



Ten Essential Actions to Improve School Safety
School Safety Working Group
Report to the Attorney General



COPS

Community Oriented Policing Services U.S. Department of Justice

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(August 2020)

The 10 actions described in this publication represent measures that can be taken to ensure school communities' mental and emotional security as well as their physical safety.

The ten essential actions for physical and emotional safety of schools:

Physical safety

1. Comprehensive school safety assessment
3. Campus, building, and classroom security
5. Coordination with first responders
7. School-based law enforcement
9. Drills

Emotional Security

2. School climate
4. Anonymous reporting systems
6. Behavior threat assessment and management
8. Mental health resources
10. Social media monitoring

Read the full report here: <https://cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/Publications/cops-wo891-pub.pdf>

The COPS Office School Safety Working Group, which is composed of representatives from eight national law enforcement organizations, has identified these 10 essential actions that can be taken by schools, school districts, and law enforcement agencies to help prevent critical incidents involving the loss of life or injuries in our nation's schools and to respond rapidly and effectively when incidents do occur.

These actions are applicable to school shootings as well as to other areas of school safety, including natural disasters and traumatic events such as student suicide. Adopting policies and practices based on the recommendations in this publication can help make school communities safer and save lives.

About the COPS Office

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) is the component of the U.S. Department of Justice responsible for advancing the practice of community policing by the nation's state, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies through information and grant resources.

Community policing begins with a commitment to building trust and mutual respect between police and communities. It supports public safety by encouraging all stakeholders to work together to address our nation's crime challenges. When police and communities collaborate, they more effectively address underlying issues, change negative behavioral patterns, and allocate resources.

Rather than simply responding to crime, community policing focuses on preventing it through strategic problem-solving approaches based on collaboration. The COPS Office awards grants to hire community policing officers and support the development and testing of innovative policing strategies. COPS Office funding also provides training and technical assistance to community members and local government leaders, as well as all levels of law enforcement.

Since 1994, the COPS Office has invested more than \$14 billion to add community policing officers to the nation's streets, enhance crime fighting technology, support crime prevention initiatives, and provide training and technical assistance to help advance community policing.

Nearly 700,000 law enforcement personnel, community members, and government leaders have been trained through COPS Office-funded training organizations.

COPS Office information resources, covering a wide range of community policing topics such as school and campus safety, violent crime, and officer safety and wellness, can be downloaded via the COPS Office's home page, www.cops.usdoj.gov. This website is also the grant application portal, providing access to online application forms.

The working group comprised the following representatives of national law enforcement organizations:

<u>Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies</u>	Robert Gualtieri Sheriff, Pinellas County (Florida)
Louis Grever Executive Director	<u>National Association of School Resource Officers</u>
Robert Schurmeier Executive Director, North Carolina State Bureau of Investigations	Mo Canady Executive Director
<u>International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators</u>	<u>National Police Foundation</u>
Jeff Allison* Special Advisor	Dr. Frank Straub Director of the Center for Mass Violence Response Studies
<u>International Association of Chiefs of Police</u>	<u>National Sheriffs' Association</u>
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Wade Carpenter Chief, Park City (Utah) Police Department	Tim Woods Deputy Executive Director
<u>Major Cities Chiefs Association</u>	David Walcher Sheriff (ret.), Arapahoe County (Colorado)
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