



Positive Staff-Student Relationships

Ongoing Staff Training

Parent & Guardian Collaboration

Threat Assessment

Behavior Management

Impact of Social Media

Safety Drills

Leverage Technology to Enhance Safety

Continuous Climate & Culture Assessment

Updates to Safety Legislation

Keeping Pace with Behavioral Trends through Intensified Safety Practices in Kentucky's K-12 Schools

From the Vantage Point of our Executive Director



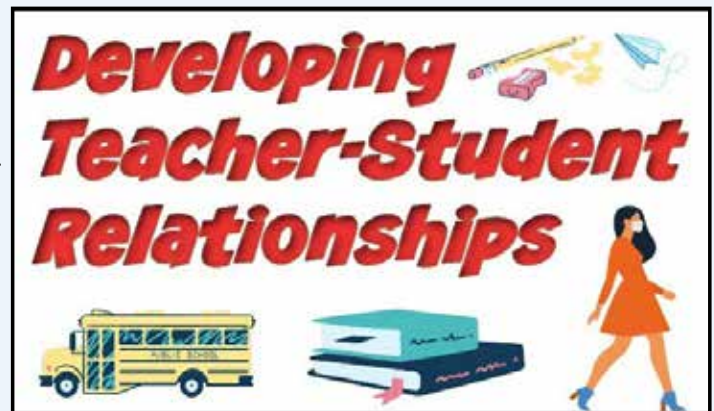
As I reflect on the past 24 years serving in this capacity, I cannot help but recall the multitude of devices (originally designed to protect students and staff during the school day) that have suddenly come onto our radar and then gradually faded from popularity, sometimes even before the end of a school year. In fact, so many products have emerged for this purpose that the product line has now become a multi-billion-dollar industry; all designed (in one form or another) to address school-related emergencies, primarily armed assailants. Moreover, due to the claims of their enormous, potential value at the time, widely promoted by the expenditure of mega-dollars, many schools across the nation (including in Kentucky) have subscribed to some of these products. And, needless to say, some have been quite successful, while others were quickly replaced with newer technologies, strategies and applications, all portending to be a vast improvement over earlier products. This is the ever-changing category of school safety I often refer to as the "Hardware" component.

Of course, we all know that any hardware (by its very nature) will inevitably wear out, need upgrading, and/or perhaps even become obsolete at some point. Still, in today's society, most recognize that such enhancements in school safety (to a certain degree) are needed. Indeed, every school's toolkit for maximizing safety is better when it is multifaceted.

That being said, I do believe, however, that there has always been one mainstay that effectively addresses school safety - one that is enduring and has withstood the test of time. Admittedly, it will occasionally need refining but remains the same at its core. Nevertheless, most safety experts,

including myself, continue to deem it effective and critical to the ultimate goal of developing and maintaining the safest learning environment attainable.

Succinctly stated, it is not another clever, new product. In fact, it is not a product at all, but instead the ever-reliable, simple strategy and ongoing need for the development and maintenance of solid, nurturing relationships between students and staff. Yes, the establishment of these strong ties between school staff members and students is absolutely essential. I will go even further and contend that these relationships are requisite for students within a school to feel confident in their perception of school safety. That is, I firmly believe that until a student perceives that he/she has "trusted" adults at school each day who genuinely care for them and their general wellbeing, they cannot be confident in their perception of safety. This is a reality that I do not believe can be overstated when discussing school safety measures. It must be the bedrock of any school safety plan as it is a school's most powerful tool in their multifaceted safety toolbox.



Bolstering my contention is an interesting claim that I (and I'm sure many of you) have read in recent months. And, although unsubstantiated, I must admit that even when I consider the possibility that it is accurate, it somehow gives me a moderate level of comfort and reassurance. The claim is that for every school shooting that has occurred, at least 25 have been averted because 1 or more students broke the Code of Silence and informed a "trusted adult" in the school that they had either seen or heard something that led them to think something bad was about to happen.

While this claim likely could never be confirmed, most agree that students often are the first to discover another student's plans for violence, and many incidents of potential violence have been averted due to students reporting them to their trusted adult. I can certainly confirm that in my current role, I have been made aware of multiple school scenarios in our state where potential tragedies were thankfully averted because a student had enough trust in a staff member to report it to them. Also, whenever I learn of a similar resolution to a potential school crisis outside Kentucky via the news, I find that it must be powerful, persuasive and motivating to school staffs everywhere to continue their efforts each day to cultivate their relationships with students.

Additionally, while many think of school safety as being primarily about school shootings, the overall safety of a school involves so much more. School leaders and their staffs must address a wide variety of issues that can adversely affect students, thus impacting school safety. Bullying, fighting, mental health issues, student presence in the virtual community, etc., all play huge roles in the big picture of school safety. Again, healthy staff-to-student relationships are more often than not the key to being able to effectively address each of them.

Children in all schools make special connections with school employees (certified and classified) at every level. Their "trusted adult" may be a teacher, counselor, principal, school secretary, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, or etc. In all cases, that adult represents a figurative "safety net" for one family's precious child throughout each school day; being there to listen to and communicate with them regardless of the issue they may be facing. Indeed, the more bonds established between students and staff, the more positive and stable the school's overall climate and culture becomes, which is paramount to school safety.

Back 40 years ago, the main responsibility of public schools was to provide a free and high-quality education for all school-age children. Today, because of myriad changes in our society, the central responsibility has shifted to keeping the learning environment safe enough for students to receive that free and high-quality education.

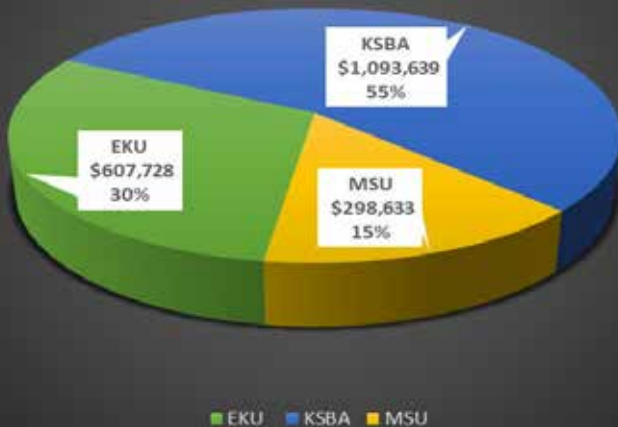
Again, I believe, as do many of my colleagues, that continually striving to develop and maintain a school culture steeped in providing professional, caring and trusted adults for students to turn to at any point while they are at school constitutes the most effective strategy for keeping students safe. Shiny, new devices "supplement" a safety plan/toolbox, but establishing healthy staff-student relationships is the key. I call this component the "Heart-ware" of school safety, and I, personally, never see that changing or becoming obsolete. Suffice it to say, it is a mainstay.

A handwritten signature in red ink, which appears to be "Jon Akers".



Safe School Funds

FY25 KCSS Allocation
\$2,000,000

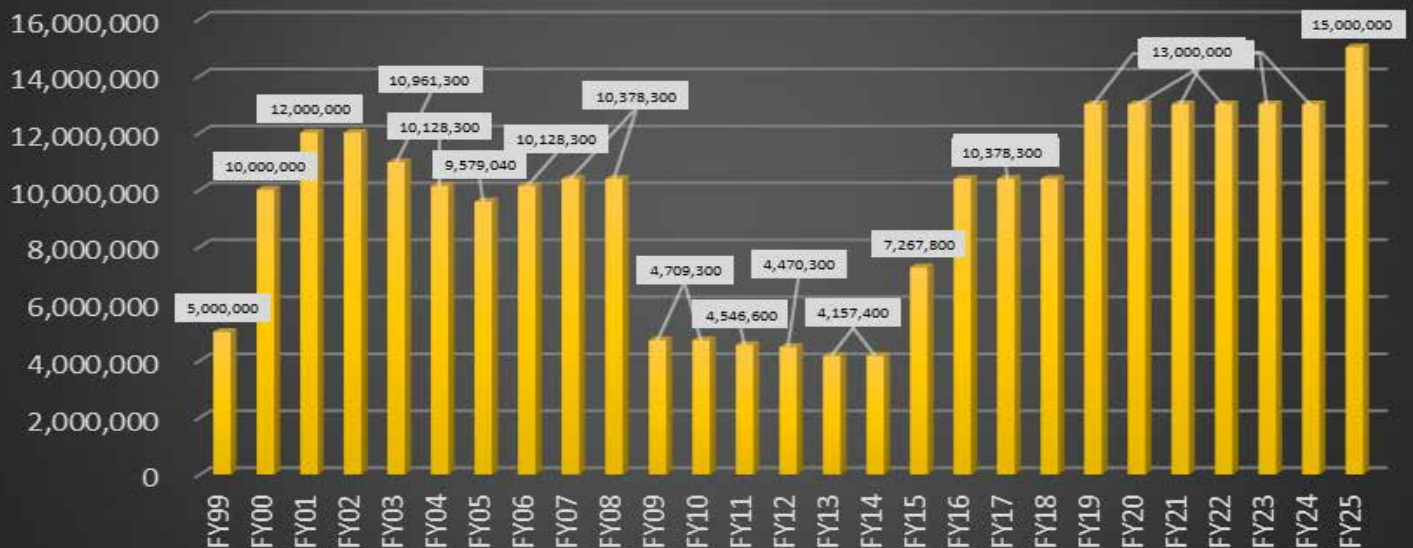


FY25 Allocation to 174* School Districts
\$12,779,000

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



Safe School Funds Appropriated Since 1999 and Allocated Through FY25



BREAKDOWN OF SAFE SCHOOL FUNDS

The KY General Assembly has appropriated more than \$258 million through the Kentucky Department of Education to support safe school efforts since 1999. In 2024, under Senate Bill 91, the Kentucky General Assembly passed a two-year appropriation of \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2025-2026. Funding is used by Kentucky school districts for safe school programs and services, and no more than \$2 million 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 of \$15.71 based on the district's Average Daily Attendance (ADA).

KCSS Staff at ECU



Barbara Gateskill
Associate Director



Tiffany Hardin
Finance & Budget Analyst



Morgan Wilson
Program Coordinator



Lee Ann Morrison
Research Analyst

Executive Board of Directors

2023-2027

Established and defined under KRS 158.441 in 1998, the Kentucky Center for School Safety's Executive Board of Directors is comprised of 15 members, all of whom are appointed by the Governor. The Board oversees the work of KCSS, which includes providing technical assistance to schools, data analysis, research, and the dissemination of information to all school districts, the state legislature, multiple child-serving organizations throughout the state, and others when requested. Each seat on the Board is representative of a state department or organization that has a major focus on the welfare of P-12 students in Kentucky. Such diversity in representation (as illustrated by the listing of member affiliation) allows for rich discussions and informed decisions on a wide variety of perspectives that are impactful to school safety. This leads to the continual assessment and development of innovative and time-sensitive strategies to address problems occurring in our schools.



Robbie Fletcher
Commissioner
Department of Education
Kelly Foster (Designee)



Eric Friedlander
Secretary
Cabinet for Health & Family Services
Melissa Goins (Designee)
Katie Marks
Department for Behavioral Health
Vestena (Tena) Robbins (Designee)



Robert Purdy
Department of KY State Police



Mike Bosse
Commissioner
Department of Criminal Justice Training



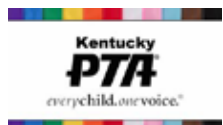
Josiah Keats
Executive Director
KY Office of Homeland Security



Art Ealum
KY League of Cities



Dani Bradley
KY School Board Association



Kathy Smiley
KY Parent Teacher Association



Michelle Lynne Antle
KY Association for Psychology in Schools



William Rudie
KY Association of School Resource Officers



Patricia Ann Glass
KY School Nurses Association



Jeremy Roach
KY Association of School Superintendents



Kyle Thomas
KY School Counselor Association



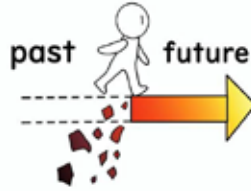
Stephanie Ives
KY Education Association

Then and Now at-a-Glance

Services Expanded



In 2024, under Senate Bill 91, the Kentucky General Assembly passed a two-year appropriation of \$15,000,000 to the Safe School Funding allotment for FY25 and FY26, of which \$2 million were allocated to the Kentucky Center for School Safety. Primarily due to this desperately-needed and generous increase in funding, KCSS was able to significantly increase its service and support to Kentucky's K-12 schools, including several private schools as



illustrated on the chart. KCSS proudly shares resources with and responds to requests from our state's private schools as well on safety matters, whenever possible. It is always the goal of the agency to be the single point of contact for all educators seeking information on school safety practices. Our resource library is designed to be accessible to all for actionable guidance and training.

The KCSS website is <https://kycss.org>. or call 877-805-4277.

2023-2024	2024-2025
Number of Complete Safe School Assessments Conducted in Kentucky Public Schools	Number of Complete Safe School Assessments Conducted in Kentucky Public Schools
84	110
Number of Modified Assessments Conducted in Kentucky Private Schools	Number of Modified Assessments Conducted in Kentucky Private Schools
4	11
Materials Distributed to School Districts by Resource Center	Materials Distributed to School Districts by Resource Center
36,079	40,593
Number of Website Visits	Number of Website Visits
180,560	436,692
Threat Assessment Training Participation	Threat Assessment Training Participation
1,215	1,408
Technical Assistance Recipients	Technical Assistance Recipients
3208	3856
State Conference Presentations	State Conference Presentation
3	8
New Principals Mentored	New Principals Mentored
40	56



Meet Matt Moore

KCSS enthusiastically welcomes Matt Moore! During the 2024-2025 school year, Matt assumed the role of the KCSS Legislative Liaison. Having recently retired as superintendent of Jessamine County Schools and having held many school-level positions throughout his career in public schools before becoming superintendent, he possesses a strong and successful professional background in working with and advocating for K-12 schools in areas that impact them most. With him on our team, we are now better equipped to carry out our mission of providing in-person services to school districts in all (4) corners of our state. Among many other duties related to school safety, Matt now heads up KCSS's portion of the Guardian plan and is also closely

monitoring the development of the School Mapping statute. He has quickly become an invaluable member of our team as we continue to strive to accommodate and assist all of our schools with safety-related matters throughout the Commonwealth. He can always be reached at matt.moore@ksba.org. Welcome aboard, Matt!



Safe School

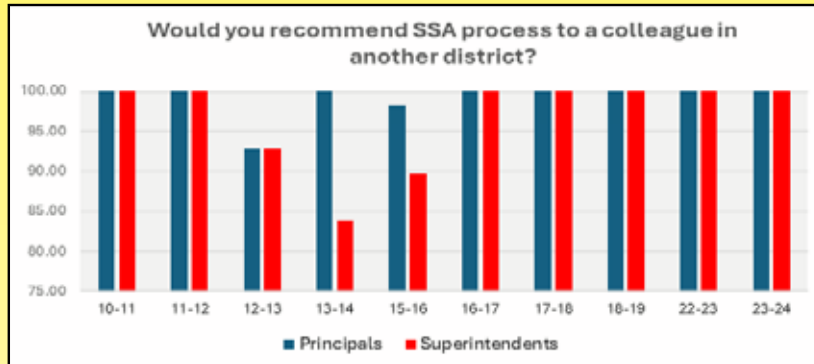
Bardstown City Schools



The safe school assessment (SSA) offered to all K-12 school districts in Kentucky continues to be the Kentucky Center for School Safety's signature service, primarily because of the overwhelming demand for it each school year. Since beginning this assistance to schools, KCSS has conducted (1677) full SSAs in (171) public school districts in the state, as well as at least (40) modified assessments in our private schools, upon their request.

During the previous school year after Kentucky's legislative body was generous enough to significantly increase the KCSS allocation, we were able to complete 110 SSAs in one year alone! For the first time since we began offering this service, we were able to honor all superintendent requests for assessments, without maintaining a waiting list which we had been required to keep since the 2002-2003 school year.

To assess the effectiveness of the SSA process after the conclusion of the school year, KCSS staff sent a questionnaire to the school staffs to elicit responses from principals and superintendents in the affected schools and districts. When asked, *"Would you recommend the SSA process to a colleague in another district,"* all of them responded affirmatively as illustrated.



Illustrated here are a few highlights from several schools we visited during the 2024-2025 school year to conduct safe school assessments. (Images featured are from schools in Graves, Carlisle, Laurel, Jessamine, Powell, Boone, Bullitt, Green and Hancock Counties, along with Southgate, Frankfort, Caverna and Bardstown Independent school districts.) We also conducted (2) full assessments at the Model Laboratory School at ECU and a modified one at Trinity High School in Louisville, KY.



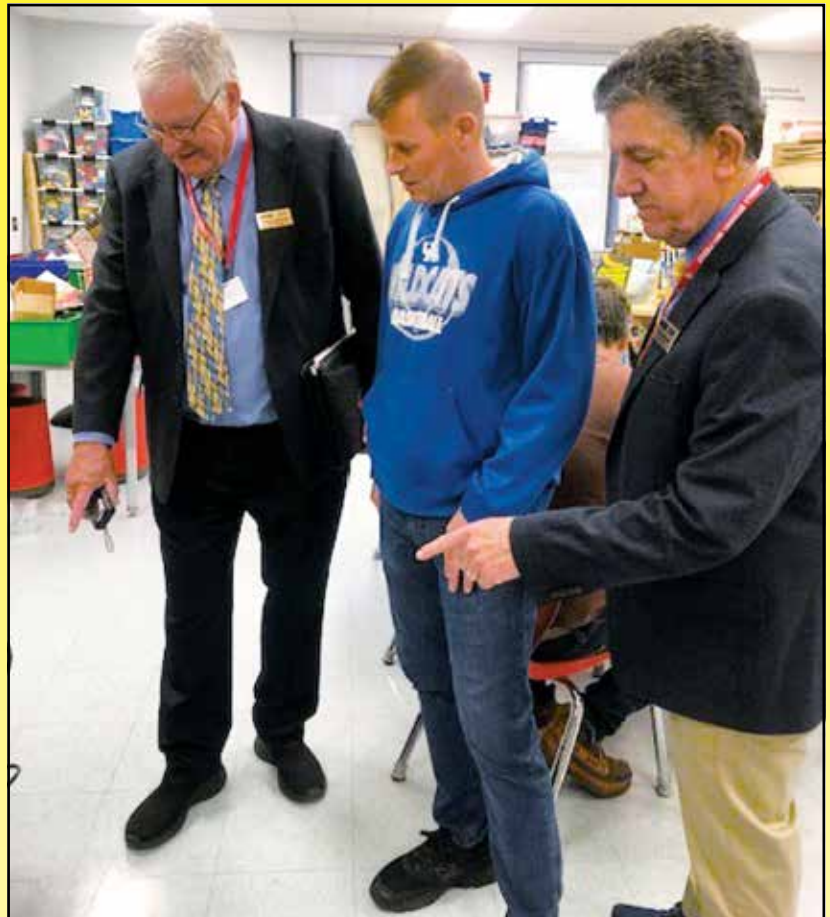
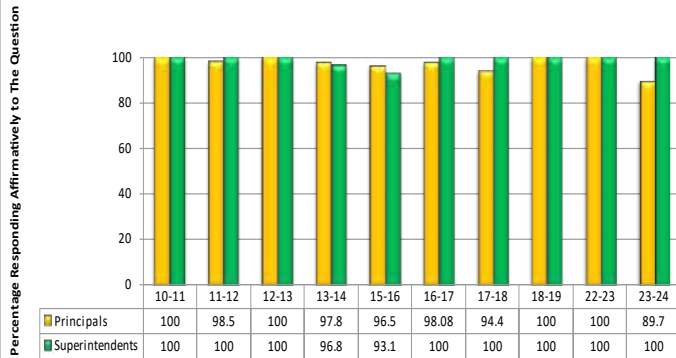
◀ Bullitt Lick

Assessment

Caverna Elementary



Were the identified "Areas of Mutual Concern" legitimate concerns based on your overall knowledge of the school?



Model Laboratory



MODEL LABORATORY SCHOOLS
EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Partners in K-12

School Social Workers

KRS 158.4416 sets a goal for each school district to have at least one school counselor or school-based mental health services provider for every 250 students. School social workers are considered school based mental health providers and are included in the 1:250 ratio set forth in the statute.



In Kentucky, K-12 school social workers are integral to fostering students' academic success as well as their overall well-being. Therefore, school safety is prominent among the vast majority of challenges they face each day as they work with our children throughout the Commonwealth.

They serve as mental health professionals who bridge the gap between students, families, schools, and communities, addressing a spectrum of barriers that can impede the learning of any child. School social workers are critical to the educational landscape in Kentucky, providing essential services that address the holistic needs of students. Through frameworks like KyMTSS and programs such as Sources of Strength, they help create nurturing environments where every student has the opportunity to feel safe and succeed.

Their responsibilities include:

- Collaborating with educators, families, and community agencies to develop comprehensive support plans.
- Providing individual and group counseling to address academic, social, emotional, and behavioral challenges.
- Implementing programs that promote positive school climates and student resilience.
- Advocating for students' needs and connecting families with essential resources.



KCSS Executive Director Jon Akers speaks to school social workers at their 2024 Annual Conference held at the University of Kentucky inside the William T. Young Library.

For more information about school social workers, visit the Kentucky Association for School Social Work's website at kassw.org, or the School Social Work Association of America's at SSWAA.org.

An example of a Tier 1 program that school social worker Lori Vogel leads at Leestown Middle in the Fayette County Schools is Sources of Strength. This evidence-based initiative focuses on enhancing protective factors and promoting mental health among students. By emphasizing strengths such as family support, positive friends, mentors, and healthy activities, the program aims to build resilience and prevent issues like bullying, substance abuse, and suicide.



School social workers play a crucial role in the Multi-Tiered System of Supports framework delivering services and coordinating with other professionals to address students' diverse needs. Kentucky's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (KyMTSS) is a framework designed to provide varying levels of support based on students' needs. It integrates academic, behavioral, and social-emotional interventions to ensure comprehensive assistance for every student.

School social workers support students by:

- Tier 1: Universal Supports – school-wide programs and strategies that benefit all students, like social-emotional learning (SEL) lessons, bullying prevention programs, and positive behavior supports.
- Tier 2: Targeted Supports – Some students may need small group interventions, such as social skills groups, check-ins, or support with managing anxiety or conflict resolution.
- Tier 3: Intensive Supports – For students with more complex needs, school social workers provide individualized support, collaborate on behavior intervention plans, or help connect families with community mental health services.



Fayette Co. students participating in Sources of Strength led by school social worker

2 School Safety

Human Resource Departments

The Human Resource professionals in our Kentucky school districts continually demonstrate their commitment to maintaining safe and supportive environments by working collaboratively with our superintendents, principals, SROs, and external school partners.

Represented statewide by their professional organization, the Kentucky Association of School Human Resource Managers (KASHRM), they focus on providing resource and training for all HR professional leaders in K-12 schools within the state. Their mission is to support these leaders, who play a vital role in school district success, particularly amidst challenging conditions.



"Never has the role of HR leader been so vital to the success of a school district. The unprecedented conditions facing schools and their employees are daunting at best and devastating at worst." (KASA)

"School safety is everyone's responsibility — and putting the human back in Human Resources means making safety a top priority!" (KASHRM)



The full picture of safety in our schools involves so much more than physical concerns. When we view school safety, we must also closely examine the emotional and psychological wellbeing of those who make up the school setting each day. This is where our schools' human resource departments play such a critical and often behind-the-scenes role in ensuring the safety of students, staff, and the broader school community.

*Outgoing KASHRM President Dr. Milli McIntosh,
HR Director – Simpson Co. Schools &
Current President Amanda Henderson, HR Director- Marshall Co. Schools*

HR Directors support and advance school safety by:

Safe Hiring = Safe Schools

- HR conducts thorough background checks and reference verification to ensure that only qualified, trustworthy individuals are hired. Applicants are screened and carefully vetted to ensure each applicant meets high ethical standards. And, sometimes a "gut feeling" contributes to the process as well.
- Ongoing monitoring and compliance with state and federal child safety laws are top priorities.
- All certifications and credentials are verified prior to hiring.

Training That Saves Lives

- HR organizes professional development focused on emergency preparedness, mandated reporting, trauma-informed care, and recognizing behavioral red flags.
- Safety training is required, and staff are refreshed regularly to keep them alert and informed.
- KASHRM provides ongoing professional development opportunities through boot camps, conferences, and other events, keeping HR professionals updated on the latest trends and best practices.

Working Together with School Resource Officers (SROs)

- HR collaborates with SROs to ensure a visible, proactive campus security presence.
- Together, they can coordinate drills and safety reviews to ensure all schools are equipped to handle emergencies.

Policies That Protect

- HR develops and enforces district-wide policies on bullying, harassment, discrimination, and workplace violence.
- Policies are continuously updated to meet legal requirements and reflect best practices in school safety.
- KASHRM provides leadership training for HR professionals, helping them navigate legal, policy, and best practice issues.

Wellness is Safety

- HR supports staff mental health through Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs), counseling access, and wellness initiatives.
- Promoting a positive and healthy work culture contributes directly to safer schools.

Support

- KASHRM understands the unique challenges and opportunities faced by HR leaders in K-12 schools and provides support and resources to help them succeed.
- KASHRM offers opportunities for HR professionals to connect with peers, experts, and legal professionals, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Employee Relations Fosters Stable, Safe Environments

- HR conducts internal personnel investigations to ensure the safety of employees and students.
- Acting as a mediator, workplace disputes can be addressed to protect positive culture and prevent escalation.

School Safety

Principal Mentorship Program (PMP)

The KCSS Principal Mentor Program utilizes specially trained, seasoned principals. With the support of and recommendation from the district superintendent, each principal mentor is only a personal cell phone call, text, or email away from his/her mentee. All KCSS mentors have been highly successful in their own careers and use their experience and expertise to work throughout the school year with new principals and assistant principals. The collaboration they have with their assigned mentee is non-evaluative as their sole purpose is to assist new principals in learning to problem solve, not to evaluate them.

This valuable service offers each mentee a flipchart designed specifically to keep new principals on track with many of the responsibilities they have each month throughout the school year. Called the “K-12 PRINCIPALS TO-DO LIST,” this flipchart breaks down principals’ responsibilities on a monthly basis, divided into tasks required by Kentucky revised statutes, as well as those specific to safety, academics, and operations. Additionally, each mentor carefully reviews the KCSS website with mentees, where principals can find all kinds of help to be successful in guiding their schools.

It is our hope that the KCSS Principal Mentor Program will be able to continue training, encouraging, and supporting new principals as they grow their leadership skills. Our mentors seek to train new principals to be visionary leaders who can provide outstanding instructional leadership wherever their careers may lead them.

Presently, we have 13 mentors working with 56 mentees.

The New Principal (Mentee) Will Receive:

- One (1) in person meeting with the mentor after regular school hours;
- Follow-up on an on-going basis through virtual meetings;
- Thorough review of the requirements of the School Safety and Resiliency Act;
- Continual mentoring to assist with the development of school & culture Strategies based on the current survey;
- Networking opportunities with other new principals via Zoom meeting in Spring;
- Discussion of Areas of Concern upon request



Mentor Kem Cothran consults with Mentee Keri Cornwell at Graves County Central Elementary.



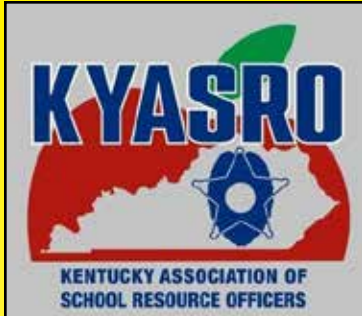
Mentor Kate McAnelly (left) attended the Career Day organized by her 1st-year Principal Mentee Jessica Prater at Herald Whitaker MS in Magoffin County.



For further information, contact KCSS Executive Director, Jon Akers at jon.akers@eku.edu, or Principal Mentor Program Coordinator Denny Vincent at dennyvincent1@gmail.com

Enhancement

Justice and Law Enforcement



The role of the SRO in Kentucky's schools is multifaceted; however, the core of each of their many functions has been best explained by SRO Chris Barrier who is Chief of Police for the Montgomery County Schools....



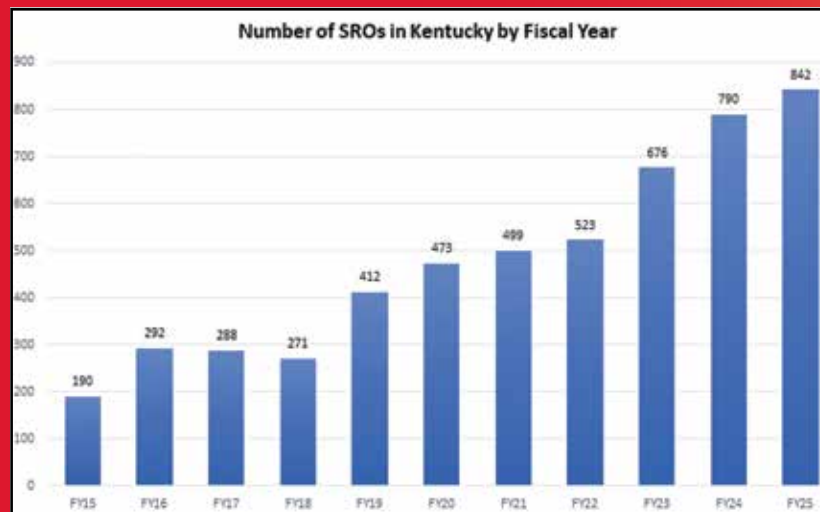
"We foster positive culture in the schools, we build long-term meaningful relationships with students and staff." For me, that is the most important thing that we do."

Kentucky Revised Statute 158.441 defines an SRO as "a sworn law enforcement officer who has specialized training to work with youth at a school site." It also stipulates that "the officer shall be employed through a contract between a local law enforcement agency and a school district." Such statutory language was critical to the development of the SRO program for three reasons: 1) it required SROs to have specialized training; 2) it recognized the importance of having a written contract between the two agencies to clarify the duties of the officer; and 3) it formally recognized SROs as a specialized field of law enforcement.

There are currently 842 reported SRO positions in Kentucky school districts, plus Model Lab School at EKU. A third of SROs are employed by their respective sheriff's department or local/county police agencies. The remainder are employed by school-based law enforcement agencies. There are approximately 1,100 school campuses in Kentucky.



Jessamine Co.



Current number of SROs assigned to K-12 Schools

of SROs assigned to 1 school: **609**

of SROs assigned to 2 schools: **147**

of SROs assigned to 2 or more schools: **86**

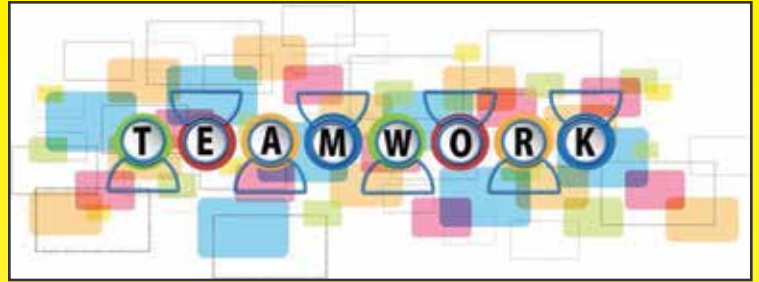


The Cumberland County School District received the distinguished "SRO Promising Program" designation in 2025. KCSS recognizes one school annually that demonstrates exemplary service, relationship-building, and impact within Kentucky schools. Jon Akers, KCSS Executive Director, presented plaques to Cumberland County Sheriff Keaton Williams and Superintendent Dr. Kirk Biggerstaff at an awards ceremony held at the Cumberland Co. High school.

Trainings and Technical Assistance

Achieving Commitment over Compliance

The partnership between KSBA (Kentucky School Boards Association) and KCSS continues to provide trainings and technical assistance to K-12 schools throughout the state. KSBA is to be commended as a partner to KCSS. Under Kerri Schelling's leadership, KSBA continues to play a vital role in assisting school district boards of education as they continue to search for ways to keep everyone safe and secure.



All training sessions and activities provided under this partnership allow personnel to continuously revisit the major points of the School Safety and Resiliency Act and the impact it has on everyone working in schools. It is the first line of defense against those who, for many reasons, might threaten safety and security in a school. It addresses not only what the law requires, but why it is required.

Vigilant adults, locked doors and focusing on relationship building are keys to keeping a school community safe. Following the guidelines and helping each other to do so requires “commitment over compliance”, a key concept in school safety and security for everyone, especially school principals and School Safety Coordinators. Several KCSS staff and consultants are utilized for their expertise and experience in assisting schools/school districts on a variety of topics from *Gatekeeper Training* to *Social Media Hazards to Building & Grounds* concerns.



KCSS also proudly assists private schools throughout the Commonwealth in their school safety & security enhancement efforts, providing modified assessments,



Lori Downs and Chele Gillon discuss Threat Assessment and the Pathway to Violence aspect of the initial training session.



Consultant Ray Woodyard reviewing access control measures during a private school assessment.



Matt Moore (KCSS Legislative Liaison), Alicia Lombardi (Administrative Assistant), Kerri Schelling (KSBA Executive Director), and Dan Orman (KCSS Training Coordinator)

Threat Assessment

Requisite of Law & Critical to School Safety

A comprehensive threat assessment process is a critical component of any school's safety and security strategy. Recognizing that fact, the Kentucky State Legislature passed the School Safety and Resiliency Act in 2019 *requiring all of Kentucky's public schools to develop and implement procedures to assess and respond to threatening behavior.*

Drawing from the latest research, the KCSS Threat Assessment Training equips school teams with the tools to recognize and respond to concerning behaviors before they escalate. Follow up sessions also introduce

"One of the most useful tools a school can develop... is a multidisciplinary school threat assessment team."

Fig. K2 - Guide for Developing High Quality School Emergency Operations Plans, FEMA, US Dept Ed. DHS, FBI, 2013



Threat Assessment Training in the Middlesboro Independent school district conducted by KCSS Consultant Wes Cornett.



KCSS Threat Assessment Training Team with Dr. Peter Langman (3rd from left) in session at GRREC in Bowling Green.

Important Note:

To discuss or schedule a threat assessment training for any K-12 district/school in the state, contact KCSS Training Coordinator Dan Orman by email at Dan.Orman@ksba.org or phone at 502-424-8652.

participants to Digital Threat Assessment training and creating Student Safety & Support Plans in supporting students who may be showing threatening behavior (s) in schools.

The Kentucky Center for School Safety employs experienced school leaders—extensively trained in the U.S. Secret Service and National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) protocols—to facilitate and guide school leaders through a proven, research-based approach to identifying and managing potential threats in Kentucky schools.

Using real-world scenarios, the training provided by KCSS affords school leaders the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how to implement threat assessment protocols effectively, thereby fostering safer learning environments for all.

Threat Assessment Procedures include:

- Receive Report of Possible Threat (written, social media, verbal, etc.)
- Screen Report
- Gather Information
- Organize and analyze information
- Make Assessment
- Develop and implement Case Management

KRS 158.4412 Appointment of district's school safety coordinator -- School safety coordinator's functions and duties -- Policies and procedures excluded from application of KRS 61.870 to 61.884 -- Limitation of civil and criminal liability for school district, school safety coordinator, and school employees acting in good faith.

KRS 158.4412 (2)(b) Designate a school safety and security threat assessment team at each school of the district consisting of two (2) or more staff members in accordance with policies and procedures adopted by the local board of education to identify and respond to students exhibiting behavior that indicates a potential threat to school safety or security. Members of a threat assessment team may include school administrators, school counselors, school resource officers, school-based mental health services providers, teachers, and other school personnel.

KRS158.4412 (3) The school district, school safety coordinator, and any school employees participating in the activities of a school safety and security threat assessment team, acting in good faith upon reasonable cause in the identification of students pursuant to subsection (2)(b) of this section shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed from:

- (a) Identifying the student and implementing a response pursuant to policies and procedures adopted under subsection (2)(b) of this section; or
- (b) Participating in any judicial proceeding that results from the identification.

Resource Center

KY Safe Schools Week

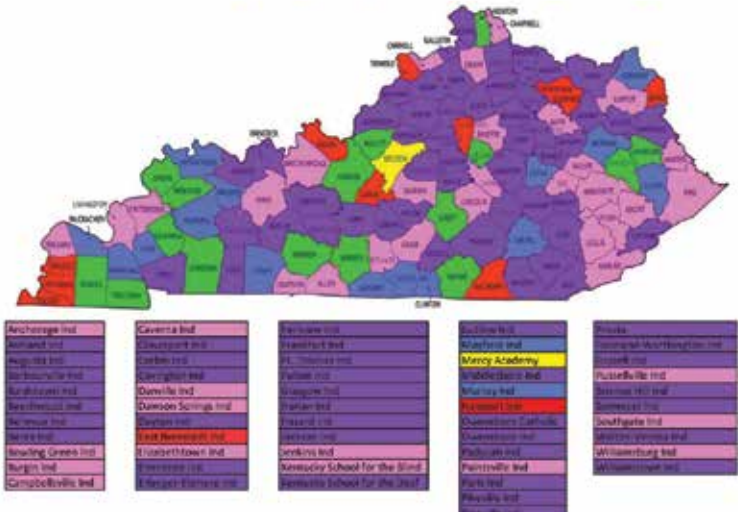
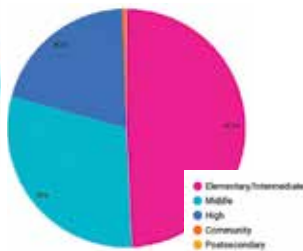
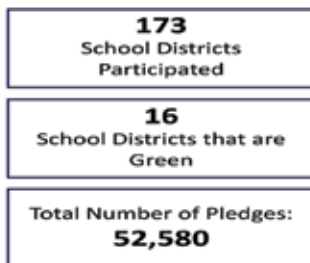
Level Up: This week aims to “Level Up” school safety. Schools can promote and enhance school safety through targeted activities and discussions. The goal is to raise awareness about various aspects of school safety and empower students, teachers, parents, and the community to take proactive measures to create a safe learning environment..

I pledge to “Light the Way” by:

- Starting with safety
- Being a cyber guardian
- Being prepared
- Teaming up with kindness

“Level Up” Pledge Map:

Over 52,000 students and adults took the online pledge.



Connected with over 3,000 students, community stakeholders, faculty and staff members of schools across the Commonwealth by presenting on multiple school safety-related topics.

Follow us at:



@KCSSnews

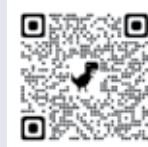


@KYSCHOOLSAFETY

- Over 500 Classroom Response Kits distributed to schools across the Commonwealth
- In total, over 60,000 pages of safety resources distributed
- Reached over 76,000 on social media pages

Request KCSS Resources Form Developed

QR Code Link to Form:



Patricia Greer
Director

Elizabeth Abanathy
Program Coordinator



KCSS Website

KCSS Website

The KCSS 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.

New Resources

- Resources by Role: Athletic Administrator
- School Safety Issues: Sexting/Sextortion page updated with additional resources
- Principal Mentoring page now includes a monthly principal update
- Highlighted SRO Appreciation Day with photo gallery
- School Safety Issues: Bullying and Harrassment page updated with Bias resources



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FEATURED TOPICS RESOURCES BY ROLE SCHOOL SAFETY ISSUES EMERGENCY PROCEDURES SAFE SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS TRAINING & COMPLIANCE RESOURCES & RESPONDERS REPORTS

Click on Top Navigation to Access KCSS Resources

Visit Kentucky Center for School Safety online: www.kycss.org



Website Traffic

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Hits
January	9,334	16,258	1,675,141
February	9,098	16,625	1,726,685
March	9,671	22,783	1,427,756
April	15,731	52,556	1,484,515
May	10,845	33,034	1,103,351
June	9,457	13,777	393,553
July	13,804	21,811	473,964
August	23,891	51,708	1,421,759
September	26,768	62,738	1,978,603
October	30,247	80,718	4,669,699
November	17,473	30,846	1,147,404
December	16,456	33,838	1,063,199
Totals	192,775	436,692	18,565,629
Average per Month	16,065	36,391	1,547,136

Collaboration Strengthens School Safety



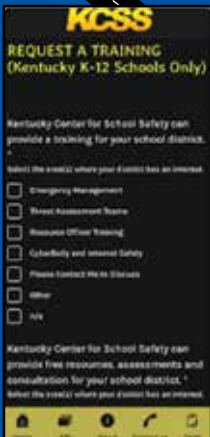
Danville Ind.



June 2024 -
Principal
Recovery
Network in
Washington, D.C.



Dawson Springs Ind. (Principal)



Muhlenburg Co. (Staff Meeting)



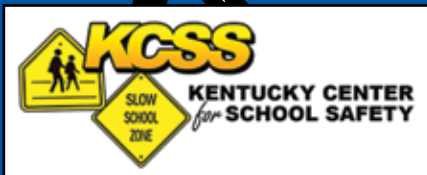
Safe School Assessment at Gallatin Co. Schools



Grant Co. School Resource Officers



Jefferson Co.
KFCIA DISTRICT COACH OF THE YEAR
JOSHUA ABELL
PEARL CREEK HIGH SCHOOL
KA DISTRICT 4



Threat Assessment Training at Knox Co. Schools

All Elements (and many more) Contribute to School Safety



Boone Co. KY High School
Teacher of the year, Hayley Dant

Kentucky Center for School Safety, Eastern Kentucky University

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The Annual Report was written and produced by Kentucky Center for School Safety staff. | For more detailed information, visit www.kysafeschools.org
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