Preventing School Violence: Improving Physical Security to Protect the K-12 Community

Arizona Business & Education Coalition School Safety & Security Summit

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DON HOUGH, DEPUTY ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR | CISA SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE
ANDREW DOMINIC, PROGRAM SPECIALIST | CISA SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE
DAVID AGOSTO, PROTECTIVE SECURITY ADVISOR | CISA REGION 9

Agenda

- **K-12 RISKS & THREAT ENVIRONMENTS**

- **SCHOOL SAFETY BEST PRACTICES**

- **CISA K-12 SCHOOL SECURITY GUIDE 3RD EDITION SUITE**

- **PSA RESOURCES**

Our School Safety Perspective

OVERVIEW

The CISA School Safety Task Force (SSTF) was established to support the Federal government's efforts in strengthening the safety and security of kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) schools across the country. The SSTF's work centers around building the capacity of K-12 school safety community and administering the **Federal School Safety Clearinghouse** and **SchoolSafety.gov**

SCHOOL SAFETY ISSUE AREAS

> Bullying and Cyberbullying

> Child Exploitation

> Cybersecurity

> Emergency Planning

> Infectious Disease & Public Health

> Mental Health

> Physical Security

> School Climate

> Targeted Violence

> Treat Assessment & Reporting

MISSION

The SSTF enhances the safety and security of schools by:

Fostering change through outreach, engagement, and educational campaigns

Facilitating action by creating, coordinating, and disseminating resources, products, and tools to support schools in implementing and strengthening their physical security postures

Equipping Stakeholders with training and expertise to apply recognized best practices in the context of their specific communities, venues, and schools

What Teachers Are Saying...

	1ST MOST COMMON	2ND MOST COMMON	3RD MOST COMMON	4TH MOST COMMON	5TH MOST COMMON	6TH MOST COMMON	7TH MOST COMMON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS	57% Bullying	10% Teacher Attacks	8% Fights	7% Self-Harm	7% Other Crimes	6% Active Shooter	3% Drugs
MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS	58% Bullying	17% Fights	8% Self-Harm	7% Drugs	4% Active Shooter	3% Other Crimes	2% Teacher Attack
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS	31% Bullying	25% Drugs	17% Fights	13% Self-Harm	4% Other Crimes	4% Active Shooter	3% Teacher Attacks
ALL LEVELS TEACHERS	49% Bullying	12% Fights	11% Drugs	10% Self-Harm	6% Teacher Attacks	5% Other Crimes	5% Active Shooter

Current Trends within the K-12 Environment

Targeted Violence

67% of public schools reported having at least one violent incident, and 59% reported having at least one nonviolent incident.[1]

Cybersecurity Threats

Since 2016, there has been a total of 1,331 publicly disclosed school cyber incidents affecting U.S. school districts across a wide array of incidents.[2]

Hoax Calls & Swatting

In the 2022-2023 school year, 63.8% of all violent incidents were false reports of an active shooter within the school (i.e., Swatting).[3]

Unreported Concerning Behavior

94% of school attackers told a classmate or someone within their school about their plans for violence prior to taking action.[4]

Sources:
[1] DoE National Center of Educational Statistics, 2024. [2] K12 Security Information Exchange (K12 SIX), 2022.
[3] Educator's School Safety Network, 2022. [4] U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center, 2021

SchoolSafety.gov

SCHOOLSAFETY.GOV

FEDERAL SCHOOL SAFETY CLEARINGHOUSE

Federal and State Resources, Guidance, and
Tools to Create Safe School Environments

SUPPORTING STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS ARE INNATELY CONNECTED TO STUDENTS' SUCCESS IN THE CLASSROOM AND TO A THRIVING SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT.

PREVENTING BULLYING

BULLYING & CYBERBULLYING INCREASES THE RISK FOR DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, SLEEP DIFFICULTIES, LOWER ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, AND DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL.

AVERTING VIOLENCE

IMPROVING SCHOOLS' PHYSICAL SECURITY AND INVOLVING SCHOOL PERSONNEL WHO ARE TRAINED TO PREVENT, RECOGNIZE, AND RESPOND TO THREATS OF VIOLENCE.

HOLISTIC SAFETY

ENSURING ONLINE SAFETY

THESE ATTACKS CAN IMPACT A SCHOOL'S ABILITY TO CARRY OUT ITS EDUCATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND PROTECT SENSITIVE STUDENT AND STAFF DATA.

IMPROVING SCHOOL CLIMATE

DEVELOPING STUDENTS WITH STRONG CHARACTER WHO ARE CONNECTED TO THEIR PEERS, EDUCATORS, AND COMMUNITIES IN MEANINGFUL WAYS CAN IMPROVE SCHOOL CLIMATE, AND BEHAVIORAL AND ACADEMIC OUTCOMES.

INTERVENING WITH SUPPORT EARLY

IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS THREATENING OR ESCALATING BEHAVIORS BEFORE THEY LEAD TO VIOLENCE.

TRAINING, EXERCISES, & DRILLS

PREPARES STUDENTS, TEACHERS, STAFF, PARENTS, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR THE ACTIONS TO TAKE BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER SAFETY INCIDENTS.

SchoolSafety.Gov
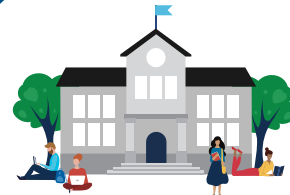
SAFETY TOPICS

- **BULLYING & CYBERBULLYING**
- **CHILD EXPLOITATION**
- **CYBERSECURITY**
- **EMERGENCY PLANNING**
- **INFECTIOUS DISEASES & PUBLIC HEALTH**
- **MENTAL HEALTH**
- **SCHOOL CLIMATE**
- **TARGETED VIOLENCE**
- **THREAT ASSESSMENT & REPORTING**

KEY TOOLS & FEATURES

- **SAFETY READINESS TOOL**
- **STATE SEARCH TOOL**
- **RESOURCE LIBRARY**
- **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**
- **GRANTS FINDER TOOL**
- **K-12 COMMUNITY BULLETIN**
- **COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**

LINK: SCHOOLSAFETY.GOV

Targeted Violence

Prevent and mitigate targeted violence incidents.

Targeted violence refers to violence that is premeditated and directed at specific individuals, groups, or locations. Targeted violence is distinct from violence that is impulsive, random, or spontaneous and is often distinguished by pre-attack behaviors that suggest violence as a possible outcome.

During the 2017–18 school year, **80 percent of public schools** recorded that one or more incidents of violence, theft, or other crimes had taken place, amounting to **1.4 million incidents.**

In 2019, students ages 12–18 experienced **764,600 victimizations at school**, translating to a rate of 30 victimizations per 1,000 students at school.

New Resources for School-Based Threats

SOCIAL MEDIA THREAT GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL STAFF AND AUTHORITIES INFOGRAPHIC
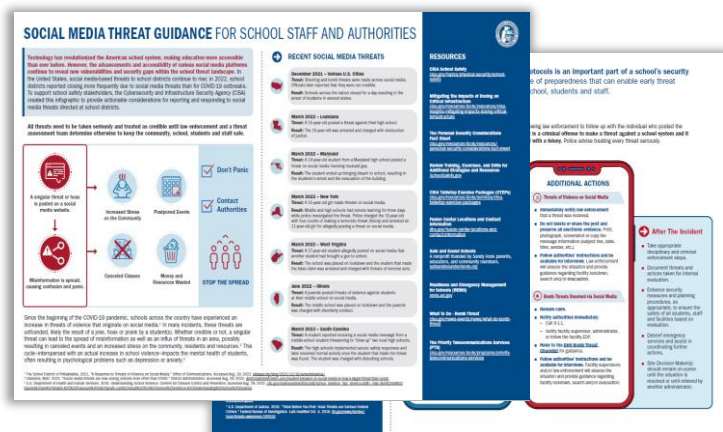
THIS PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS SOCIAL MEDIA THREATS, PROVIDES MITIGATION AND RESPONSE MEASURES, AND CONNECTS SCHOOL SAFETY STAKEHOLDERS TO A SUITE OF TOOLS AND RESOURCES PROVIDED BY CISA AND ITS PARTNERS TO PROMOTE A CULTURE OF READINESS AND PREPAREDNESS.

LINK: CISA.GOV/RESOURCES-TOOLS/RESOURCES/SOCIAL-MEDIA-THREAT-GUIDANCE-SCHOOL-STAFF-AND-AUTHORITIES-INFOGRAPHIC

BOMBING PREVENTION ASSISTANCE FOR K-12 SCHOOLS

THIS PRODUCT PROVIDES K-12 SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS WITH PRODUCTS, TOOLS, AND COUNTER-IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE (C-IED) STRATEGIES TO PROTECT, PREVENT, MITIGATE, AND RESPOND TO BOMBING THREATS.

LINK: CISA.GOV/RESOURCES-TOOLS/RESOURCES/BOMBING-PREVENTION-ASSISTANCE-K-12-SCHOOLS
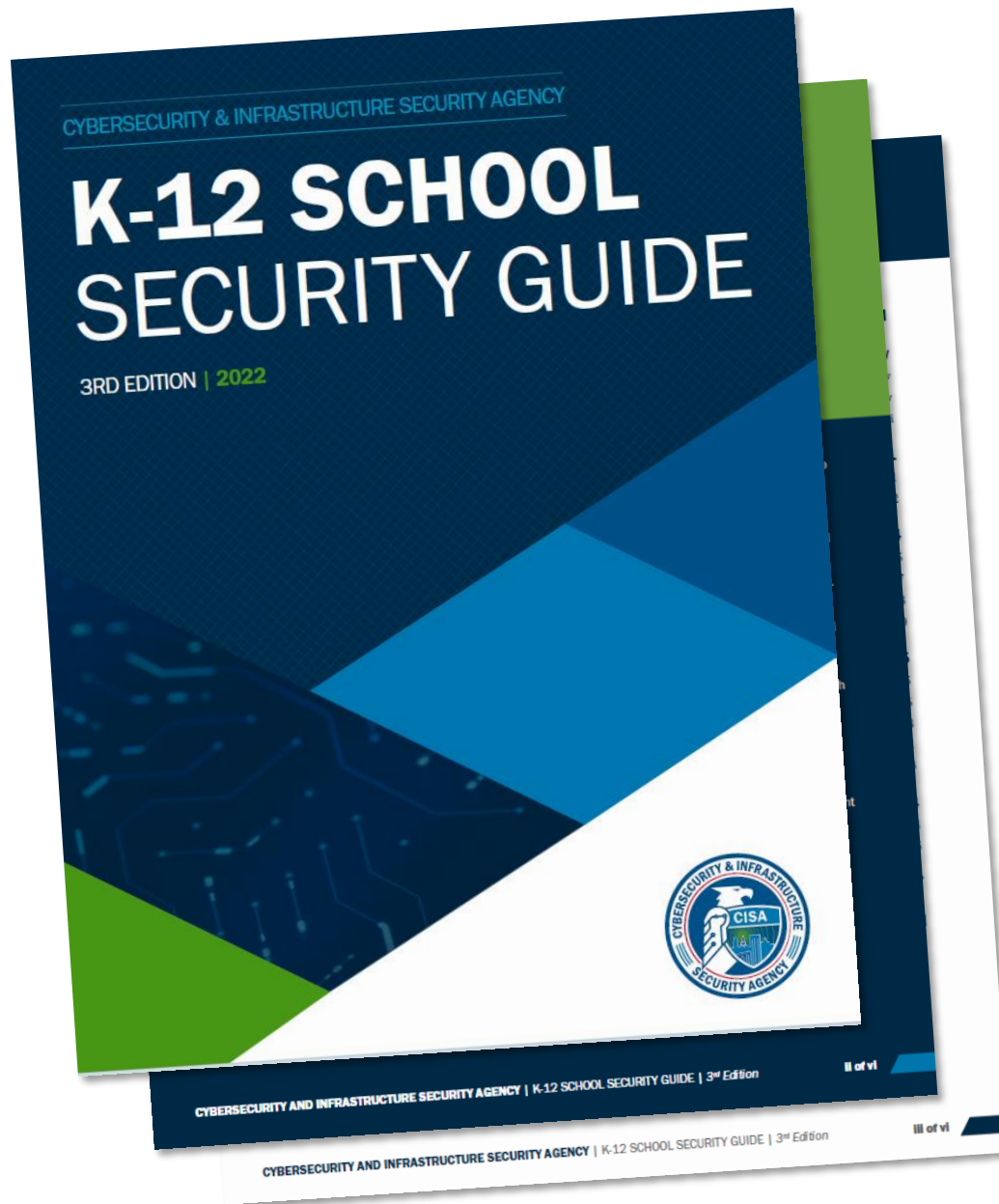
K-12 School Security Guide, Assessment Tool And Product Suite

CISA SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE

3rd Edition | 2022

K-12 School Security Guide

PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE DOCTRINE AND SYSTEMS-BASED METHODOLOGY TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS IN CONDUCTING VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND PLANNING TO IMPLEMENT LAYERED PHYSICAL SECURITY ELEMENTS ACROSS K–12 DISTRICTS AND CAMPUSES.

> ENHANCE UNDERSTANDING OF A SYSTEMS-BASED APPROACH TO LAYERED PHYSICAL SECURITY

> EXPLAIN THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SECURITY SYSTEM

> DESCRIBE COMMON CHALLENGES SCHOOLS FACE IN PLANNING OR MAKING IMPROVEMENTS

SCHOOL PHYSICAL SECURITY LAYERS

1. The **grounds perimeter layer**, which demarcates the outer boundary of a school campus;

2. The **school grounds layer**, which encompasses athletic fields, parking lots, playgrounds, and any other outdoor space that is part of a school's campus;

3. The **building perimeter layer**, or walls enclosing the inside of school buildings; and

4. The **building interior layer**, which comprises all of the spaces inside school buildings (e.g. administrative offices, hallways, cafeterias, classrooms, gymnasiums, auditoriums, etc.).

SOURCE: Moore et al., 2021.

LINK: CISA.GOV/K-12-SCHOOL-SECURITY-GUIDE-PRODUCT-SUITE

School Security Assessment Tool

1. **ABOUT THE SCHOOL**

2. **CHOOSE A SCENARIO**

3. **EXISTING SAFETY AND SECURITY MEASURES**

4. **SAFETY AND SECURITY MEASURE DETAIL**

5. **RESULTS**

KEY FEATURES:

- HIGHLY PORTABLE
- SIMPLE IN LANGUAGE & DESIGN
- CONSIDERS TRADE-OFFS
- ENHANCES CURRENT STATE
- PRIORITIZED RESULTS
- RECOMMENDS NEXT ACTIONS

Product Suite Summary

- K-12 School Security Guide, 3rd Edition

- School Security Assessment Tool (SSAT)

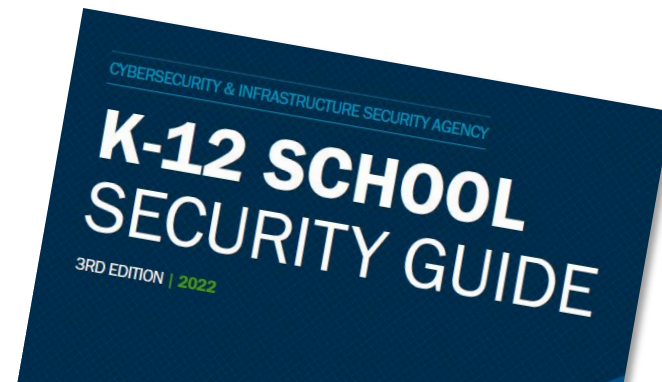- Video: SSAT "How-To" Video

- Virtual Training: General User

- Virtual Training: Train the Trainer

- K-12 Guide User Guide

- K-12 Guide Technical Appendix

Link: CISA.GOV/K-12-SCHOOL-SECURITY-GUIDE-PRODUCT-SUITE

PSA Resource

"PSAs ARE TRAINED SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS IN CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION AND VULNERABILITY MITIGATION…IN COORDINATION WITH OTHER DHS OFFICES AND FEDERAL AGENCIES. THEY ALSO ADVISE AND ASSIST STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, AND TERRITORIAL (SLTT) OFFICIALS AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OWNERS AND OPERATORS, AND PROVIDE COORDINATION AND SUPPORT IN TIMES OF THREAT, DISRUPTION, OR ATTACK."-
Security Advisors | CISA

➢ ASSESSMENTS
➢ TRAINING
  ➢ FACILITATED
  ➢ IN-PERSON
➢ LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CONNECTION
  ➢ TLO PROGRAM

SECURITY ASSESSMENT AT FIRST ENTRY

ACTIVE SHOOTER *Pocket Reference Card*

RUN	HIDE	FIGHT
‣ **Identify the location(s) of the threat** ‣ **Quickly escape** from the threat (via windows, stairs, doors, etc.) ‣ **Leave belongings behind**	‣ **Block entry** to hiding place and lock doors ‣ **Hide** in area out of the shooter's view ‣ **Silence mobile communication** devices	‣ **Commit to** decisive and aggressive **action** ‣ Your goal is to **incapacitate the shooter** ‣ **Fight** until the threat is neutralized

Consider all of your options: **Run** ⟳ **Hide** ⟳ **Fight**

Question & Answer

THANK YOU

FOR ADDITIONAL SCHOOLSAFETY.GOV NEWS, RESOURCES AND EVENTS:

FOLLOW @SCHOOLSAFETYGOV

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR LIST-SERVE

Resources & References

CISA

- K-12 School Security Guide Product Suite
- National Summit on K-12 School Safety and Security
- Active Shooter Preparedness: School Security and Resilience
- Protecting our Future: Partnering to Safeguard K-12 Organizations from Cybersecurity Threats
- Partnering to Safeguard K-12 Toolkit
- Bombing Prevention Resources and Trainings
- Securing Mass Gathering Resources
- De-Escalation of Violence Resources
- Tabletop Exercise Packages
- Protective Security Advisors (PSA)

SCHOOLSAFETY.GOV

- Grants Finder Tool
- Safety Readiness Tool
- State Information Sharing Tool
- Resource Library
- Calendar of Events
- Informational Webinar Series
- Monthly School Safety Community Bulletin
- Communication Center

DHS

- NTAS Bulletin
- CP3: Prevention Resources
- If You See Something, Say Something

USSS NTAC

- Mass Attacks in Public Spaces: 2016-2020
- Averting Targeted School Violence: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Plots Against Schools
- Protecting America's Schools: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence
- Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence