12–18 EXPERIENCED **285,400 VICTIMIZATIONS AT SCHOOL**, TRANSLATING TO A RATE OF 11.2 VICTIMIZATIONS PER 1,000 STUDENTS AT SCHOOL.



Source: [Behavioral Approach to Violence Prevention 2.0 | Homeland Security \(dhs.gov\)](#)



Behaviors that may indicate: ■ Concern ■ Heightened Concern ■ Imminent Concern

# THE REPORTING & PREVENTION CONTINUUM



# LOCALIZING REPORTING PROGRAMS

## ATTRIBUTION

WILL THE PROGRAM ACCEPT ANONYMOUS AND/OR CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS?

## ACCESSIBILITY

WHAT TYPES OF REPORTING MODES AND TECHNOLOGIES WILL BE OFFERED?

## AVAILABILITY

WHEN WILL STAFF BE AVAILABLE TO FIELD AND TRIAGE REPORTS?

## TRAINING & OUTREACH

HOW WILL SCHOOL COMMUNITY MEMBERS LEARN ABOUT THE PROGRAM AND THEIR INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES?

## REPORT INTAKE & INITIAL PRIORITIZATION

WHO WILL MAKE AN INITIAL DETERMINATION OF PRIORITY?  
WHO WILL FORWARD TO APPROPRIATE SCHOOL STAFF OR OUTSIDE SERVICES? WHO WILL FOLLOW-UP, IF NEEDED?

## RESPONDING TO REPORTING

WHO WILL ASSESS INFORMATION RECEIVED?  
WHO WILL MANAGE ANY IDENTIFIED CONCERNS?

# STRENGTHEN REPORTING

## SECTION 1.0



**ENCOURAGE BYSTANDER REPORTING**



**ACCESSIBILITY AND SAFETY**



**EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPARENCY**



**MAKE REPORTING A PART OF DAILY SCHOOL LIFE**



**POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE**

**LINK:** [CISA.GOV/RESOURCES-TOOLS/RESOURCES/K-12-BYSTANDER-REPORTING-TOOLKIT](https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/k-12-bystander-reporting-toolkit)

## SECTION 2.0



**CUSTOMIZING REPORTING SYSTEMS TO YOUR ENVIRONMENT**

## SECTION 3.0



**STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN YOUR SCHOOL'S REPORTING**

## SECTION 4.0



**RESOURCES FOR YOUR SCHOOL TO TAKE ACTION**

## WORKSHEETS



**IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS FOR YOUR SCHOOL**



**QUESTION & ANSWER**

THANK YOU



# Resources & References

## CISA

- [K-12 School Security Guide Product Suite](#)
- [National Summit on K-12 School Safety and Security](#)
- [Active Shooter Preparedness: School Security and Resilience](#)
- [Protecting our Future: Partnering to Safeguard K-12 Organizations from Cybersecurity Threats](#)
- [Partnering to Safeguard K-12 Toolkit](#)
- [Bombing Prevention Resources and Trainings](#)
- [Securing Mass Gathering Resources](#)
- [De-Escalation of Violence Resources](#)
- [Tabletop Exercise Packages](#)
- [Protective Security Advisors \(PSA\)](#)

## SCHOOLSAFETY.GOV

- [Grants Finder Tool](#)
- [Safety Readiness Tool](#)
- [State Information Sharing Tool](#)
- [Resource Library](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)
- [Informational Webinar Series](#)
- [Monthly School Safety Community Bulletin](#)
- [Communication Center](#)

## DHS

- [NTAS Bulletin](#)
- [CP3: Prevention Resources](#)
- [If You See Something, Say Something](#)

## USSS NTAC

- [Mass Attacks in Public Spaces: 2016-2020](#)
- [Averting Targeted School Violence: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Plots Against Schools](#)
- [Protecting America's Schools: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence](#)
- [Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence](#)



# THANK YOU



## NATIONAL SUMMIT ON K-12 SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY

FOR ADDITIONAL [SCHOOLSAFETY.GOV](https://www.schoolsafety.gov) NEWS, RESOURCES AND EVENTS:



FOLLOW [@SCHOOLSAFETYGOV](https://twitter.com/SchoolSafetyGov)



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# Summit Survey

