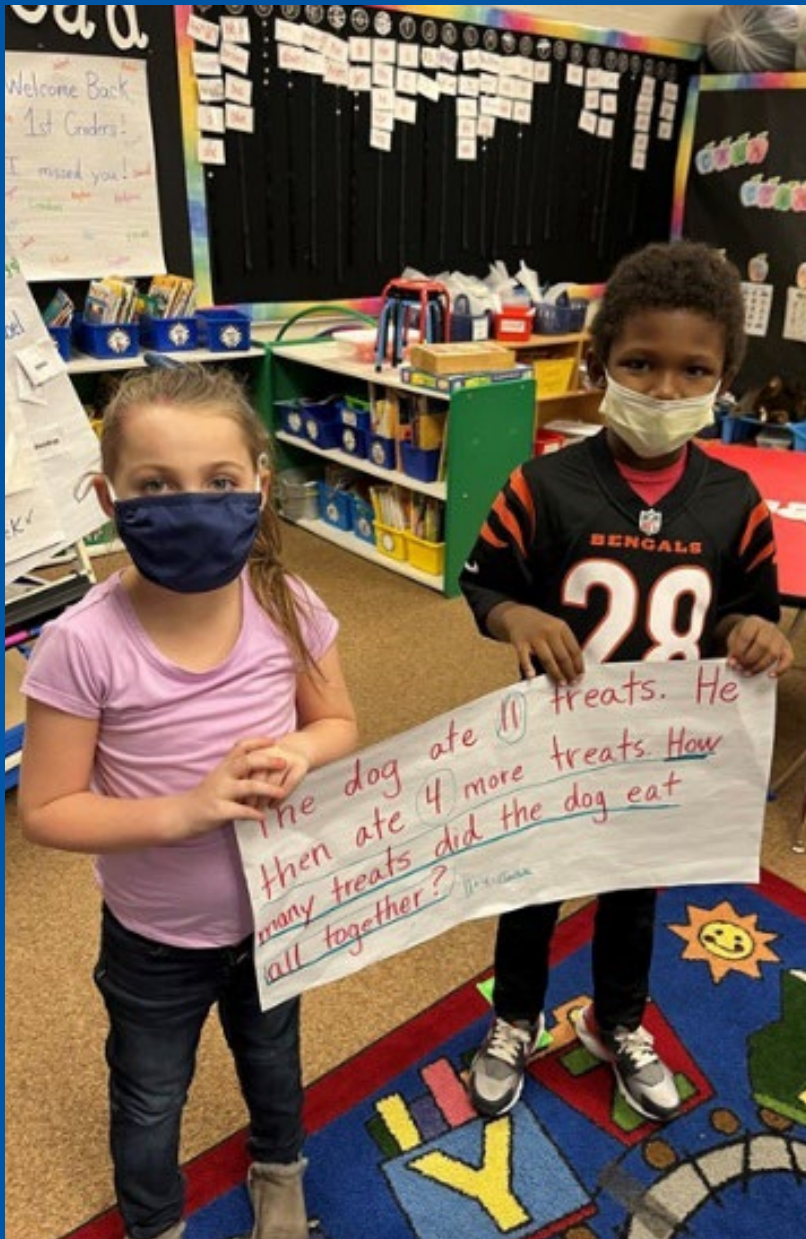


SAFETY

THE PRIMARY GOAL OF KENTUCKY'S SCHOOLS



KENTUCKY CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY



KCSS

For our children, for our future

23rd Annual Report - 2021

Due to the pandemic, which necessitated a suspension or drastic modification to the vast majority of K-12 school schedules statewide, many of the Kentucky Center for School Safety's services were temporarily discontinued during the 2021-2022 school year. As a result, this publication of our annual report is shorter than usual. However, it is our fervent hope that we can resume presenting the normal, more detailed snapshot of KCSS activities in future editions as our school environments transition back to their traditional settings.

Sobering Thoughts from our Executive Director

As I write my annual message for this publication, it is in the aftermath of the Uvalde, Texas school shooting. Like most, I am deeply saddened by this heartbreaking tragedy. It is simply unfathomable that such events still occur.

As members of a humane society, nothing penetrates the very core of our beings more than school shootings. Emotions of extreme grief, fear, and anger surface almost immediately in most of us each unfortunate time it occurs. Yet we know we must persevere even in the face of this latest disaster. And, as always, we must keep the victims and their loved ones in our hearts and prayers as we strive to learn from their horrifying experience in order to further enforce and even strengthen our own school safety plans.



Since it is likely that there will always be disturbed and dangerous people in our society (and others) intent upon harming innocent people, we must be unwavering in our continuous reflection of what we do in Kentucky's schools to prepare for horrific events and other potential emergencies. Moreover, paramount in our mindset toward school safety must be our determination to never allow ourselves to become complacent in our ongoing planning. We must be steadfastly committed to constantly enforcing, improving and updating our safety strategies.

Even now, though, I cannot help but feel somewhat encouraged with the strides our state has made in addressing safety in our public schools. Kentucky legislators have enacted significant pieces of legislation aimed at addressing access control in our schools, while keeping in mind the enormous impact mental health issues have on our students and school staffs. In addition, it has been my observation that, for the most part, K-12 school personnel throughout the Commonwealth are making safety their number 1 priority each and every school day.

Still, I must emphasize that it is critical that schools remain vigilant and adhere to all state laws designed to protect our students and school staffs. This starts with access control and keeping all doors locked during the school day! Classroom doors are to be locked during class time...it's the law...it's non-negotiable!! Sadly, we have seen how unlocked classroom doors or unlocked, unmonitored exterior doors can lead to catastrophic outcomes. What will it take for some resistant individuals in our schools to get the message that they cannot just solely decide to leave a school door open or unlocked? That may well be a decision that one can make at her/his personal residence, but not at a school because such a selfish decision impacts so many others! Again, ALWAYS keep in mind: It is simply non-negotiable.

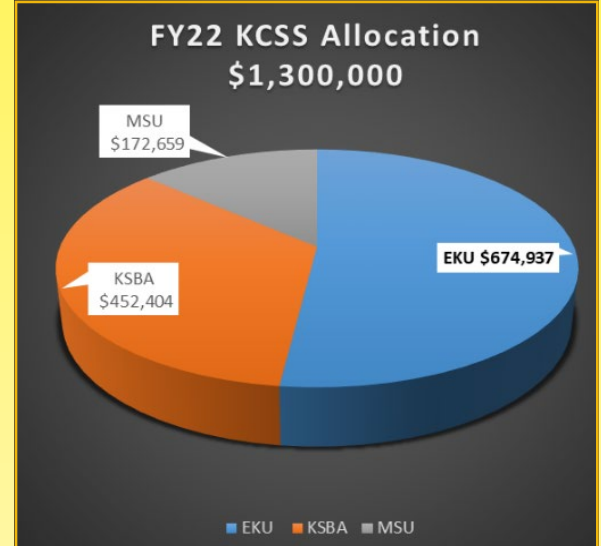
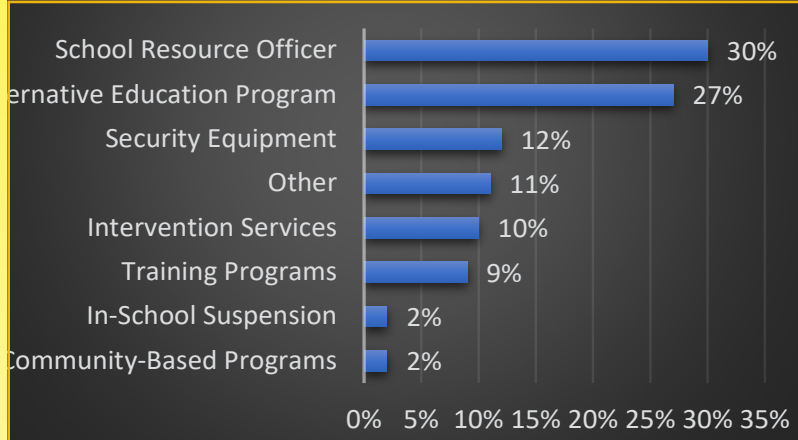
School officials and their staffs have dealt with unprecedented issues during these past three years: Covid, a significant rise in mental health issues among students and staff, a rise in gun violence in our communities, and so much more as schools inevitably mirror their society's ills. Through it all, our school personnel have remained strong and committed to keeping our public schools as safe and healthy learning environments.

Finally, I reiterate that maintaining and continually upgrading school safety is a formidable and never-ending task, yet our schools around the state are doing it valiantly. As a life-long Kentucky educator, I have never been prouder. Because of your hard work, it is both an honor and privilege for the Kentucky Center for School Safety to provide resources and services to our school employees. As always, we will provide immediate assistance to our state educators when called upon, while providing superior training on a host of timely topics. As we look forward to the upcoming 2022-23 school year, I call on each of us in education in Kentucky to remain committed to abiding by and enforcing all safe school laws and current safety practices, as "our kids" enter through our schools' doors each day and look to us to nurture, educate and keep them safe



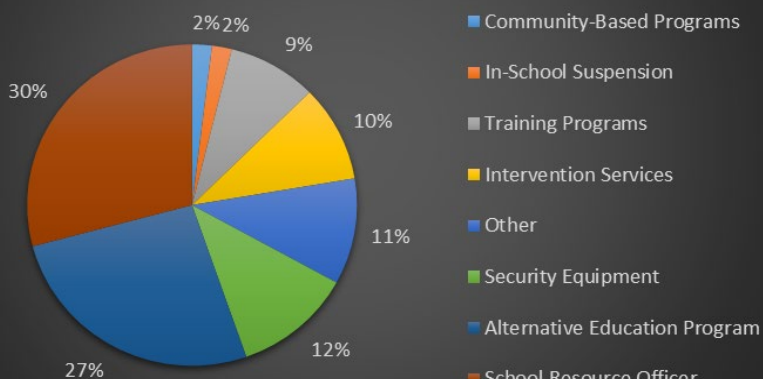
Safe School Funds

Safe School Funds Appropriated Since 1999 and Allocated Through FY22



FY22 Allocation to Kentucky School Districts \$11,507,548

Includes Kentucky School for the Blind, Kentucky School for the Deaf, and Model Laboratory School



BREAKDOWN OF SAFE SCHOOL FUNDS

– The KY General Assembly has appropriated more than \$217 million through the Kentucky Department of Education to support safe school efforts since 1999. In 2022, under House Bill 1, the KY General Assembly passed a two year appropriation of \$13,000,000 for fiscal year 2022-2024. Funding is used by Kentucky school districts for safe school programs and services, and approximately 10% is retained for the Kentucky Center for School Safety operations. Each school district receives a base allotment of \$20,000 in addition to a per pupil amount \$13.15 based on the district's Average Daily Attendance (ADA).

Trainings and Technical Assistance

(KCSS and KSBA Partnership)

KCSS continues to provide training throughout the Commonwealth. Areas in demand have, understandably, been consistent with the guidelines required by the School Safety & Resiliency Act. Conversations have centered on creating effective visitor protocol methods and ensuring proper access control techniques to keep everyone safe and secure. Additionally, our research-based approach to developing and implementing the threat assessment process in schools and districts have been requested throughout the school year. During an unprecedented period of isolation and unique educational approaches, an effective threat assessment process is not only required by the School Safety and Resiliency Act, but also an essential part of a school's overall safety and security plan. KCSS has provided over 70 trainings to more than 50 districts since July 2020. As always, safety, security and supervision assessments are available through the Kentucky Center for School Safety. *Dan Orman, KCSS Training Coordinator (dan.orman@ksba.org)*



Alicia Lombardi, Laura Cole, and Dan Orman at KSBA

INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT NEW PRINCIPALS, The KCSS Principal Mentoring Program.

KCSS has many resources at our disposal that directly pertain to running a safe and effective school program at all levels. All such resources are readily available to the new principal along with KCSS staff to provide immediate (in-person) assistance. In addition, we now nurture and facilitate a "New Kentucky Principal Network" (NKPN) and provide group sharing sessions for the participants to share information and discuss issues they face. New principal mentees are offered periodic training, provided by KCSS, on topics as they develop throughout the school year

Kentucky Center for School Safety

Principal

Mentoring Program



The KCSS Principal Mentoring Program is designed to pair new principals with an experienced administrator who has been specially trained by KCSS to support a new principal in their first years of building leadership.

The new principal will receive:

- One (1) in person meeting with the mentor after regular school hours.
- On an on-going basis, mentors will follow-up with mentees in virtual meetings.
- Mentors will review the requirements of Senate Bill 1 and Senate Bill 8 with mentee.
- Mentors will assist with the development of school climate/culture strategies based on the current climate/culture survey.
- Participants will be provided networking opportunities with other new principals via a Zoom meeting in the spring.
- Mentors will discuss areas of concern with mentees upon request.

To recommend a new principal for this program, please email Jon Akers at jon.akers@eku.edu.



Justice and Law Enforcement

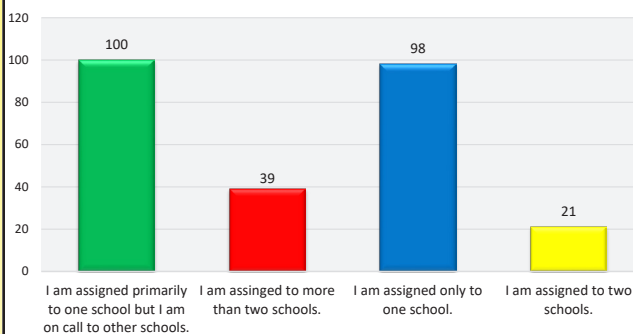


As of
May 2022,
there are
523

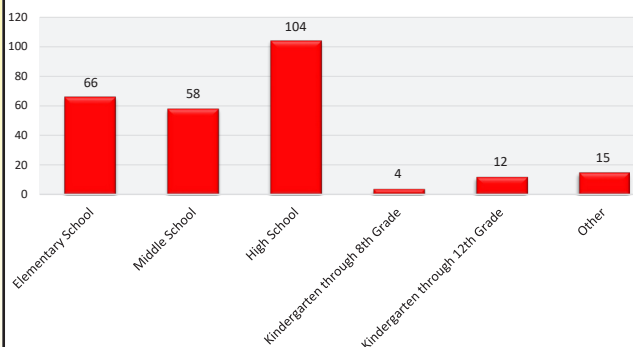
School Resource Officers (SROs) in Kentucky's public schools.
SROs engage in a wide variety of activities at schools, some of which would not traditionally be considered law enforcement activities.



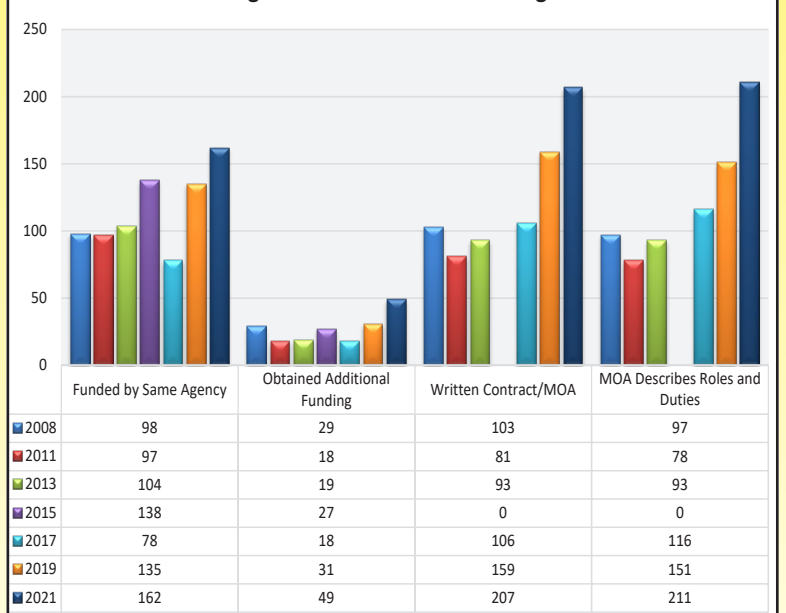
General Assignments of SROs During School Days



Type of School Where SROs are Assigned



Funding Information about SRO Program



These charts provide a current profile of the number and type of schools to which Ky's SROs are assigned, as well as their funding source.

KCSS Board of Directors

Kentucky Center for School Safety



KCSS is guided in its work by a 15-member Board of Directors whose members are appointed by the Governor. KRS 158.441 stipulates the composition of the KCSS 15-member Board. The current board is rich in dedication to Kentucky's schools. The state organizations they represent on the KCSS Board of Directors are foundational to a plethora of resources that support school safety in Kentucky.

Jason E Glass

(Education Commissioner and Chief Learner)

Kelly Foster (Designee)

(Department of Education)

Eric Friedlander, Secretary

(Cabinet for Health & Family Services)

Melissa Goins (Designee)

(Cabinet for Health & Family Services)

Wendy Morris

(Department for Behavioral Health)

Vestena Robbins (Designee)

(Department for Behavioral Health)

Col. Phillip Burnett Jr.

(Commissioner, Department of KY State Police)

Nicolai Jilek

(Commissioner, Criminal Justice Training)

Josh Keats, Executive Director

(KY Office of Homeland Security)

William Todd Kelley

(KY League of Cities)

Denise Bailey Adams

(KY School Boards Association)

Cheryl Beth Dimar

(KY Parent Teacher Association)

Taylor Schlosser

(KY Association of School Superintendents)

James Frederick Poynter

(KY Association of School Resource Officers)

Patricia Ann Glass

(KY School Nurses Association)

Michelle Lynne Antle

(KY Association for Psychology in Schools)

Amy Deniece Riley

(KY School Counselor Association)

Stephanie Ives

(KY Education Association)

Ben Wilcox

(KY State School Security Marshal)

Agency Representation on our Board of Directors



Safe Schools Resource Center

Safe Schools Week

About

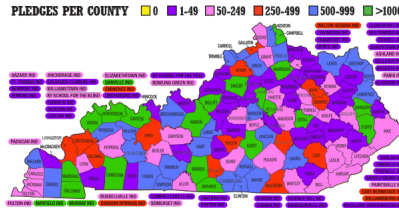
This year's theme was "Be a Safety Star", and focused on the multi-faceted brilliance of what it means to be a SAFETY STAR in school and in life. From the acts of kindness and respectfulness to following all safety rules and guidelines, being a true SAFETY STAR includes shining bright in all these areas. These outstanding students put others first without focusing on themselves.

Safety Star Pledge

Over 64,000 students and adults took the online pledge.



Resource Center Director Karen McCuiston presents during KY Safe Schools Week



Free Safety Resources

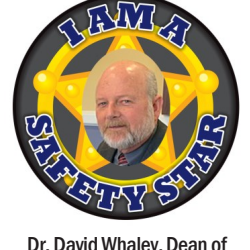
Over 15,000 "Instructional Time" door hangers and other school safety resources provided to schools statewide.



Jon Akers, Executive Director



Karen McCuiston, Resource Center Director



Dr. David Whaley, Dean of Murray State College of Education and Human Services

KCSS Website

About

The KCSS website was revised and reconstructed to enhance the ease of use through redesign. The website provides relevant tools and templates to guide school administrators and teachers in the development of safe school plans. It encompasses a wide range of safety issues from bullying to violence prevention. The website is your one-stop shop for school safety resources and professional development materials.

Prepare & Practice

Virtual and in-person printed materials are available: contact us or look on our website.



Download on the App Store



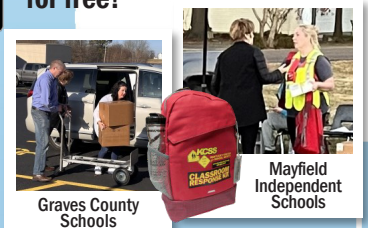
GET IT ON Google Play

KCSS Flipchart App

Type in "KCSS Flipchart" and download the app for free!

Crisis Response

Provided resources for the tragedy on December 10th

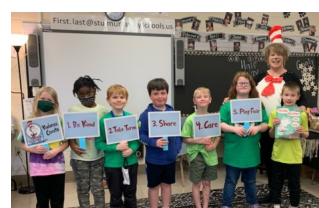


Graves County Schools

Mayfield Independent Schools

In the Classroom and On Campus

Promoting kindness, safety and resilience



The Resource Center is Housed at Murray State University College of Education and Human Services

VISIT: KYSAFESCHOOLS.ORG



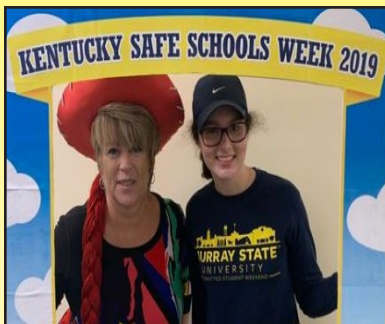
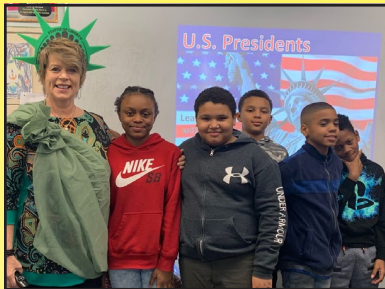
Best Wishes to Our

Karen McCriston

Director, Kentucky Center for School Safety
Resource Center, 2003-2022



Oh, the many hats she has worn and the roles she has played to promote safe schools in Kentucky...



...and now she sails into retirement to have more time to enjoy her lovely and vibrant family!

♥ We will miss you so much, Karen! ♥

