

Hosted by



KENTUCKY CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY



June 10-11, 2025

# 2025 SAFE SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

Great Crossing High School, Georgetown, Ky.

[www.kycss.org](http://www.kycss.org)

## Tuesday, June 10

(All sessions on day one will be held in the auditorium)

- 7:15 – 8:15 a.m. DARE Mandatory Training (Room 115)
- 7:30 a.m. Registration opens (Donuts and Coffee – KYASRO)
- 8:30 – 8:45 a.m. Welcome  
National Anthem – April Brown, Fayette Co. Public Schools

A door prize will be announced at the end of the last general session on Tuesday and Wednesday. You must be present to win.

EILA, approved for 5 hours on day one and 5.5 hours on day two, is available at the registration desk at the end of each day.

### 8:45 – 10:15 a.m. KEYNOTE SESSION: “A Hero’s Daughter; A Survivor’s Journey” Madalena DeAndrea

In this keynote, Madalena DeAndrea deep dives her experience of surviving the Borderline Bar and Grill shooting in Thousand Oaks, CA in November of 2018 where 12 people were tragically killed including a responding Police Officer. Madalena is a current Senior Manager of Strategic Projects, Recovery, and Resiliency for Jeffco Public Schools Department of School Safety; and the daughter of Deputy Chief AJ DeAndrea (Retired) who was in a leadership role in three school shootings that changed the fabric of American society and police response to active shootings around the world. She shares how the protective factors she learned growing up ultimately saved her life and the unfiltered reality of what it takes to experience post-traumatic growth after a profound experience of evil. Madalena also empowers attendees with real-world takeaways, mindsets, and tools they can put into place today to make themselves, their loved ones, and their communities more resilient prior to crisis occurring.



10:15 – 10:30 a.m. Break

### 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. General Session: “Supporting Student Mental Wellness in Small & Rural Schools” Sarah Walsh, Cook Center for Human Connection

This session will equip district leaders with practical, actionable strategies to support student mental wellness in small and rural school settings. Participants will explore ways to ease the burden on existing school-based mental health systems by meaningfully engaging parents and caregivers. The session will also highlight effective approaches to reduce barriers and expand access to mental health resources within rural communities — ensuring students and families receive the support they need, no matter their location.



11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. KYASRO and DARE Award Announcements  
Jon Akers, SRO Promising Program

12:15 – 1:15 p.m. Box lunches available in the cafeteria

### 1:15 – 2:45 p.m. KEYNOTE SESSION: “Child Safety Online: What Everyone Should Know” Stacy Garrett, Vice President, Content & Community Engagement National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children receives millions of reports every year of child sexual exploitation online. These reports offer a deeper understanding of the risks that children face. We’ll examine some of the trends and insights from those reports, including topics like online enticement, sextortion, and generative AI while taking a closer look at how we can work together to protect children in the face of a changing digital world.



### 2:45 – 3:15 p.m. Code Red as a Mental Health Program Mason County Schools students

Students from Mason County Schools will describe CEREL’s CODE RED. Code Red is a universal safety planning training and a suicide prevention program that focuses on personal strategies, support networks, and practical skills like relaxation and distraction techniques. The program aims to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills to navigate mental health challenges and crisis situations. Code Red can benefit individuals seeking personal strategies or ways to support others.



### 3:15 – 3:45 p.m. Update from the Office of the State School Security Marshal

This session will cover an overview of the 2024-2025 risk assessments completed by the Office of the State School Security Marshal. It will also cover any new legislation that concerns school safety and security. The session will cover any new initiatives or concerns for the SRO's before starting the 2025-2026 school year.

## Wednesday, June 11 (Keynote and General Sessions will be held in the auditorium)

7:30 a.m. Registration opens (Donuts and Coffee – KYASRO)

### 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. KEYNOTE SESSION: “Preventing School Shootings”

Peter Langman, Ph.D., is a sought-after expert on the psychology of school shooters and other perpetrators of mass violence. He is a counseling psychologist and author.



The keynote presentation will first identify and refute common misconceptions about school shooters, with an emphasis on moving beyond the stereotypes and highlighting the diversity of perpetrators. It also explains the variations among school shootings, including random, targeted, and mixed attacks. We will then explore three psychological types of shooters – psychopathic, psychotic, and traumatized – using case examples to illustrate the types, and highlighting patterns of failures and rejections that contribute to the shooters’ rage and motivations for violence. The second half of the presentation distinguishes threat assessment as a proactive preventive strategy from emergency response procedures, which are reactive. This section highlights the wide range of warning signs of potential violence, including threats, attack-related behavior, and leakage. It also discusses the barriers that both students and adults may experience that keep them from reporting the warning signs they encounter.

9:30 – 9:45 a.m. Break

### 9:45 – 11:15 a.m. General Session: “Event Safety”

James Stephens, Owner, SafeTSources

This program will outline the basic process of pre-event planning as well as how to implement a more effective event safety/security program.



### 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. General Session: “Kentucky Law Updates Related to School Safety & Promising Safety Practices Observed Throughout the Commonwealth ”

Matt Moore, Legislative Liaison, Kentucky Center for School Safety

Legislators continue to play a critical role in supporting the safety and well-being of students and school personnel across the Commonwealth. In this session, the Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS) will provide an overview of recent legislation passed by the Kentucky General Assembly that impacts school safety expectations for districts. Additionally, we’ll share top safety practices observed during our visits to schools throughout Kentucky.



12:15 – 1:15 p.m. Box lunches available in the cafeteria

### 1:30 – 2:45 p.m. Breakout Sessions

#### 1. Mapping in Schools (Band Room)

Kim Tran, Kiali Jelinek, Lisa Hack, Officers, Fayette County Public Schools

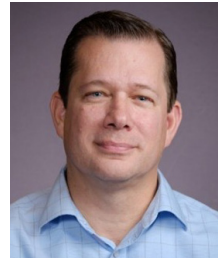
This session will go over the necessity of accurately mapping out schools for first responders, the benefits of mapping, and how it can improve collaboration with other agencies outside the district when providing assistance for all types of events. Additionally, the session will showcase how mapping can be used as a daily tool for officers, and school administration. Presenters will describe different methods of varying ability, time, and cost to successfully map out schools according to state law.



## 2. Behavioral Trends in Students: An Update on Mental Health and Substance Use (Choir Room)

Geoff Wilson, LCSW, Offices of Paul Dalton

This training will provide attendees with an update on current trends related to mental health, behavioral, and substance use with youth. Onset of use, the impact on brain functioning, and the importance of early intervention will be highlighted. The rise in youth mental health issues will be addressed along with warning signs for suicidality. The need for family intervention will be discussed with an emphasis on early screening, assessment, and referral for care.



## 3. School Resource Officers and Administrators Panel (Cafeteria)

Bill Rudie, KYASRO President and KYASRO Board Members

So, what can we do together? School safety is on everyone's mind today. It is no longer just a law enforcement or school issue. It is now a state and national issue requiring teamwork and cooperation among the law enforcement community and school administrators. In this session, SROs and school administrators will have an open conversation about how to build and maintain healthy relationships in the school environment that focus on school safety.



## 4. Developing Effective School Threat Assessment Teams (Room 115)

Wes Cornett, KCSS Consultant, Asst. Superintendent for Estill County Schools

Experienced school leaders will walk participants through a solid, research-based approach to developing and implementing the threat assessment process in their schools and districts. 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. Presenters will share the process for accessing training opportunities for districts (and individual schools, if necessary).



## 5. Medical Lifesaving Skills for Law Enforcement and School Resource Officers (SRO) (Library/Media Room)

Alex Wesley, Pulaski County Sheriff's Dept.

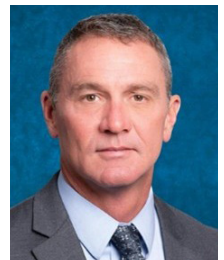
This session will demonstrate how anyone can be a first responder at a natural disaster or school safety event with a medical situation present. Besides addressing a casualty's medical condition, responding SROs/LEOs/ and/or medical personnel must also address the problem faced while providing care in a heightened environment. SROs/LEOs/ and/or medical providers must have the skills and training to function in a stressful environment while successfully providing lifesaving care.



## 6. Family Reunification – Do You Have a Plan? (Auditorium)

Wanda Absher, KCSS Consultant and KYASRO Board Member  
Toby Young, Chief, Pulaski County Schools Police Dept.

Schools have Emergency Plans in place and have drilled for Fire, Severe Weather and Lockdowns, but are they prepared for the next steps? A Family Reunification Plan is often overlooked but is an essential step that should be planned for like any other Emergency Procedure. This session will focus on the why, when, who and how of a Family Reunification Plan. Take back to your district practical step-by-step information in setting up a plan for your school.



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