



Safety & Security in Tennessee Schools: A Brief Update

Agenda

- Governor's School Safety Working Group
- School Security Assessment
- Funding
- Next Steps
- Questions



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**Governor's School
Safety Working
Group**

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Governor's School Safety Working Group

- Governor Haslam appointed a multi-disciplinary task force to **review current school safety practices** in Tennessee schools and **provide recommendations** for practical, immediate action.
- The task force was composed of legislators, educators, law enforcement officers, and mental health professionals.

Governor's School Safety Working Group

- The task force made recommendations in the following areas:
 - facility security and planning,
 - school safety personnel,
 - training and drills,
 - student supports/mental health, and
 - technology
- The governor approved these recommendations and the General Assembly appropriated **\$25 million in non-recurring funding** and **increased recurring funding to \$10 million.**



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**School Safety
Security Assessment**

Statewide Security and Risk Assessment

A core element: the implementation of a statewide security and risk assessment of every public school in the state.

- The assessment was developed by the Tennessee Department of Safety & Homeland Security (TDSHS) and conducted by local teams composed of law enforcement and school personnel.
- The assessment included access control, surveillance, communications, and procedural and personnel concerns.
- All 1,805 Tennessee public schools completed the security and risk assessment.

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Funding

School Safety: Assessment and Funding

- Every district received school safety funds based on their relative share of BEP funding.
 - **\$25 million in non-recurring funding**
 - **Increased recurring funding to \$10 million**
- Completion of a security assessment for every school in a district was a prerequisite for school safety funding.
- The required assessment and funding opportunity led to a much more robust level of dialogue around school safety in communities across the state.

Use of Funds

- District spending plans were required to address the results of their assessments.
- Funds could be used for:
 - one-time expenditures that improve security like door locks, shatter-proof glass, surveillance equipment, and fencing
 - additional personnel, including school resource officers, counselors, and social workers
 - technology-related expenditures like visitor screening and emergency communications
 - other needs identified by the assessment

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Next Steps

Next Steps

- TDOE review of school-level safety data:
 - Security assessments
 - Emergency Operation Plans (EOPs)
 - Drill logs for 2017-18 school year
- Threat assessment training to districts
- Implementation of a five-year grant from the U.S. DOE focused on the development of high-quality EOPs

- TDSHS is in the process of procuring a reporting app that will be available at no cost to students and districts

Contact Information

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Questions?



Districts and schools in Tennessee will exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark on their chosen path in life.

Excellence | Optimism | Judgment | Courage | Teamwork