

2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

OFFICE OF THE STATE SCHOOL SECURITY MARSHAL



TEAM
KENTUCKY[®]

JUSTICE AND
PUBLIC SAFETY CABINET



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GOVERNOR

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY CABINET
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING

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The School Safety and Resiliency Act provides a foundational approach to enhancing security, mental health advocacy, emergency planning, law enforcement and staff training. By working together, Kentucky is leading the nation in school safety.

The Office of the State School Security Marshal has completed risk assessments on all locally controlled school districts for the past five years. This is the fourth report highlighting safety and security measures and the compliance rate for Kentucky schools.

Prioritizing safety in the early learning environment is key to the marshal's work of protecting our most vulnerable citizens. Reflecting on the 2023/2024 school year, 99.1% of Kentucky's 1,325 schools were compliant with the school safety and resiliency mandates. This is largely due to the development of robust partnerships with school districts across the commonwealth, and working closely with school administrators, compliance officers, safety coordinators, school resource officers and state associations. Despite the report's positive compliance numbers, we still must strive for 100% compliance and will not stop until we reach this goal, and every student has the safest school environment.

The state's continued focus on school safety and security is demonstration in the 2023-2024 annual report. Team Kentucky is proud of our administrators, teachers and students for maintaining a safe learning environment for all who work and learn in our school buildings.

Since the passage of House Bill 63 in 2022, the number of school resource officers (SRO) assigned to school campuses has increased to 790 officers assigned full-time to district campuses, a 28% increase over last year. SROs do more than ensure the safety and security of students and staff. They also serve as trusted adults to many students by providing support, mentorship and a positive influence. One way the marshal's office has helped school districts increase their SROs is by creating regional training so that the officers do not have to leave their posts unattended while undergoing required training from the Department of Criminal Justice Training.

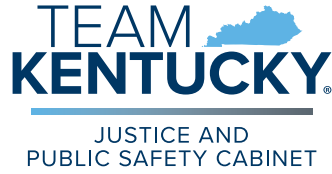
One area of the improvement the marshal's office recommends for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year is for teachers and staff to have a plan for critical incidents, districts to maintain emergency operation plans, and for teachers to continue to secure classrooms, external doors and front entrances. Unfortunately, "SWATTING" incidents are on the rise and plans and procedures must be in place for a measured response. This can only be done in collaboration with local first responder agencies.

Over this next school, we will continue our mission of creating a better, safer Kentucky by securing our schools from the far east to the far west of the state. By ensuring their safety, our children and staff can solely focus on learning while at school, to become the leaders of tomorrow. School safety is a critical piece to create the new Kentucky home we are working to build for future generations to protect the staff and students of Kentucky schools for a safer Kentucky.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Wilcox".

Ben Wilcox
State School Security Marshal



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The following responses were collected by OSSSM regional compliance officers conducting the risk assessment mandated by the School Safety & Resiliency Act for the 2023-24 school year. The individual school risk assessments are protected from open records requests. This report is a summary of these findings.

SECTION 1:

ACCESS CONTROL REQUIREMENT, NEW BUILDING/EXPANSION APPROVAL

KRS158.162(3)(D)

1.1 - ALL VISITORS ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT TO THE MAIN OFFICE UPON ENTRY.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,325	100%
NO	0	0%

1.2 - UPON REPORTING, ALL VISITORS MUST PROVIDE VALID IDENTIFICATION.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,323	99.85%
NO	2	0.15%

1.3 - ALL VISITORS, PRIOR TO ALLOWING ACCESS, ARE REQUIRED TO STATE THE PURPOSE OF THEIR VISIT.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,325	100%
NO	0	0%

1.4 - A VISIBLE “VISITOR’S BADGE” IS REQUIRED TO BE DISPLAYED AT ALL TIMES.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,323	99.85%
NO	2	0.15%

1.5 - THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE SCHOOL IS CONTROLLED WITH ELECTRONICALLY LOCKING DOORS.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,324	99.92%
NO	1	0.08%

1.6 - THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE SCHOOL IS CONTROLLED WITH A CAMERA(S).

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,325	100%
NO	0	0%

1.7 - THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE SCHOOL IS CONTROLLED WITH AN INTERCOM SYSTEM(S).

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,324	99.92%
NO	1	0.08%

1.8 - THE SCHOOL CONTROLS ACCESS TO ALL EXTERIOR DOORS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,319	99.55%
NO	6	0.45%

1.9 - CLASSROOM DOORS ARE EQUIPPED WITH HARDWARE THAT ALLOW THE DOOR TO BE LOCKED FROM THE OUTSIDE BUT OPENED FROM THE INSIDE.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,324	99.92%
NO	1	0.08%

1.10 - CLASSROOM DOORS REMAIN CLOSED AND LOCKED DURING INSTRUCTIONAL TIME.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,312	99.02%
NO	13	0.98%

1.11 - CLASSROOM DOORS WITH WINDOWS ARE EQUIPPED WITH MATERIAL TO QUICKLY COVER THE WINDOW DURING A BUILDING LOCKDOWN.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,324	99.92%
NO	1	0.08%

SECTION 2:

NECESSARY SAFETY AND SECURITY PROCESSES (NOT RELATED TO NEW BUILDING/EXPANSION APPROVAL)

2.1 - A SCHOOL SAFETY AND THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAM IS IN PLACE.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,320	99.62%
NO	5	0.38%

2.2 - AN EMERGENCY PLAN, THAT INCLUDES A WRITTEN CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN, IS IN PLACE FOR THE SCHOOL TO FOLLOW.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,304	98.42%
NO	21	1.58%

2.3 - PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES HAVE A COPY OF THE EMERGENCY PLAN ALONG WITH A DIAGRAM OF THE SCHOOL FACILITIES.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,318	99.47%
NO	7	0.53%

2.4 - THE EMERGENCY PLAN WAS REVIEWED BY THE SCHOOL COUNCIL, PRINCIPAL, SCHOOL NURSE AND FIRST RESPONDERS DURING THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,305	98.49%
NO	20	1.51%

2.5 - THE SCHOOL MAINTAINS A PORTABLE AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR IN A PUBLIC, READILY ACCESSIBLE, WELL-MARKED LOCATION.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	974	73.51%
NO	29	2.19%
N/A	322	24.30%

2.6 - THE SCHOOL HAS ADOPTED REQUIRED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR TRAINING AND USE OF AN AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	934	70.49%
NO	28	2.11%
N/A	363	27.40%

2.7 - ALL LICENSED ATHLETIC TRAINERS, SCHOOL NURSES, ATHLETIC DIRECTORS, INTERSCHOLASTIC COACHES, AND VOLUNTEER COACHES OF EACH ATHLETIC TEAM HAVE REHEARSED, BY SIMULATION, THE REQUIRED CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN PRIOR TO BEGINNING OF THE ATHLETIC SEASON.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	665	50.19%
NO	36	2.72%
N/A	624	47.09%

2.8 - THE SCHOOL HAS DEVELOPED A WRITTEN, EVENT-SPECIFIC, EMERGENCY PLAN FOR EACH SCHOOL-SANCTIONED NONATHLETIC EVENT HELD OFF-CAMPUS THAT WILL BE USED DURING A MEDICAL EMERGENCY WHICH MAY INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF A PORTABLE AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	695	52.45%
NO	91	6.87%
N/A	539	40.68%

2.9 - ALL ROOMS HAVE AN ESTABLISHED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EVACUATION ROUTE AND ARE PROMINENTLY POSTED IN EACH ROOM BY EVACUATION DOORWAYS.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,300	98.11%
NO	25	1.89%

2.10 - THE BEST AVAILABLE SEVERE WEATHER SAFE ZONES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND ARE PROMINENTLY POSTED IN EACH ROOM.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,308	98.72%
NO	17	1.28%

2.11 - POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ARE IN PLACE FOR AN ALL HAZARDS APPROACH, INCLUDING EMERGENCY RESPONSE DRILLS FOR HOSTAGE, ACTIVE SHOOTER AND BUILDING LOCKDOWN SITUATIONS.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,324	99.92%
NO	1	0.08%

2.12 - THESE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES WERE FORMULATED WITH APPROPRIATE PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES' INPUT, TO INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO FIRE, POLICE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,324	99.92%
NO	1	0.08%

2.13 - SCHOOL HAS ENSURED THAT PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES HAVE TOURED THE SCHOOL TO REVIEW POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO SAFETY AND SECURITY DURING THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,318	99.47%
NO	7	0.53%

2.14 - THE PRINCIPAL HAS RECEIVED TRAINING ON PROCEDURES FOR COMPLETION OF THE SCHOOL SECURITY RISK ASSESSMENT.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,314	0.83%
NO	11	0.68%

2.15 - THE PRINCIPAL HAS PROVIDED WRITTEN NOTICE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE FIRST INSTRUCTIONAL DAY OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, TO ALL STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND GUARDIANS, THE PROVISIONS OF KRS 508.078 AND POTENTIAL PENALTIES UNDER KRS 532.060 AND 534.030.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,317	99.40%
NO	8	0.60%

2.16 - THE SCHOOL ADOPTED A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH TO EDUCATION.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,318	99.47%
NO	7	0.53%

2.17 - THE SCHOOL CURRENTLY HAS A TRAUMA-INFORMED TEAM.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,304	98.42%
NO	21	1.58%

2.18 - A CERTIFIED SCHOOL COUNSELOR IS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,208	91.17%
NO	117	8.83%

2.19 - THE DISTRICT MEETS THE GOAL* OF ONE SCHOOL COUNSELOR/SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER, WHO IS EMPLOYED BY THE DISTRICT, PER 250 STUDENTS.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	710	53.58%
NO	615	46.42%

**The statewide ratio of mental health providers to students is 1:300. The goal is 1:250.*

2.20 - THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR IS SPENDING 60% OR MORE OF HIS/HER TIME PROVIDING COUNSELING AND RELATED SERVICES DIRECTLY TO STUDENTS.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,203	90.79%
NO	122	9.21%

2.21 - PRIOR TO THE FIRST INSTRUCTIONAL DAY OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, THE PRINCIPAL'S DESIGNEE DISCUSSED AND DOCUMENTED THE EMERGENCY PLAN WITH ALL SCHOOL PERSONNEL.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,320	99.62%
NO	5	0.38%

2.22 - ALL EMPLOYEES, WHO HAVE JOB DUTIES REQUIRING DIRECT CONTACT WITH STUDENTS, HAVE ATTENDED A MINIMUM ONE-HOUR HIGH QUALITY SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	826	37.58%
NO	1	0.08%
N/A*	498	37.68%

*Mandates require only staff who have contact with students grades 6-12.

2.23 - STAFF MEMBERS HIRED AFTER THE INITIAL SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING ARE PROVIDED PREVENTION MATERIALS.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	818	61.74%
NO	0	0%
N/A*	507	38.26%

*Mandates require only staff who have contact with students grades 6-12.

2.24 - ALL SCHOOL EMPLOYEES, WITH JOB DUTIES REQUIRING DIRECT CONTACT WITH STUDENTS, ATTENDED A MINIMUM ONE-HOUR TRAINING ON HOW TO RESPOND TO AN ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATION DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,323	99.85%
NO	2	0.15%

2.25 - THE DISTRICT PROVIDES TRAINING TO SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS ON SUICIDE PREVENTION, ACTIVE SHOOTER, AND EMERGENCY PLAN FAMILIARIZATION.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,323	99.85%
NO	2	0.15%

2.26 - THE 24-HOUR STATEWIDE CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE NUMBER 1-877-597-2331 IS PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED IN THE SCHOOL.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,323	99.85%
NO	2	0.15%

2.27 - THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORTING HOTLINE NUMBER 1-888-373-7888 IS PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED IN THE SCHOOL.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	1,323	99.85%
NO	2	0.15%

2.28 - THE SCHOOL CURRENTLY HAS AN ASSIGNED SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER(S) PURSUANT TO STATE LAW.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	858	67.75%
NO	467	35.25%

2.29 - THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER(S) HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED, OR ARE IN THE PROCESS OF COMPLETING, REQUIRED PHASES OF KENTUCKY LAW ENFORCEMENT COUNCIL (KLEC) APPROVED SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER CERTIFICATION TRAINING PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
YES	823	34.87%
NO	40	3.02%
N/A	462	34.87%

SAFETY & SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2024-25

- Continue to work toward 100% compliance with the School Safety and Resiliency Act mandates.
- Educate school staff and students on social media and internet safety.
- Educate school staff and students on new technologies that can undermine school safety initiatives.
- Continue to work toward assigning a full-time, certified School Resource Officer to every campus where one (1) or more school buildings are used to deliver instruction to students on a continual basis.
- Educate school staff on the relationships and resources that are available with an assigned School Resource Officer.
- Foster a school climate where students and staff affirm the importance of controlling access to exterior doors, as well as closing and locking classroom doors during instructional time.
- Ensure all school staff who have contact with students complete the mandatory response to active shooter training and maintain and update the best action plan to protect students and staff.
- Ensure schools have the most up-to-date Emergency Operations Plans that include consultation with first responders' procedures for reunification.
- Train all front office staff to properly use security features such as the electronically locking door, camera and intercom systems. Staff should also be trained in the proper way to check-in a visitor, ensure proper ID is shown and learn the reason for the visit.

