

Kentucky Center **FOR SCHOOL SAFETY**

Promoting *Safe Schools* Across the Commonwealth



16th
Annual Report
2014

STOP
the Bullying



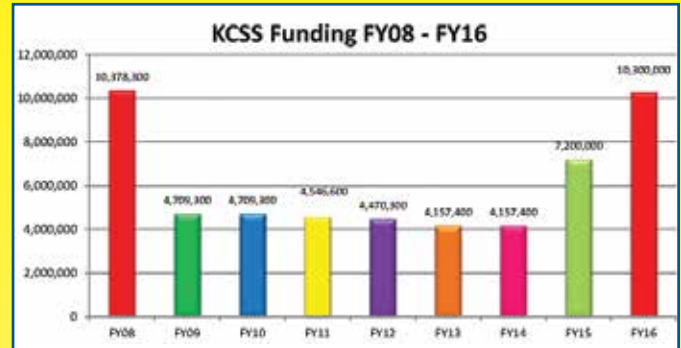


Message from the Executive Director

Every year Kentucky's public schools improve their school safety practices. With the passage of Senate Bill 8 in 2013 (KRS 158.162), school officials have been systematically reviewing their emergency operation plans with their local first responders, SBDM councils and faculties. More now than ever before, school-based staff and students are becoming increasingly aware of potential hazards and natural disasters and are practicing

appropriate emergency responses for such events. Local police, fire, emergency medical technicians and district emergency management personnel are communicating with school officials on a regular basis. All parties are to be congratulated as each of them and the critical parts they play greatly contribute to the enhancement of school safety.

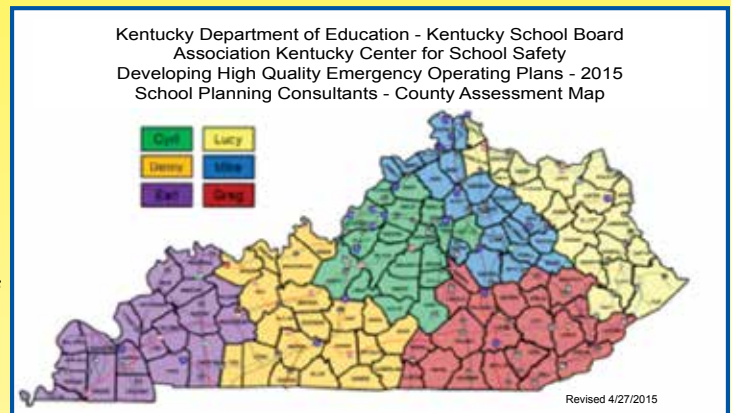
School Safety Funding from the General Assembly increased this past year restoring partial funding to the 2008 level...with total restoration of funds to occur in the 2015-16 school year. We are grateful for Governor Beshear and the General Assembly's solid support of safe school initiatives throughout the Commonwealth. As a direct result, the Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS) has been able to partially restore services suspended during the Great Recession. With the complete restoration of funding to take place in the upcoming school year, KCSS will be able to provide the full array of services that were in place prior to 2009.



Through our partnership with Murray State University, the S.T.O.P (On-line) tip-line has been made available to schools throughout the state. To date, there are approximately fifty-seven school districts using this cost-free service, which increases the number of conduits students now have to reach school officials with important and often critical safety information. These districts are being praised for implementing this additional service for their students and community.



Through our partnership with the Kentucky Department of Education, KCSS has been asked to administer a federal grant designed to assist school district officials in reviewing and/or developing school district-wide emergency operation plans. KCSS has contracted with five school safety consultants to provide this cost-free training and technical assistance throughout the state.



From left, Jon Akers, Karen McCuiston, Frank DeAngelis and Don Martin

Finally, the calendar year was topped off with one of the best Safe Schools and Communities Conferences ever. Headlining the keynote speakers were KASA's Wayne Young, who prolifically delivered an overall state perspective on school safety issues, followed by Frank DeAngelis, recently retired principal of Columbine High School. Mr. DeAngelis provided an emotional and heart-wrenching description of how his school and community braved the aftermath of tragedy and addressed the many facets of recovery after April 20, 1999. Indeed, when the conference ended, it seemed almost certain that participants emerged with a renewed passion for school safety and the critical need for it to be kept at the forefront of all we do in our public schools each and every day.

KCSS enthusiastically embraces its responsibility to stay acutely abreast of the best and most promising practices in school safety. Each of our precious students, as well as each school employee who cares for them each school day, demand and deserve it. We will never do less than our very best.



Created as a Service to Facilitate and Enhance Public School Safety Throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky

In 1998, the Safe Schools Act was passed by Kentucky's General Assembly and the Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS) was established. Since that time, it has been the mission of KCSS to facilitate all of Kentucky's school districts, including the Kentucky School for the Blind and the Kentucky School for the Deaf, in promoting safe and healthy learning environments for all students in public schools throughout this Commonwealth.

KCSS is governed by a 12-member Board of Directors, each appointed by the Governor. Given the extremely wide and diverse array of services provided to the school districts by KCSS, a statewide collaborative effort involving several professional partners is required. Therefore, to date, this partnership consists of Murray State University, the Kentucky Department of Education, Kentucky Employers' Mutual Insurance (KEMI), Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) and the University of Kentucky. Together, the partnership enables this agency to remain well-informed about the ever-changing and serious trends that impact the overall safety of schools around the state.

The major services provided and collaborative efforts made by KCSS include the following:

- Accommodating superintendents, principals and other school personnel as well as parents and community members when they contact the center for assistance either through direct phone communication, e-mail or arranged visit to district/school
- Overseeing and distributing Safe Schools Funds to each local school district including the Kentucky School for the Blind and the Kentucky School for the Deaf
- Overseeing the KCSS and KyCID (Kentucky Center for Instructional Discipline) operating budget
- Conducting over 50 Safe School Assessments in at least 25 school districts each school year
- Conducting annual survey of each of the state's public school superintendents and principals regarding their satisfaction/dissatisfaction with KCSS
- Working closely with Justice and Law Enforcement Training (JLET) to ensure that Ky.'s juvenile justice and law enforcement agencies and the judicial system provide direct assistance to the schools
- Supporting and evaluating (via biennial survey) SRO (School Resource Officer) services across the state
- Independently studying issues that are or could impact school climate and culture
- Offering 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
- Analyzing data and reports, such as the Safe Schools Data Project
- Communicating regularly with the governor's office, Kentucky Board Of Education, and General Assembly
- Maintaining a clearinghouse of information/materials on violence prevention
- Advising the Kentucky Board of Education on administrative policies and regulations
- Providing continuous updates of the Emergency Management Guide



KCSS Board Members Vestena Robbins, Tammy Jones, Bill Robertson and Sylvia Kuster



Farley Elementary - McCracken County



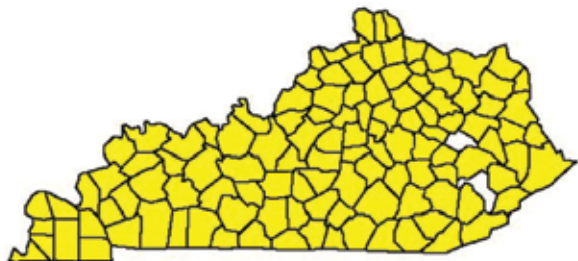
McCracken County Schools



Locust Grove Elementary - Oldham County

Safe School Assessme

Safe School Assessments Around the State since 2003



*Assessments conducted in all shaded school districts

Thus far, **789** Schools in **163** School Districts in Kentucky have had at least (1) Safe School Assessment conducted by KCSS.

Components of a Safe School Assessment

PERCEPTUAL SURVEY

The survey is administered to a school's students, staff and parents 6-8 weeks before the actual assessment visit. (KCSS e-mails copies of the 3 different surveys to the principal who in turn makes copies and administers to these groups.) Each survey presents questions to the responder relating to their perceptions of safety at their school. For example, "Is there a process in place to report bullying and harassment at your school this school year?"

The principal then collects the surveys, organizes them according to instructions received from KCSS, and mails them back to KCSS within 2-3 weeks of receiving them.

Once received by KCSS, the completed surveys are scanned and the results are tabulated. From these tabulated results, a summary is written. The summary is then made available to the team members who will visit the school. (This summary will also be a component of the much larger comprehensive report that will be sent to the school and superintendent after the assessment visit.)

THE DAY OF THE ASSESSMENT VISIT

The Assessment visit is thorough. On the scheduled date agreed upon by the school's district and KCSS, a team of (6) educators visits the school for a full school day. During the assessment day, the team observes and examines:

- student arrival and dismissal patterns
- staff supervision practices
- staff-student interactions
- student transitions
- check-in/out procedures
- visitor procedures
- school and campus hardware regarding safety

Beginning thirty-minutes after arrival, five of the six team members interview individual staff members and parents in 30-minute intervals using questionnaires designed for staff and parents at this school level, i.e., elementary, middle or high school. The team also interviews students in groups of five using a questionnaire designed for their school level. Frequently, over one-hundred students are interviewed by team members during an assessment visit. A 6th team member spends the day examining the hardware within the school as well as examining the outside campus.

Very close to the end of the school day and after all interviews have been conducted, the team meets to discuss their findings. After this discussion, the team leader meets with the school's principal, possibly the superintendent, and others to present the team's preliminary findings from the assessment day. They also review the survey report with those attending the meeting.

COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Approximately 4-6 weeks after the assessment visit, Don Martin (Training Coordinator and former Grant County Superintendent) sets up a meeting to discuss the comprehensive assessment report with the superintendent, possibly the school's principal, and others. Copies of the report will be left at the superintendent's office for the superintendent, principal and district safety coordinator. The components of the report are:

- Assessment Visit Report
- Survey Results Report
- Physical Plant Report
- KCSS Safe Schools Data for 2014
- KIDS Count Data

nts 2003-2014

Activity abounds throughout the school day when the team arrives on campus on assessment day. Examples include team members interacting with as many students, staff members and parents as can be arranged along with multiple interviewing taking place and the school and campus hardware (such as fire hydrants, exterior doors, electrical breaker panels, loading docks, storage areas, ceiling tiles, etc.) being examined.



Team Member Ray Woodyard



Team Member Carol Cunningham



Team Member Lynn McCoy-Simandle



Team Member Lonnie Watts



Team Member Ed McCaw

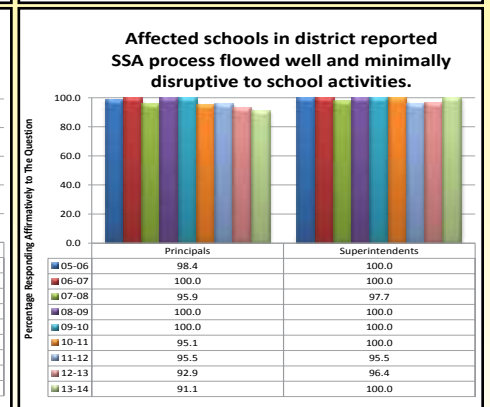
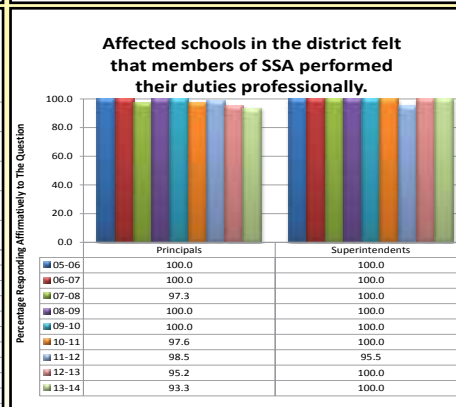
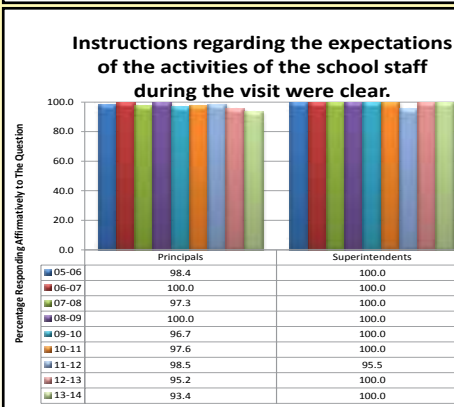
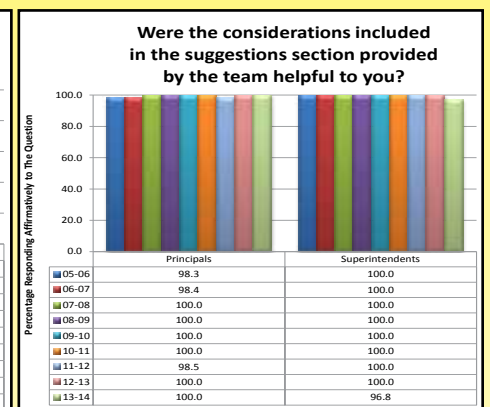
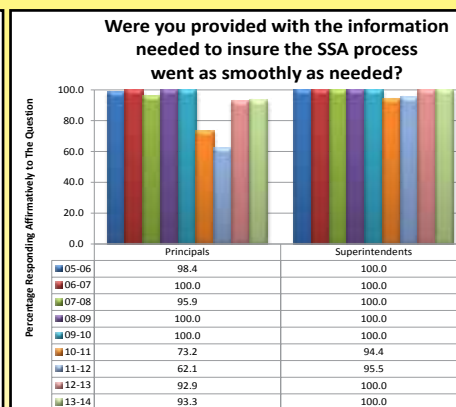
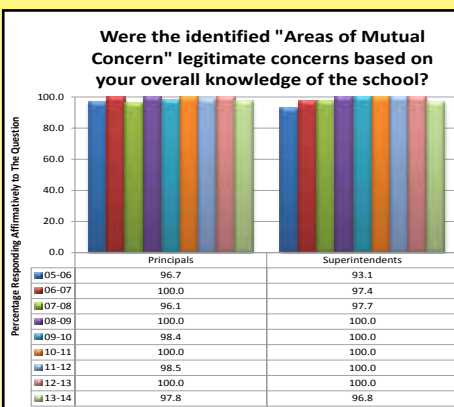


Team Member Pat Downey



Team Member Diane Woods

Superintendents and Principals Evaluated the Assessment Process in 2014



Recent Steps Taken after Safe School A

After having a safe school assessment conducted, school staffs frequently make changes based on the recommendations/considerations offered by the school safety teams that visited their respective schools.



Cawood Elementary
Harlan County, Kentucky

Melinda Sergent, Principal of Cawood Elementary School stated, "I found the assessment to be extremely beneficial for myself and my staff. We have made many safety improvements that were recommended." Some of the changes were:

- ◆ All staff wear picture ID badges daily
- ◆ Our buzzer system was fixed and once school begins each morning all incoming people are buzzed into inside doors
- ◆ All doors are locked during school day
- ◆ We now have a calendar to remind everyone of emergency drills that must take place
- ◆ We have plans to implement a drop-off-pick-up system.



Henry County High School

Shannon Sagesar, Principal

"Here are some of the changes we've made based on recommendations from KCSS."

- ◆ An SRO has been hired
- ◆ Interoffice radios have been purchased
- ◆ Revised emergency drill process including

"lockdown intruder inside" drill initiated while classes were changing

- ◆ Additional cameras have been installed
- ◆ Sign-in procedures have been established
- ◆ Exterior door procedure has been established to insure they are locked and monitored



Locust Grove Elementary

Oldham County, Kentucky

Andy Moore, Principal

"A few of the items we revisited at the school level were playground safety, building security, and bus behavior. While none of these items were major safety concerns there were areas in which improvement needed to be made. In order to address playground safety a more detailed supervision plan was developed to ensure adequate supervision of all areas. We additionally partnered with our PTA and Youth Enrichment Program to add a playground specifically designed for our Kindergarten through 2nd grade students. Two factors we were able to mitigate were overcrowding and ensuring developmentally appropriate playground equipment. In regards to the building security we are closely working with the district facilities department as we are receiving a massive amount of security upgrades. Surveillance cameras, panic buttons, buzzer systems, etc... Overall safety is much improved. This is a picture of our new playground."



Highland Elementary School

Lincoln County, Schools

James Carrier, Principal

"I am very thankful for the safe school assessment and the results. Thanks so much! We acted on many of the changes that were recommended. We are still in the process of making changes that will help our

campus become a safer place for our students and staff. Many of the changes that needed to be made to satisfy insurance components have been made and definitely made our campus a safer place."

by School Officials Assessment in 2014



Pulaski County High School

Rodney McAninch, Principal

"At Pulaski County High School, we have reviewed and revised our policy for issuing visitor's badges. We also installed three 'Bully Boxes' around our school so that students could anonymously give information about situations regarding bullying, or other issues regarding student safety."



Park City Elementary

Barren County, Kentucky
Anthony Janes, Principal

"The Barren County Schools are in the process of getting quotes for installing an internal buzzer system on the office entryway."



Cartmell Elementary

Carroll County, Kentucky
Jonica Ray, Principal

"We placed adults right outside of restrooms to do morning duty. We asked teachers to stand at their doors during morning duty and transition times to supervise hallways. We placed a staff member at the front door starting at 7 a.m. when doors get unlocked to supervise morning drop off. We ordered car hangers with ID numbers to use for our afternoon pick up process. We are placing adults at the front doors to sign students out who get picked up in the front office."



A Resourceful Partnership Formed to S

KCSS Board of Directors



From back left – Bill Robertson, Mary Bowling, Danielle Bailey-Ratliff, Dwayne Morrison, Kalon Bagby, Tammy Jones, Christina Weeter, Front left – Sylvia Kuster, Steve Hutton, Vesteena Robbins and Elizabeth Hack



- 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



Jeff Floyd
Loss Education
& Safety Manager
(donated Services)



- Conducts facility walk-throughs on assessments
- Produces facility reports for assessments
- Serves as a resource for school liability and facility matters



KCSS Belief

The Kentucky Center for School Safety improves when a school-wide prevention of all students to encourage a safe a

KCSS Staff at KSBA



Kerri Schelling (donated services), Shannon Robinson and Don Martin



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

Serve All of Kentucky's Public Schools



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

FOR SCHOOL SAFETY



our children, for our future

f Statement

y supports the idea that school culture
n plan consistently addresses the needs
and healthy learning environment.



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 Staff at ECU



Jon Akers, Barbara Gateskill, Lee Ann Morrison (donated services), Terry Carr and Nadine Johnson.



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
- In conjunction with ECU, developed RDMC website

KCSS Staff at MSU



Elizabeth Abanathy, Dr. Jack Rose (donated services), Karen McCuiston

Justice and Law Enforcement

Eastern Kentucky University

"Communities throughout the nation recognize that trained, sworn law enforcement officers assigned to schools make a difference".
(U. S. Department of Justice)

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



SRO Mark Branham, Campbell County Schools

The KYASRO Scholarship Award winner for this year is Kathryn Harrison, Montgomery Co. Schools, pictured here with SRO Chris Barrier, Director of Law Enforcement for Montgomery County Schools.



Facts You May Not Know about Kentucky's School Resource Officers (SROs)

- Currently, there are 263 active (SROs) in Kentucky, an increase of 20 since 2013
- The role of SRO is one that means that the law enforcement officers not only enforce the laws in the schools, but also serve as educators, counselors and friends to students and staff members
- SROs receive required, specialized training through the Department of Criminal Justice and the National Association of School Resource Officers
- Most SROs are assigned to work each day in 2 or more schools
- The majority of the SRO's time is spent in the middle and high schools of the school district he/she serves
- At the most recent Safe Schools and Communities Conference, many of the state's SROs presented on topics such as: Surviving the Active Shooter, Bullying, How to Interview Students, Cyber Issues, etc.



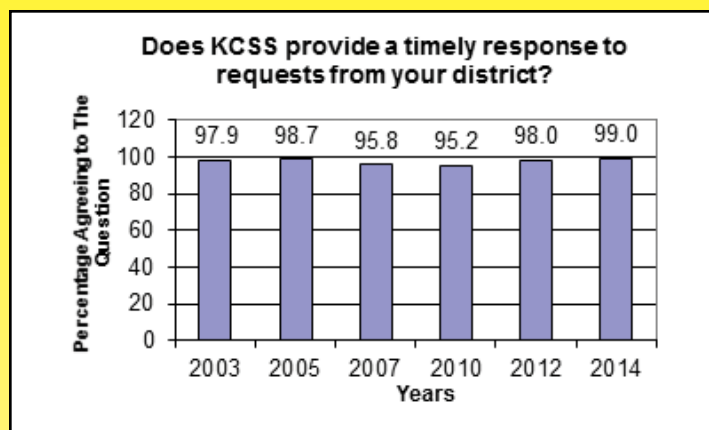
SRO Scott West, Pulaski County Schools, receives the 2014 SRO Rookie of the year Award from SRO Sam Wade, KYASRO President.



SRO John Cavin with Graves County Schools' 2014 DARE recipients.

How Satisfied Were Superintendents with KCSS in 2014?

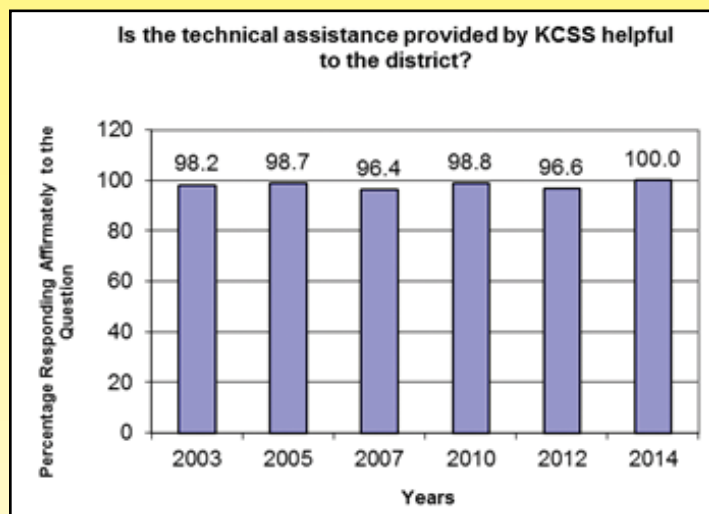
To provide superintendents throughout the state the opportunity to provide feedback regarding KCSS services, all Kentucky superintendents received an online questionnaire via Survey Monkey in January 2015. Superintendents were asked a number of questions regarding areas where KCSS had been helpful to them and/or areas where KCSS could improve its efforts, in their opinion. Responses to the questionnaire yielded overwhelmingly positive results. As the questionnaire administered this year was largely identical to ones used in previous years, we now have six years of data regarding superintendents' perceptions of the effectiveness of the KCSS.



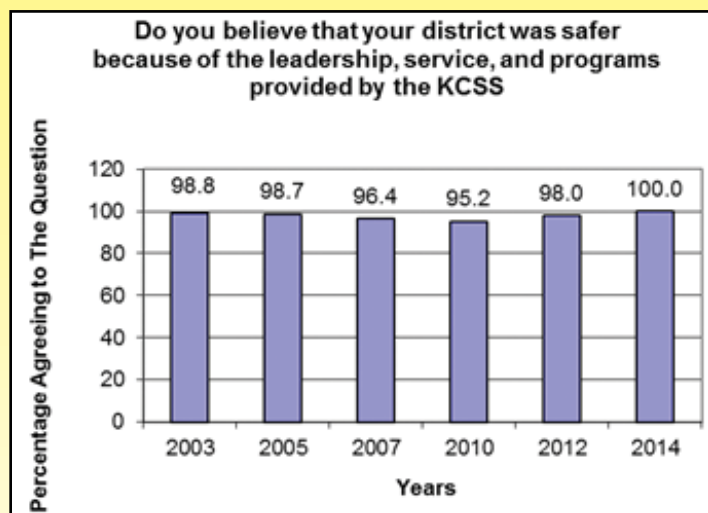
In 2014, the majority (99.0%) of the superintendents agreed that KCSS provides a timely response to requests from their district. This number mirrors those of previous years.



In 2014, all (100.0%) superintendents agreed that the training seminars and conferences offered by KCSS were helpful in aiding schools to maintain safe learning environments in their respective districts, a percentage that was consistent with previous years where practically all superintendents (99.4%, 98.7%, 96.4%, 100.0%, and 96.6% respectively) agreed.



In 2014, all (100%) superintendents agreed that the technical assistance provided by KCSS is helpful to their district and that the KCSS email alerts they receive in times of national, state, or local crisis are helpful to them. This again is remarkably similar to previous years, where over 96% of the superintendents agreed with both statements.

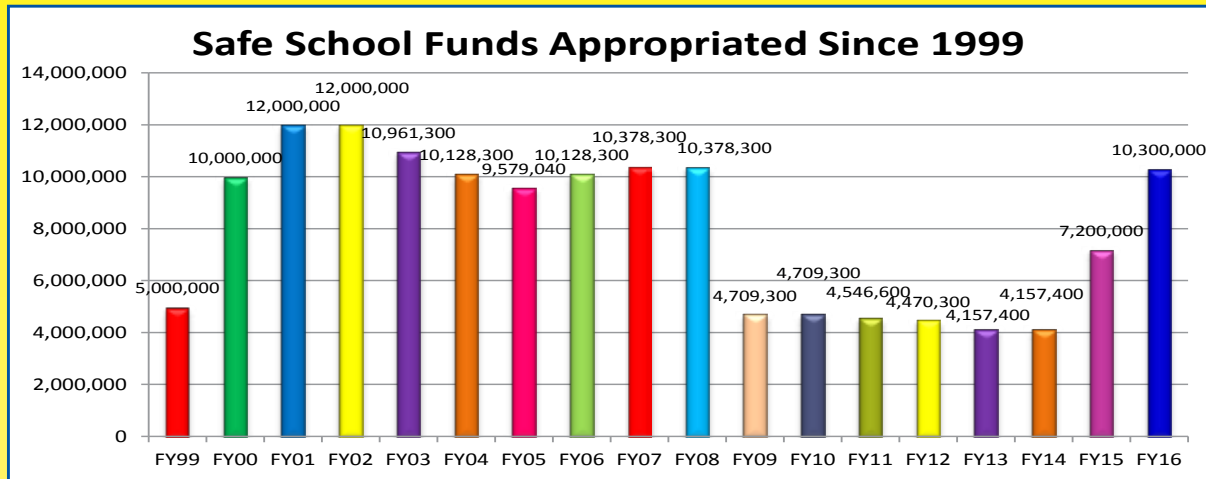


In 2014, all (100%) superintendents agreed that they believed their school district was safer because of the services and programs provided by KCSS. This percentage was also very similar to those in the previous data collection efforts.

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 that \$144 million to support safe school efforts since 1999 as illustrated directly below.



**Breakdown of
Safe Schools Funding**

General Assembly

Kentucky
Department of
Education
(Flow-Through Agency)

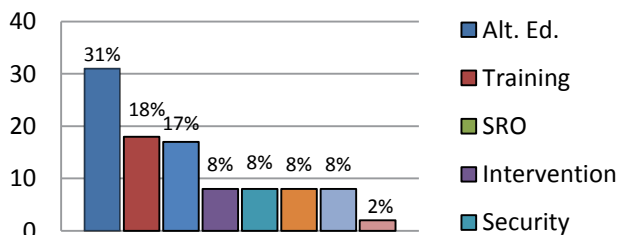
175* Kentucky School Districts
Safe Schools Funding

Kentucky Center for School
Safety Operations

How Kentucky's School Districts are Using Those Funds

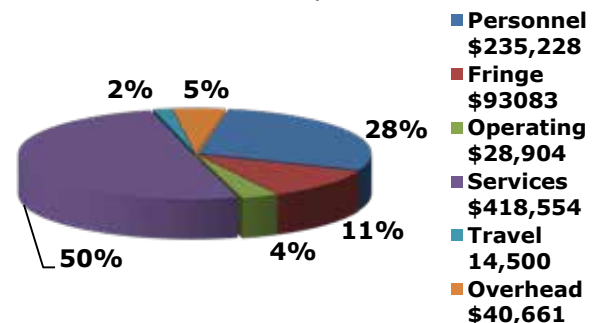
FY14 Allocations to 175 Districts: \$3,329,470

Includes Kentucky School for the Blind and
Kentucky School for the Deaf



How the Kentucky Center for School Safety is Using Those Funds

KCSS Internal Operating FY14 \$830,930



*Includes the KY School for the Blind and KY School for the Deaf

Trainings for Schools and Communities

Kentucky School Boards Association

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.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

(Over 282,051 participants)

- Alternative Education
- Bullying Prevention
- Bus Behavior Management Skills
- Classified Staff Training
- Effective Communication Skills
- Emergency Management Planning
 - Internet Safety
 - Leadership Skills Training
 - Physical Plant Management
- Positive School Culture and Climate
 - QPR
- Student Threat Assessments
 - Substance Abuse Recognition/Prevention

COLLABORATIVE PARTNER

TRAININGS (Over 21,821 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
- Mid-Cumberland Counseling Association
- 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 Coop

STATE AND REGIONAL TRAININGS

(Over 28,489 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
- Legislative Updates concerning School Safety

Safe Schools Resource Center

Website...

The **KCSS** website provides tools and templates that guide administrators and teachers in developing crisis management plans. The website has every detail covered and is chock-full of school safety resources with embedded professional development materials. The straightforward design offers seven tabs at the top of the page and a left-hand menu to easily navigate the site.



Website Statistics

- **www.kysafeschools.org**
 - Over 4 million hits this year
 - Daily Avg hits 12,000
 - 1.2 million page views
 - Over a million hits during Safe Schools Week
- **Most Frequently Visited**
 - SSW Booket of Handouts
 - S.T.O.P.! Tipline
 - Bullying
 - Emergency/Crisis Manual
 - Annual Report
- **Web pages**
 - 558 pages of info
 - 1,281 Printable Resources Provided
 - High-Quality Reviewed Safety External Links



Twitter





S.T.O.P. Tipline

- The **S**afety **T**ipline, **O**nline **P**revention or **S.T.O.P.!** **T**ipline is designed for use as an "online" bullying reporting/prevention tool. Provided free to Kentucky Schools by KCSS.
- Students, parents or community members can report unsafe situations in school (bullying, weapons, drugs or alcohol, etc.) through the school's website.
- This tipline was created, published and piloted during November 2013 using seven school districts representative of the diverse populations across Kentucky. At the present time 55 districts have launched the program on their websites and in their schools.



www.kycss.org/stop



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.

Completed



Presentations...# of attendees

Safe S Week- 2,000
Post Secondary- 550
Safety Topics- 3,500



S.T.O.P. Tipline...

- Assembled and disseminated 325 (57 pages each) Notebooks for Regional Trainings
- 1,300 attendees in Tipline Trainings
- 145,000 students have access to S.T.O.P. Tipline at 55 school districts across Kentucky
- Over 1,000 tips were sent using the Tipline

Spreading the Word...

- Continually updating the Website
- 142,500 resources downloaded
- Filmed "Roundabout U" segment about the STOP Tipline and aired on TV
- 264 Social Media Posts
- STOP Tipline featured in FEMA's "Sharing Ideas and Resources" Keeping our Schools Safe-One of twenty top programs in the nation.

Ky Safe Schools Week

- LEAN On Me; STOP the Bullying!
- Ky Safe Schools Week -October 19-25th
- This year's theme focused on the culture of the school and the interdependence of students and staff to make their school safe, warm and welcoming. Within this overall culture students were encouraged to support each other, connect with the staff and be diligent as they watch out for others in need. This fundamental concept comes straight from the "LEAN On Me" song lyrics, "Sometimes in our lives we all have pain and we all have sorrow".



Safe Schools Week

- Provided Resources**
 - Curriculum, Book of Handouts, Bookmarks, Badges, Stickers, Posters
 - Daily Announcements, PowerPoints
 - Media Campaign
 - Approx 100,000 resources, webpages and materials were viewed, downloaded and used by educators
- Online Pledge**
 - Over 45,000 students and adults took the online pledge



**Together
WE CAN**

STOP
the Bullying

