

REPORT

2022 ANNUAL

SCHOOL SAFETY

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LETTER FROM DIRECTOR WILSON

It was another year of expansion and growth for the Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC) with the addition of the Safety and Crisis Division, the first in-person School Safety Summit, millions in school safety grants awarded to Ohio schools, and the creation of the Ohio Student Safety Advisory Council, to name a few.

With a stroke of his pen, Ohio Governor Mike Governor DeWine signed House Bill 99 in June 2022 creating the Safety and Crisis Division of the OSSC, with an annual appropriation of \$6 million. This new division, with 16 new mobile training officers, is developing training curriculum for school staff members that are authorized by their school boards to carry firearms on school grounds. Separately from HB 99, Governor DeWine instructed the OSSC to offer additional training and expand its number of school safety liaison positions from five to 16. The liaisons and training officers will work as a regional team with schools to implement a comprehensive school safety framework supporting both emotional and physical safety.

In July, Gov. DeWine named the 16 Ohio high school students who were selected for the inaugural Ohio Student Safety Advisory Council. Initial plans called for a 10-member council, but there were so many quality applications from students who wanted to make a difference that we expanded the council to 16 members.

Gov. DeWine kicked off the first in-person School Safety Summit in Columbus by awarding \$47 million in yet another round of school safety grants and announcing Mary Davis as the Chief Mobile Training Officer over the new Safety and Crisis Division of the OSSC. More than 1,500 people attended the three-day summit in early August, hearing from six keynote speakers and 40 breakout sessions while more than 50 exhibitors had booths during the summit at the Columbus Convention Center. In November 2022, the Governor announced another \$57 million in school safety grants for Ohio K-12 schools.

Created in 2019 to be a clearinghouse for all things school safety related in Ohio, the OSSC -- with more than 40 professionals focused on school safety every day -- has become just that. With more than 2,000 people who benefitted from OSSC trainings and tips to the Safer Ohio School Tip Line increasing 45 percent, 2022 was a great year of transformation and growth.

Sincerely,



Director Andy Wilson

HISTORY/OVERVIEW



The Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC), created by Governor DeWine's Executive Order in 2019, partners with federal, state, and local providers to assist local schools and first responders with ensuring the safety of schools, students, staff, and visitors through policies, procedures, training, including community and interagency involvement. The OSSC aims to bring stakeholders together to share resources across the state and make information accessible at every level.

The OSSC is housed within the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) in Columbus. Last year proved to be a year of change and significant growth for the OSSC. Due to this growth, the OSSC became a separate division within ODPS with Emily Torok named as Executive Director.

SAFETY LEGISLATION

HOUSE BILL 123

Ohio's 133rd General Assembly enacted House Bill 123 (HB 123), the "Safety and Violence Education Students (SAVE Students) Act." HB 123 requires each local, city, exempted village, and joint vocational school district to create a threat assessment team for each school building serving grades six through 12 by March 24, 2023. The teams shall be multidisciplinary, when possible, to include school administrators, educators, mental health professionals, school resource officers or other law enforcement, and other school or community personnel.

Upon appointment and every three years thereafter, each team member shall complete a threat assessment training program from an approved list maintained by the Ohio School Safety Center. Additionally, a school threat assessment policy and protocol shall be incorporated into the school building's emergency management plan. In order to assist schools with meeting the requirements of HB 123, Governor DeWine directed the OSSC and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to offer free, evidence-based threat assessment training for Ohio schools.



HB 123 also requires each local, city, exempted village, and joint vocational school district to register with the Safer Ohio School Tip Line or enter into an agreement with another anonymous reporting program. The reporting program must meet the following criteria:

- Operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Forwards reported information to school threat assessment teams and public safety agencies.
- Be promoted in each district school to inform students about the reporting program.
- Comply with Ohio Revised Code Section 149.433 and 3319.321 and the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974," 20 U.S.C. 1232g.
- Each anonymous reporting program provider must submit to the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio School Safety Center annually the number of tips received, the method they were received and other demographic information. The data is due no later than July 1 each year.

HOUSE BILL 99

On June 13, 2022, Governor DeWine signed House Bill 99 (HB 99) appropriating \$6 million to expand the OSSC, including the creation of a new Safety & Crisis Division, exhibiting his commitment to school safety. This new division and staff will develop training curriculum for school staff members that are authorized by their school boards to carry firearms on school grounds. Additionally, the bill directs the OSSC to hire 16 mobile training officers.

An important aspect of HB 99 is that the decision to arm school staff members is entirely determined by local school boards, whom have the best understanding of the needs of their individual districts. The bill requires that anyone planning to be armed on school grounds must meet an initial 24-hour training requirement and eight hours of training for yearly requalification. HB 99 also mandates annual criminal background checks for those authorized by their school boards to carry a firearm on school grounds. Governor DeWine also asked the OSSC to provide additional training for districts that choose to require training above the minimum set forth in the bill.



Separately from HB 99, Governor DeWine instructed the OSSC to expand its number of school safety liaison positions from five to 16. The liaisons and training officers will work as a regional team with schools to implement a comprehensive school safety framework supporting both emotional and physical safety.

OVERVIEW OF FINANCES & EXPANSION



In 2021, Governor DeWine signed House Bill 66 (HB 66, the main operating budget) which included \$2.7 million per year to be spent in 2022 and 2023 on the OSSC. The funds are to support the training, research, and intelligence-gathering services that the center provides to Ohio schools. Funding has been used to hire additional personnel, including another intelligence analyst, a researcher, a professional development coordinator, a Safer Ohio School Tip Line coordinator, a student initiatives coordinator, a grant support specialist, five regional liaisons and an administrative professional.

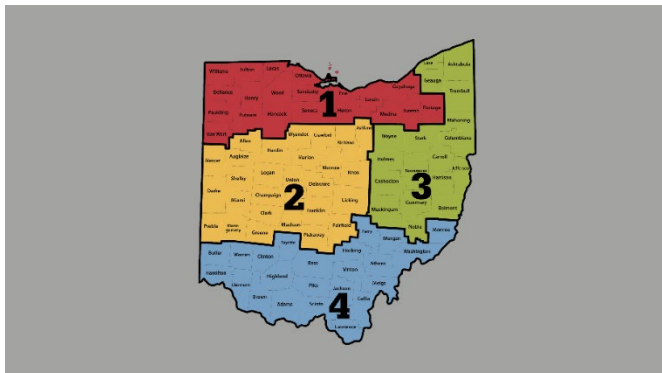
Additionally, Governor DeWine and the Ohio legislature appropriated \$6 million in 2022 to create the OSSC Safety & Crisis Division with a team of 16 regional mobile training officers working throughout the state. The division will be responsible for developing the curriculum as outlined in HB 99.

In 2019 and 2020, the OSSC received Bureau of Justice Assistance



(BJA) STOP School Violence Grants. The OSSC continues to utilize the funding from these grants and in 2022, the OSSC hosted its first in-person school safety summit and continued the use of three regional contractors to help create and improve safety resources for schools. The 2020 BJA grant assisted the team this year with increasing supports for the Safer Ohio School Tip Line, including a tip line coordinator and free materials for schools to promote the tip line.

SAFETY & CRISIS DIVISION



With the signing of HB 99, the Safety & Crisis Division within the OSSC was formed and Mary Davis was named Deputy Director. The division consists of four regional zone managers, 16 training officers, and 16 school safety liaisons forming regional teams. There are four training officers and four school safety liaisons in each zone. At the time of this report, the zone managers were on staff and the training officers and liaisons were in various stages of the hiring process. Model curriculum was developed and released on Dec. 12, 2022 for the initial and

annual re-qualification training courses. Also released was an approval process for alternate training providers and curriculums if a school chooses to use a provider other than the OSSC to meet the training requirements.

REGIONAL LIAISON PROGRAM

While the Safety & Crisis Division will include the 16 school safety liaisons and 16 mobile training officers, five school safety liaisons were working for the OSSC in 2022. The liaisons are from different areas throughout Ohio and formed relationships with schools in their region.



Over this past year, their contributions were invaluable to the OSSC and schools alike. Many schools, administrators, and staff were not aware of the range of resources available through the OSSC. The liaisons helped schools complete emergency management tests, reunification procedures, and threat assessment policies, receive grant information, find training opportunities, increase awareness about the Safer Ohio School Tip Line, assist with emotional safety issues, and many other topics.

The liaisons were also instrumental in creating partnerships with community resources for mental health services, law enforcement, emergency management, and active shooter trainings. The schools responded enthusiastically to receive this type of hands-on support. The success of the program led Governor DeWine to lend his support to increase the number of liaisons from five to 16 in the next year.

OUTREACH & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The OSSC values its partnerships and working relationships with other governmental agencies and community organizations and is continually looking for ways of increasing safety for Ohio schools and students. Last year proved to be a year filled with collaborations addressing a variety of issues dedicated to creating positive environments and solutions-based approaches for schools and law enforcement.



In a comprehensive approach to school safety, OSSC has continued to foster partnerships with Ohio Department of Education (ODE), Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), and other governmental and community organizations, while striving to make information, education, and resources available to all stakeholders.



Ohio School Behavioral Threat Assessment Model Policy



In 2022, the OSSC, ODE, OhioMHAS, and the Ohio Attorney General's Office joined together to develop the Ohio School Behavioral Threat Assessment Model Policy as required by HB 123. The model policy is available on the OSSC [website](#). According to HB 123, each school building must have a policy incorporated into the building's existing emergency management plan. The threat assessment policy and forms provide the guiding tools for the school's threat assessment team. Schools are allowed to adopt or adapt the OSSC model policy to meet the requirement.

Safer Ohio School Tip Line

Last year saw the OSSC and the Safer Ohio School Tip Line collaborate with the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center (REMS TA) on two occasions. The OSSC participated in a [podcast](#), moderated by REMS TA that focused on how to use tip lines to prevent potential emergencies. Then later in the year, the OSSC and REMS TA partnered again, but this time on a [Twitter chat](#) about how tip lines can be a resource to provide valuable information and circumvent potential threats.



Ohio Student Safety Advisory Council



The OSSC's Ohio Student Safety Advisory Council worked with Ohio Adult Allies, whose mission is to develop, inspire, and empower youth leaders, to create a [podcast](#) to discuss school safety from a student's perspective. The student representatives were from the Ohio Student Safety Advisory Council and the Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network's Youth Council. More information on the council's activities is included later in this report.

Social Media Threats and Violence in Schools

As threats of violence and social media threats continued to plague schools, the OSSC joined the Statewide Terrorism Analysis and Crime Center (STACC) to analyze data received through the Safer Ohio School Tip Line and open-source media. This joint review resulted in a bulletin being provided to schools and law enforcement with the probable outlook that threats of violence, especially non-credible threats, will continue and schools should be prepared to respond. The bulletin encouraged schools to take every threat of violence seriously and build strong relationships with first responders so that they are familiar with investigation and response procedures.



Emergency Quick Guide



The Ohio Department of Health and the OSSC partnered to create [a guide](#) for schools on how to manage a variety of health emergencies. It is designed for educators and administrators to keep in their classrooms so instructions with appropriate contact information are readily available when a health emergency arises.

OhioRISE

The Ohio Department of Medicaid joined forces with the OSSC to share resources and spread the word to schools about the [OhioRISE \(Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence\) statewide program](#). OhioRISE



focuses on providing specialized managed care for youth with complex behavioral health and multisystem needs. Regional liaisons promoted awareness of the program to schools so that educators and students could benefit from the multidisciplinary approach offered by OhioRISE.

OHIO SCHOOL SAFETY MONTH

In 2022, October was designated as Ohio School Safety Awareness Month by House Bill 583 to increase public awareness of school safety programs and to encourage Ohioans to identify their role in keeping Ohio schools a safe place for students to learn and grow.

The OSSC, ODE, and OhioMHAS collaborated to provide [resources and activities](#) to schools during the month. Each week there was a different focus with related materials to help schools highlight resources they have within their schools and communities.



The theme this year was: Know School Safety, Know Your Role – It’s Everyone’s Responsibility. Below were the themes for each week:

- Oct. 2 – 8 – Comprehensive Safety
- Oct. 9 – 15 – Emotional Safety
- Oct. 16 – 22 – Physical Safety
- Oct. 23 – 29 – Know Your Role

The content and resources provided an opportunity for schools to engage with students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members on school safety programs.

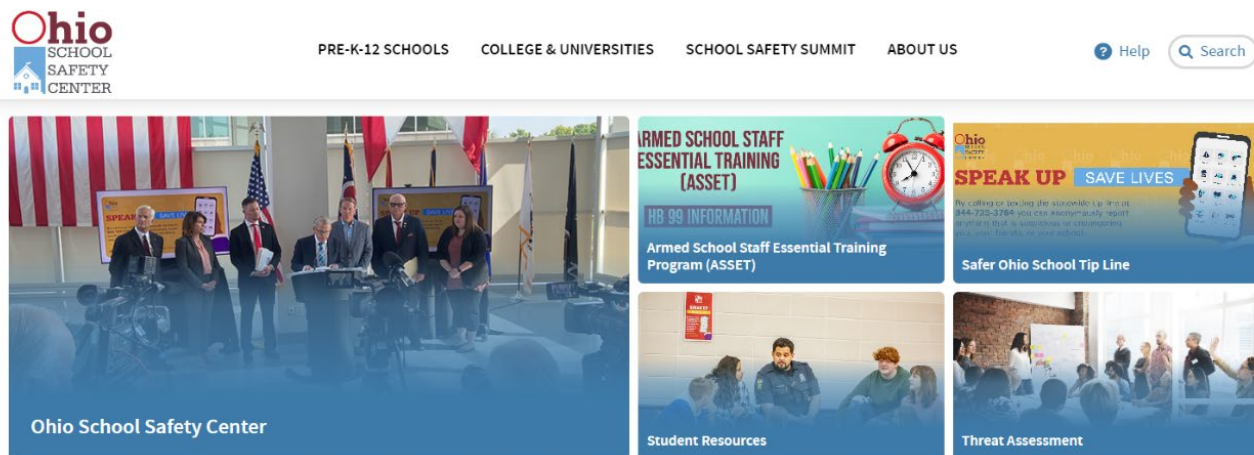


INFORMATION SHARING

Information sharing is vital to schools and is therefore vital to the OSSC. One of the OSSC’s objectives is to break down information silos and make safety resources available in a convenient and easily accessible format for schools. This encompasses a wide array of topics and distribution methods.

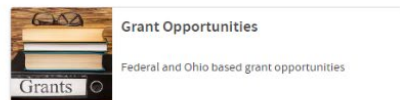
OUTREACH

The OSSC [website](#) contains a variety of school safety related items. The website has training opportunities and material relevant to administrators, teachers, counselors, school resource officers, and other school personnel from federal, state, and local resources. The website had over 153,000 page views in 2022.

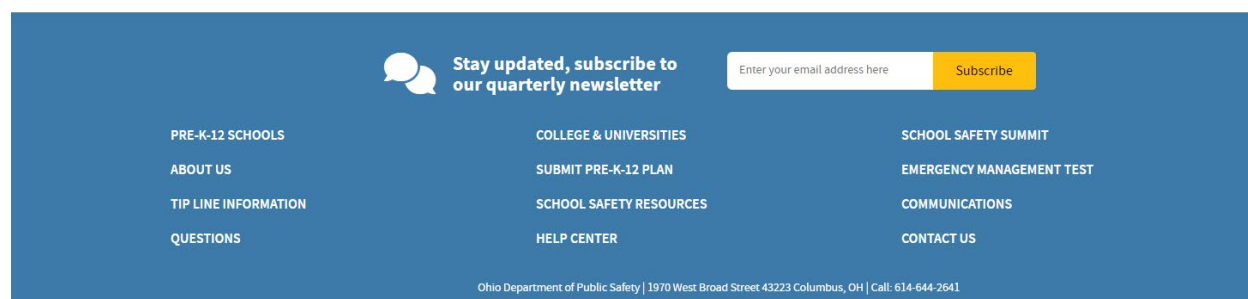


Welcome to Ohio School Safety Center

On August 21, 2019, Governor Mike DeWine signed Executive Order 2019-21D creating the Ohio School Safety Center. The Center is responsible for assisting local schools and law enforcement with preventing, preparing for, and responding to threats and acts of violence, including self-harm, through a holistic, solutions-based approach to improving school safety.



The OSSC [newsletters](#) continue to update and inform administrators and personnel. The newsletters apprise subscribers of upcoming deadlines, legislative updates, best practices, and training and grant opportunities. If you would like to receive OSSC newsletters, please subscribe at the bottom of any page on the OSSC [website](#)



The OSSC's social media accounts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) increased their number of followers last year. Posts not only include OSSC activities, events, and reminders, but events sponsored by our federal and state partners. Don't forget to follow us for more information on upcoming events and tag us in your posts sharing how your school or agency is improving school safety!

TRAINING SUMMARY

Over 2,000 people were trained by the OSSC in 2022. A variety of free trainings were offered during the past year aimed at differing audiences, from educators, administrators, school resource officers, and other school personnel. The trainings included mental health, self-care, suicide prevention, HB 123 informational sessions, crisis awareness, and other topics.



The OSSC conducted seven emergency management trainings throughout the year to support administrators with statutory requirements and technical assistance. These trainings reached 196 stakeholders.

The Maryland Center for School Safety and the OSSC partnered to offer a course

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

called “The Danger of Devices” to identify the dangers of adolescents using internet devices, the pitfalls of social media, and to recognize the effects technology has on physical and mental health. This course was offered in a digital format to ensure it could have maximum exposure across the state.

OSSC joined the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to provide resources and training for staff and personnel in group homes to assist with conflict de-escalation and violence prevention.



PRESENTATIONS AND EXHIBITS

OSSC staff members presented and shared information at various events during the 2022 year and covered a wide array of school safety issues. Below are some the events and topics:



At the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association D.A.R.E./SRO Committee meeting, in October, OSSC personnel presented updates on HB 99 initiatives and student interactions with peace officers.

OSSC intelligence analysts delivered a debrief at the Ohio School Safety Summit of the Uvalde, Texas school shooting outlining lessons learned and key takeaways. There were over 120 people in attendance.





The OSSC teamed up with Jordan Garza from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to provide a free in-person Active Shooter Incident presentation to law enforcement and school administrators. The agenda included threat assessment, a debrief of the Uvalde shooting, and recovery after an incident. The day of learning was met with such enthusiasm that five more presentations have been scheduled in 2023 in various locations around the state.



The Regional Intelligence Liaison Officer (ILO) Program, the Cincinnati Fusion Center, and the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) in Ohio Homeland Security invited the OSSC to present during their meetings. The presentations consisted of an overview of the OSSC, while the HSAC meeting involved information regarding the recent rash of threat of violence calls in Ohio.



Ohio Homeland Security



School safety liaisons from the OSSC shared resources, legislative requirements, tip line information, and discussed emergency management plans at the Ohio School Counselors Association All-Ohio Conference and the Ohio School Board Association Capital Conference.



The OSSC had a booth at the Ohio Family, Career, and Community Leaders Conference in April. The Safer Ohio School Tip Line was promoted and the idea of speaking up if students see or learn of something that concerns them. The students participated by sharing their reasons for speaking up.



The OSSC school safety liaisons attended the Teen Mental Health and Safety Summit in Cleveland to promote the Safer Ohio School Tip Line and the other resources offered by the OSSC. The summit was started by Parma City Schools, but was so successful that now it encompasses all of northeast Ohio.



INTELLIGENCE WORK

Another way that the OSSC is working to keep schools safe is by conducting open-source social media scanning on platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. **In 2022, there were over 8 million images scanned using artificial intelligence software resulting in 3,989 alerts reviewed by OSSC analysts.** The OSSC insists on strong protocols to safeguard privacy and free speech and the tools cannot be used to follow and/or monitor people. This tool is used to detect threat language only on public facing websites and posts.



While most posts are not credible threats, when a credible threat is found local law enforcement is immediately contacted. A credible threat in March 2022 via a Twitter post contained a threat to a teacher's life. After some research, it was determined to be from Phoenix, Arizona. The OSSC forwarded the post to Phoenix law enforcement and an arrest was made based upon their investigation.

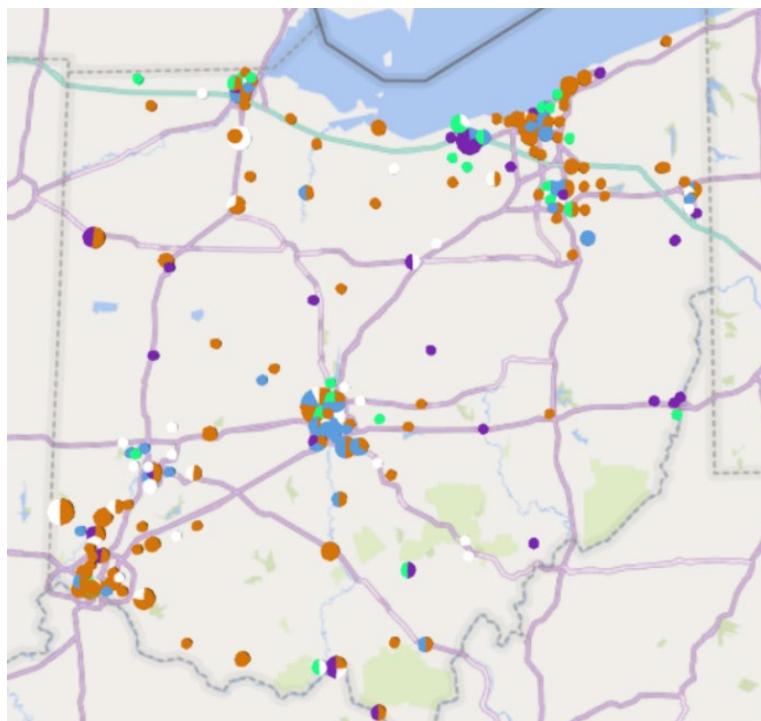
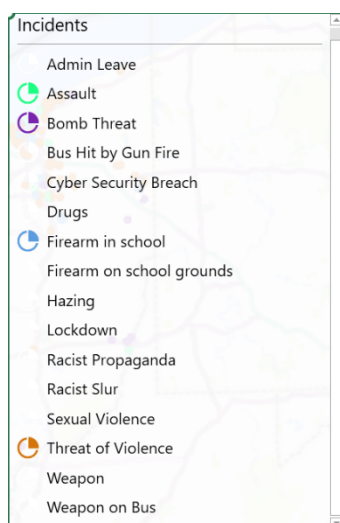
In 2022, OSSC intelligence analysts presented debriefs on prior school shooting events, including lessons learned and key takeaways. At the Ohio School Safety Summit, analysts discussed the Uvalde shooting to an audience of over 125 people. It was well received as school personnel and law enforcement alike were anxious to put into practice what went well and learn from situations that could have been improved. Analysts continue to provide the information, as there have been several additional requests for the presentation.

OSSC analysts also gather information from open-source media to track school-based incidents and identify trends. The majority of incidents in 2022 involved threats of violence, firearms found in schools, bomb threats, and physical assaults. The analysts also map these events to determine if there is a pattern or trend emerging. There is no statutory requirement for schools to report incidents to the OSSC so this is an incomplete data set and should not be relied upon for reporting and is only used as a sample for information sharing purposes.



Between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2022, OSSC has captured 315 school/youth-based incidents between K-12 and higher education, which included:

- ***147 threats of violence***
- ***58 firearms found in schools***
- ***34 bomb threats***
- ***29 physical assaults***



The rest of the events were lockdowns, sexual violence, hazing, racist slurs or propaganda, administration placed on leave, weapons (other than guns) found on students, buses hit by gunfire or weapons found on buses, and drugs found at schools.

ANNUAL SCHOOL SAFETY SUMMIT

The 2022 Annual School Safety Summit took place on Aug. 2, 3, and 4 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus. It was the OSSC's first in-person summit with 1,500 people in attendance. The three-day event featured six keynote speakers, over 40 breakout sessions, and an exhibit hall with over 50 vendors.



The summit was planned with a comprehensive approach in mind to include all aspects of school safety. Those in attendance ranged from school administrators, educators, counselors, SROs, fire personnel, school board members, school nurses, transportation officials, and other school personnel.

The keynote speakers were as interesting as they were informative. The lineup included:

- Daniel Jewiss – Lead Investigator for the Sandy Hook Shooting
- Eric Tamashasky – Safer Schools Together
- Steven Driscoll – U.S. Secret Service
- Frank DeAngelis – Retired Principal of Columbine High School
- Molly Hudgens – School Counselor & Congressional Medal of Honor Citizens Honor Recipient
- John Skillstead, Lt. Paul Smith, and Karen Favors – FBI

The breakout sessions covered a diversity of topics including conflict de-escalation, transforming school culture, emergency preparedness, mental health wellness, current drug trends, bullying, suicide prevention, the role of law enforcement in schools, grants, first aid and more.

After the summit, the OSSC received much positive feedback, like the email that was received below:

“THANKS, I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT SUMMIT WAS PROBABLY THE MOST IMPACTFUL CONFERENCE I HAVE ATTENDED IN 18 YEARS OF BEING A CORRECTIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELOR. I LEFT EMOTIONALLY EXHAUSTED AND REJUVENATED ALL AT THE SAME TIME.”

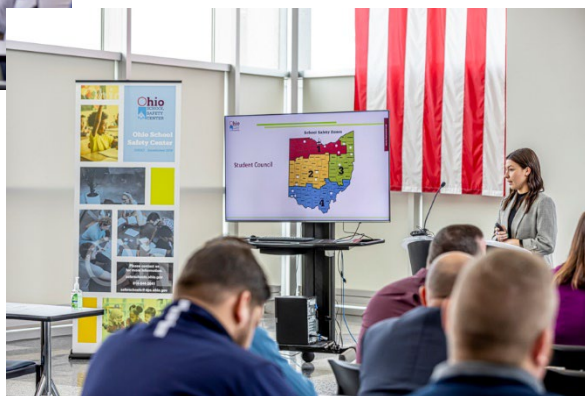


GOVERNOR'S OHIO SCHOOL SAFETY WORKING GROUP



The Governor's Ohio School Safety Working Group consists of subject-matter experts in the fields of public safety, education, mental health, emergency management, and other school safety-based fields. This multidisciplinary group evaluates programs and resources and provides input and guidance to the OSSC. The group met four times in 2022 with two of those meetings being in-person.

One of the largest benefits of this group is identifying and sharing school safety resources across multiple disciplines. This group is specifically designed to bridge communication gaps and foster information sharing among education, mental health, and physical safety and security for K-12 schools and higher education. Information sharing among the agencies and disciplines helps to improve access to resources, create efficient programming, and ensure gaps are filled with existing or new supports.



ANONYMOUS REPORTING SYSTEMS

The OSSC operates the state's free 24-hour anonymous reporting system, the Safer Ohio School Tip Line, which can receive anonymous calls and text messages about school safety concerns. The OSSC offers this free statewide safety resource to encourage students and adults to anonymously share information with school officials and law enforcement about threats to student safety.

A Safer Ohio School Tip Line Coordinator, Derek, was hired in 2022, which allowed the OSSC to provide a focused effort to promote the tip line and partner with ODE to provide resources for those schools and students involved in the tips.

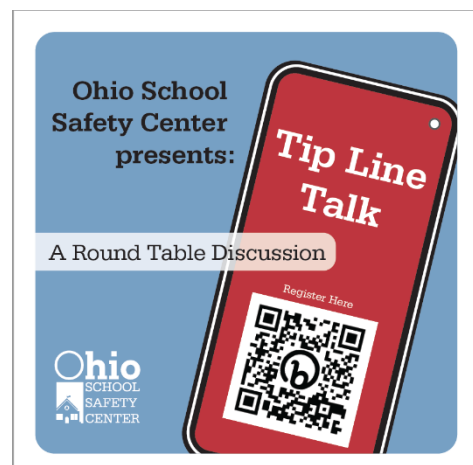
The OSSC sponsors the "[Speak Up-Save Lives](#)" campaign to promote the tip line. The campaign features electronic posters and images, printable materials, hard copy posters, cards, and promotional letters, all of which, are free to Ohio schools. An [animated video](#) was created and distributed as an additional method of promoting the tip line.



In addition to those methods, a virtual discussion called Tip Line Talk was held to discuss implementing and supporting anonymous reporting systems, putting proper interventions in place, and providing proper responses based on tip criteria. The success of Tip Line Talk showed the need and interest of school personnel to engage in an open-ended, live discussion about the Safer Ohio School Tip Line and other anonymous reporting systems. Please look for more Tip Line Talks in 2023.



Continual promotion of the tip line is vital as there is constant turnover of students and staff. The OSSC regularly promotes the tip line through social media posts, [newsletters](#), and [bulletins](#).

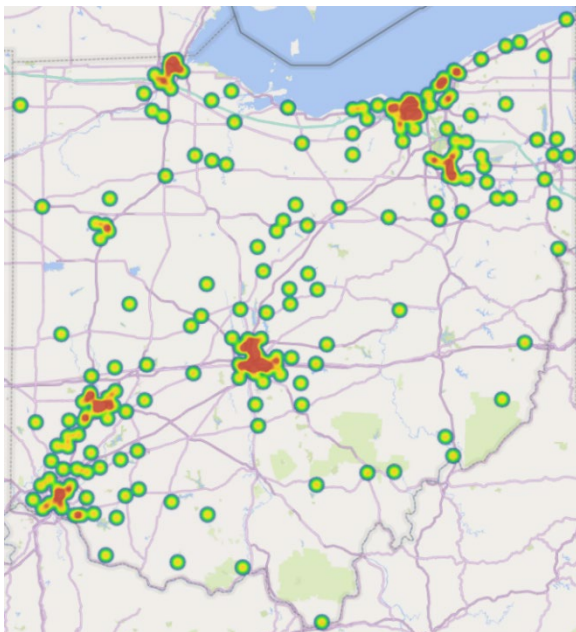
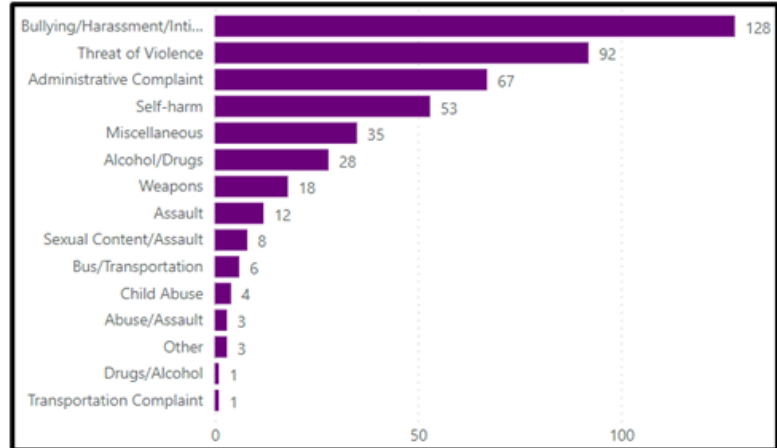


IN 2022, THE SAFER OHIO SCHOOL TIP LINE RECEIVED 459 TIPS, A 45% INCREASE COMPARED TO 2021.

A large portion of the tips were related to bullying/harassment/intimidation, self-harm, and threats of violence. We worked with law enforcement, school personnel, and community resources to intervene for the safety of the students involved.

Tips were received from 58 of the 88 Ohio counties with Franklin and Cuyahoga counties receiving the most. Below is a map indicating the location of the tips.

The tip line saw a marked increase in the number of registrations in 2022, especially after the Uvalde school shooting in May. Prior to May, there were 27 new registrations covering 55 buildings. Between May and December, there were 167 new registrations, covering 584 buildings.



The Safer Ohio School Tip Line was successful in 2022 mitigating threat situations and avoiding harm to students. A tip was received about a student who threatened to kill a family member, along with other people. The student had access to guns and other weapons at his home. Local law enforcement was informed and the student was apprehended prior to any violence. The student, family, and school developed a plan to get the student the needed help.



Safer Ohio
School Tip Line

844.723.3764

Report concerns for student safety

Additionally, a tip was received from a student who reported their friend was going to harm themselves. Local law enforcement was contacted and a wellness check was performed. The student was upstairs in their house while their parents were home, but unaware of the situation. The officers advised the parents, and the student was transported to a local hospital where they were treated and provided with mental wellness resources for continued support.

This was just one example of a self-harm tip that was reported to the Safer Ohio School Tip Line. There were five similar tips that resulted in students expressing suicidal ideations receiving support and intervention.

HB 123 requires each local, city, exempted village, and joint vocational school district to enter into an agreement with the Safer Ohio School Tip Line or another anonymous reporting program. Per HB 123, if schools chose to use a third-party anonymous reporting system, they are required to report data about the tips received by July 1. There were 2,182 tips reported through Ohio from third-party sources.

BEHAVIORAL THREAT ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT

Behavioral threat assessment consists of multidisciplinary teams thoroughly evaluating and managing potential threats to student safety. Members of threat assessment teams are trained to evaluate threats and intervene with the student(s) of concern, provide support, and prevent the threat from occurring.

When the OSSC released the Ohio School Behavioral Threat Assessment Model Policy, along with the accompanying forms and checklists, it was welcomed by schools that were new to threat assessment and needed some guidance in developing their own procedures. The model policy is available via the [Threat Assessment section](#) of the OSSC website.



Each threat assessment team member is required to complete a threat assessment training program from an approved list, upon appointment, and once every three years thereafter. The [OSSC website](#) maintains a list of approved threat assessment trainings. The list of approved trainings has increased from seven trainings in 2021 to 17 trainings in 2022, many of which are free.

The OSSC school safety liaisons completed the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG) training, which will allow them to provide technical assistance to schools, educators, and administrators about conducting threat assessment and developing their own teams.

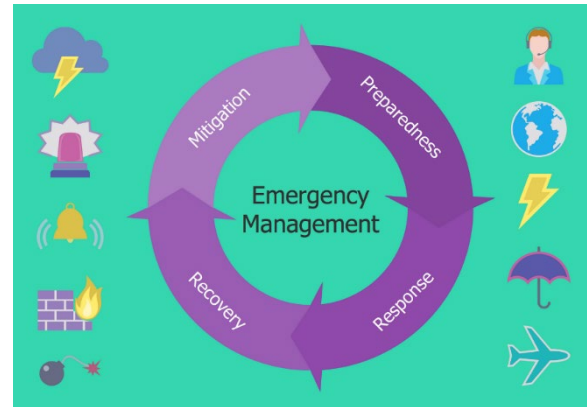
If a school's provider is not listed above, they can [send them this bulletin](#) and ask them to apply for consideration.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING

PRE-K-12

Ohio's schools are required to submit [emergency management plans](#) and conduct annual emergency management tests for the 5,600 K-12 school buildings. Through whole community-based planning, schools are better able to prevent, prepare for, and respond to a variety of hazards. Hazards range from tornados and winter storms to active shooters and chemical spills.

In 2022, the OSSC reviewed and approved 2,799 emergency management plans. Schools submit their plans every three years to maintain compliance.



Additionally, the OSSC updated and created multiple [scenario-based template tabletop exercises](#) for K-12 schools to assist them in satisfying the annual emergency management test requirement. Tabletop exercises are great foundation building exercises that foster an environment of discussion and aid in development or familiarizing personnel with new plans, procedures, policies, etc. Each tabletop exercise is designed to be completed in two hours and cover the following topics:

- Bus accident
- Long-term power outage
- Missing student
- Suicidal student
- Unexpected death on campus
- Tabletop exercise tip sheet
- Disruptive parent
- Lab hazmat incident
- Law enforcement activity near campus
- School gas leak
- Threat of violence



The [reunification process](#) after an emergency is crucial, but often can be daunting for school administrators. In order to assist in the process and policy-making, the OSSC assembled a multi-disciplinary team, including representatives from Cuyahoga County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Knox County EMA, Union County EMA, Jackson Township Police Department, and Ohio EMA, to develop family reunification best practices for schools and first responders. In 2022, the team released the [Reunification Policy Template](#), [Best Practices](#), [Card Sample](#), and the [Family Reunification Guide](#). All the documents are editable for individual school needs.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Exercises have a key role in preparedness as they allow personnel to become familiar with their roles in emergency response, validate plans and procedures, and identify strengths and areas for improvement.



The OSSC convened a team of experienced emergency management directors across Ohio to form a working group known as the Ohio School Safety Center and Institutions of Higher Education Emergency Management Collaboration Group. The work they started in 2021 continued in 2022, resulting in the production of several more PowerPoint templates for a variety of emergency situations. Scenarios available in the toolkit include:

- [Active Shooter Building Lockdown Scenario PowerPoint Template](#)
- [Evacuation Scenario PowerPoint Template](#)
- [Fire on Campus with Potential Fatality Scenario PowerPoint Template](#)
- [Flood Scenario PowerPoint Template](#)
- [Hazmat Situation Requiring Medical Response Scenario PowerPoint Template](#)
- [Hostage Scenario PowerPoint Template](#)
- [Reunification Scenario PowerPoint Template](#)
- [Student Life Scenario PowerPoint Template](#)
- [Tornado Scenario PowerPoint Template](#)
- [Tabletop Exercise PowerPoint Template](#)
- [Winter Storm Scenario Tabletop Exercise PowerPoint Template](#)

SECURITY & VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS

Another way that the OSSC assists schools is by offering pre-K-12 schools, colleges, and universities free security and vulnerability assessments. At a school's request and in collaboration with local first responder agencies, the OSSC will evaluate building and classroom security measures and safety procedures. The assessments highlight gaps and devise strategies for lessening risks to students, staff, and facilities.

In 2022, the OSSC completed 25 assessments and provided schools with insight to ensure their student's and staff's physical safety. These assessments can be vital to schools as they are often required to be eligible for grant funding. The OSSC recommends that schools conduct these once a year but also regularly conduct sweeps of their buildings to ensure proper maintenance of security features and that policies and procedures are being followed. Training may need to be assigned in response to the results of these sweeps for all building staff. School staff should also be made aware of how to identify, assess, report, and address suspicious activity or things that are not operational. School administrators should promptly address any concerns brought to their attention.

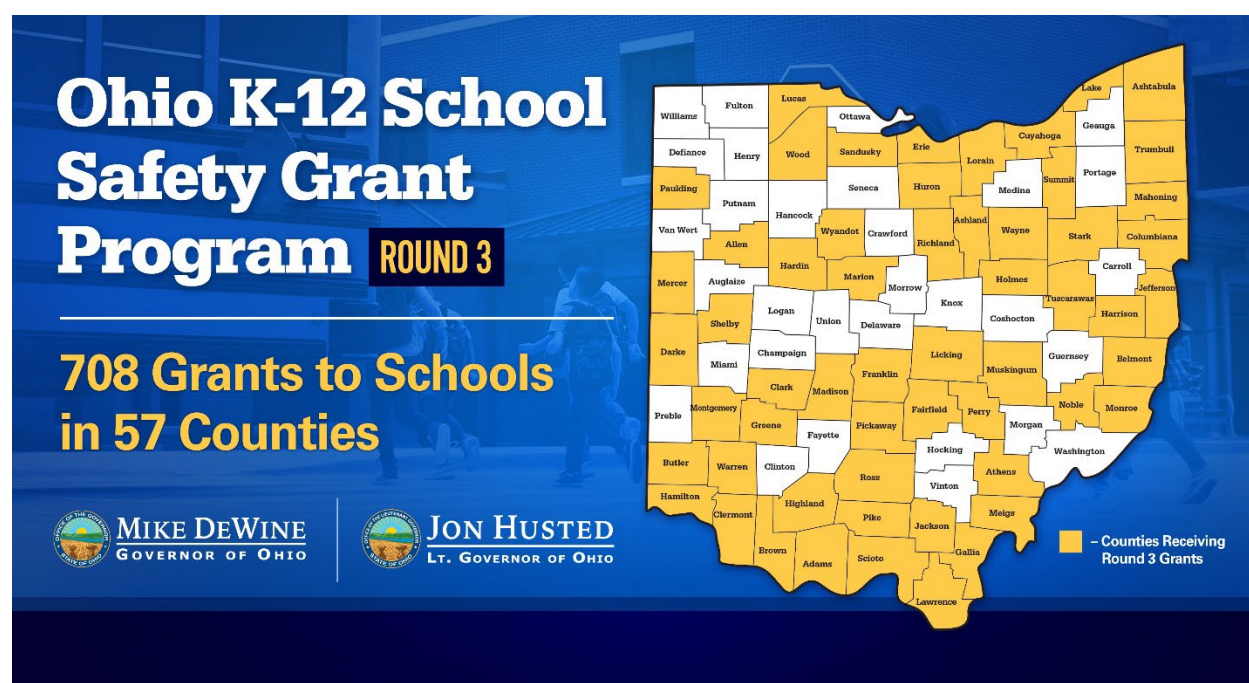


GRANTS

K-12 SCHOOL SAFETY GRANTS

In 2022, under the direction of Governor DeWine, the Ohio School Safety Center, along with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) and the Ohio Office of Budget Management (OBM), awarded \$100 million in federal funds to Ohio schools through the Ohio K-12 School Safety Grant Program.

The grant money is earmarked to help improve building safety and security in Ohio K-12 schools and was used to purchase and implement safety interventions such as security cameras, facility access control devices, radios used to communicate with first responders, and many other safety and security improvements. More than 1,700 schools were able to upgrade their security measures and take advantage of the available grant money.



Ohio K-12 School Safety Grant Program **ROUND 2**

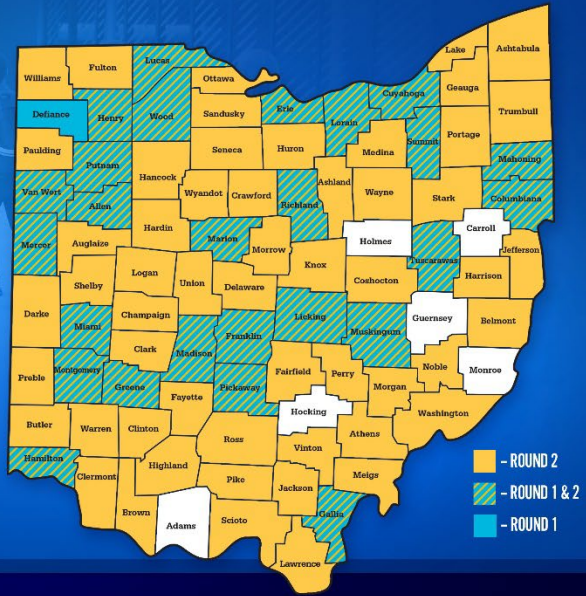
1,183 Grants to Schools in 81 Counties



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



JON HUSTED
LT. GOVERNOR OF OHIO



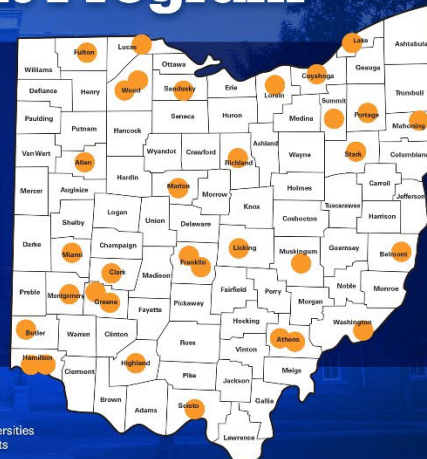
CAMPUS SAFETY GRANTS

The OSSC assisted in awarding the state's 33 institutions of higher education \$5 million in security grants as part of the 2022 Campus Safety Grant Program. The funds were used to purchase and implement eligible security improvements for the purpose of improving the overall physical security and safety of buildings on Ohio's public campuses.

2022 Campus Safety Grant Program

College/University	Total Funding Recommendation
Belmont College	\$142,077.65
Bowling Green State University	\$278,075.63
Central Ohio Technical College	\$50,000.00
Central State University	\$150,000.00
Cincinnati State	\$148,335.00
Clark State College	\$93,372.00
Cleveland State University	\$174,350.20
Columbus State Community College	\$124,393.43
Edison State Community College	\$61,460.00
Hocking Technical College	\$100,750.00
Kent State University	\$38,567.00
Lakeland Community College	\$79,300.00
Lorain Community College	\$145,200.00
Marion Technical College	\$87,560.00
Miami University	\$163,414.23
North Central State College	\$50,000.00
Northwest State Community College	\$149,700.00

College/University	Total Funding Recommendation
Ohio State University	\$174,257.25
Ohio University	\$124,175.00
Owens State Community College	\$177,583.25
Rhodes State College	\$87,500.00
Shawnee State University	\$76,013.12
Sinclair College	\$118,350.00
Southern State Community College	\$191,539.94
Stark State College	\$94,675.00
Terra State Community College	\$338,598.00
University of Akron	\$422,630.00
University of Cincinnati	\$197,648.46
University of Toledo	\$114,240.00
Washington State Community College	\$226,345.90
Wright State University	\$147,830.00
Youngstown State University	\$62,968.00
Zane State College	\$50,000.00



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MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

The OSSC understands the value of emotional safety for students, educators, administrators, counselors, and other school personnel, therefore the OSSC follows a comprehensive approach to school safety, incorporating mental health resources, education, and support.

SUICIDE PREVENTION



In 2022, OSSC school safety liaisons received their Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Training instructor certifications, so they can guide and instruct school personnel and first responders on this important program.

The [OSSC website](#) provides a variety of resources for all our stakeholders. As in previous years, the OSSC hosted suicide prevention trainings and self-care trainings along with an array of other trainings aimed at individual wellness.

THERAPY DOGS & FACILITY DOGS



The OSSC partnered with various organizations in Ohio to consolidate and share research and resources on therapy and facility dogs. Equally wonderful in their ability to bring unconditional love, patience, and kindness to a classroom; facility dogs and therapy dogs do have notable differences. Continue reading below to learn about all the benefits of introducing a facility and or therapy dog into your school. You'll also find links to partner resources organizations who are dedicated to helping schools and professionals secure and train the most qualified furry friend for your local school!

Facility Dog: Generally owned by a school or district and assigned to a handler who is evaluated and registered by a credentialing organization such as Assistance Dogs International. Liability insurance is covered by the school/district along with cost unless funded through community partnerships. The work schedule mirrors the handler's schedule and is integrated into student lesson plans.

Therapy Dog: A pet belonging to an individual (usually the handler) that has been evaluated and registered by a credentialing organization such as the American Kennel Club (AKC) Canine Good Citizens Program or Alliance of Therapy Dogs (ATD). Cost and insurance are covered by the handler. The amount of work per day is limited in duration.

PARTNERSHIPS

THE OSSC WAS HONORED TO HAVE ONE OF THEIR STAFF MEMBERS, NICHOLE MILLER, RECEIVE AN AWARD FROM THE OHIO SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S ASSOCIATION FOR THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR.

Miller is a former school counselor and teacher and now is a school safety liaison at the OSSC. She assists schools throughout central Ohio by addressing their individualized needs with an emphasis on mental health of staff and students. Congratulations, Nichole!





DREAM

VIDEO SERIES

Drug • Resilience • Education • Awareness • Mentorship

The Ohio School Safety Center also promotes and shares the [Drug Resilience Education Awareness Mentorship \(DREAM\) program](#). This program is a kindergarten through twelfth grade video series that focuses on the National Health Education Standards, the Ohio Department of Education's Health (ORC 33.1360) and Social and Emotional Learning requirements, developing resiliency skills, decision making skills and role-playing opportunities.

The DREAM program is aligned with [Ohio's Whole Child Framework](#), which is an approach that broadens district and school focus beyond academics to include meeting students' social-emotional, physical and safety needs.

This program is intended to be an enhancement or supplement to curriculums already in use by allowing educators to pick and choose the different videos, and even parts of videos, in the series that they want to implement with their students. DREAM is available to anyone who would like to access the video series, whether it is an educator in schools, leaders of civic groups, or parents who are homeschooling.

The DREAM Program was created by the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) and the Ohio Task Force Commanders Association (OTFCA) and supported by RecoveryOhio in an effort for law enforcement to have a presence within the drug and alcohol education being taught in schools without physically being needed. This program is a two-fold solution for the need to maintain the safety of undercover officers as well as providing an educator-friendly and easily-implemented series of lessons on drugs and alcohol prevention and education.

HANDLE WITH CARE



HANDLE WITH CARE: OHIO
PROTECT • HEAL • THRIVE

The OSSC promotes the Handle with Care program throughout the state. If a law enforcement officer or other first responder encounters a child during a call, that child's name and three words, HANDLE WITH CARE, are forwarded to the school/child care agency. The school implements individual, class and whole school trauma-sensitive strategies so that potentially traumatized children are "Handled With Care". OSSC school safety liaisons inform schools about the program and connect first-responders with school personnel to coordinate this response. The OSSC also implemented two on-demand trainings to educate first responders and schools about this program in the Public Safety Training Campus.

SCHOOL-BASED LAW ENFORCEMENT

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) TRAINING



The Ohio School Resource Officers Association (OSROA) and the OSSC partnered to develop content for an SRO Virtual Academy. The OSSC contracted with the University of Cincinnati to assist with developing courses in implicit bias, conflict de-escalation, positive behaviors, restorative justice, adolescent mental health training, and critical incident response. These courses will provide fundamental skills and techniques for controlling, defusing, and resolving a wide range of conflicts or crisis situations in K-12 schools encountered by SROs. Courses are expected to launch starting in the summer of 2023.



INVESTIGATION SUPPORT



During 2022, the OSSC intelligence analysts were called upon by several local police departments, SROs, and schools to evaluate student specific social media accounts. The OSSC was contacted after students exhibited concerning behavior and made threats to teachers or fellow students. Utilizing open-source information, the OSSC gave schools, police departments, and administrators insight into potential causes for the behavior. In one such case, the student was having difficulty in dealing with a friend's death, but had not communicated it to his family or anyone at the school. This resulted in the student receiving the needed mental health intervention. Schools and law enforcement should contact the OSSC if they would like to take advantage of this service.

STUDENT INITIATIVES

The Ohio School Safety Center invited Ohio students in grades six through 12, and those attending higher education institutions to participate in a [school safety public service announcement \(PSA\) contest](#) to spread awareness and encourage participation with the Safer Ohio School Tip Line. This was in response to a student focus group indicating they wanted to hear from students why they should use the tip line.



The OSSC had the opportunity to take photos and visit with Washington Local Schools students in Toledo as a result of their submission to the contest. It provided an opportunity to collaborate with their students and their SRO to gain valuable insight on how they view school safety and the importance of the tip line.

OHIO STUDENT SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL



School safety programs are designed to help students, but often the students are not given a voice when it comes to identifying safety concerns and developing solutions. In 2022, the OSSC announced the creation of the Ohio Student Safety Advisory Council, consisting of 16 high school students from across the state.

The white dots on the map indicate the counties where the council members reside. Schools face different challenges depending on their location and specific needs. Having students from diverse backgrounds, including geographically, ensures that a variety of challenges are recognized.

The Council initiated a campaign, #WhyISpeakUp, encouraging their fellow students to speak up if they hear something suspicious or notice a friend in trouble. They distributed blank speech bubbles to peers at their schools and asked them to write down a reason for speaking up. The campaign has been very successful and was extended due to its popularity.

Each student on the council will be completing a capstone project at the end of the year to present at the school safety summit in the exhibit hall.

