



**Homeland  
Security**

## K-12 School Security Outreach

Released on January 16, 2013, "Now is the Time: The President's Plan to Protect our Children and our Communities by Reducing Gun Violence," established four steps to better protect our children and communities from tragic mass shootings. According to the President's Plan, "we need to make our schools safer, not only by enhancing their physical security and making sure they are prepared to respond to emergencies like a mass shooting, but also by creating safer and more nurturing school climates that help prevent school violence."<sup>1</sup> The Departments of Homeland Security (DHS), Education, Justice, and Health and Human Services have taken a collaborative approach to guide progress towards creating safer climates at schools and other community institutions where mass casualty shootings may occur, such as houses of worship and institutions of higher education.



Source: FEMA Risk Management Series<sup>2</sup>

### Outreach Overview

As part of this Plan, the DHS National Protection and Programs Directorate's Office of Infrastructure Protection is coordinating a nationwide outreach effort leveraging Federal interagency partners, to include the U.S. Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis, and the Department of Education. This outreach effort will enhance security and resilience in K-12 schools by improving preparedness for and prevention of mass casualty shooting situations and providing a guide for K-12 security practices.

During the outreach, Federal partners will provide briefings on law enforcement response, current threat information, K-12 security priorities, behavioral indicators of potential mass shooters, the nationwide "If You See Something, Say Something™" public awareness campaign, and the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative (NSI).

As part of this outreach, Federal interagency partners will provide briefings to school district in all 50 States and Puerto Rico. The size and types of schools districts receiving briefings will represent a cross-section of schools across the country including large and small schools, public and parochial facilities, and schools in urban and rural environments.



Source: Elissa Jun, FEMA Photographer<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Source: "Now is the Time: The President's Plan to Protect our Children and our Communities by Reducing Gun Violence" January 16, 2013

<sup>2</sup> Source: Risk Management Series: Design Guide for Improving School Safety in Earthquakes, Floods, and High Winds, FEMA P-424 / December 2012, Federal Emergency Management Agency, pages 1. <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1986>.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Jun, Elissa, FEMA Photographer. Joplin, Missouri. August 19, 2011. <http://www.fema.gov/photodata/original/50245.jpg>.

Following the initial outreach visit, DHS Protective Security Advisors will work with school district participants to conduct security surveys of two to three schools in each district. The security surveys will assist the schools in identifying security and resilience vulnerabilities and gaps, and will develop options for consideration to mitigate any identified gaps.

At the conclusion of the effort, school administrators and security personnel will be provided with a security survey dashboard that shows a comparison of the school’s protective measures and resilience as compared to the approximately 300 other schools surveyed. The resulting data will also be analyzed by school security and prevention experts to identify trends and gaps across the sample population and will result in defining recommended security and prevention practices that will be shared broadly with school security mission partners. The analyses will also inform future planning and resource efforts.

## Additional Resources

<b>Bullying Prevention</b>	<a href="http://www.stopbullying.gov/">http://www.stopbullying.gov/</a>
<b>Active Shooter Preparedness</b>	<a href="http://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness">http://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness</a>
<b>President’s Plan to Protect our Children and Our Communities by Reducing Gun Violence</b>	<a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/wh_now_is_the_time_full.pdf">http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/wh_now_is_the_time_full.pdf</a>
<b>If You See Something, Say Something</b>	<a href="http://www.dhs.gov/if-you-see-something-say-something-campaign">http://www.dhs.gov/if-you-see-something-say-something-campaign</a>
<b>Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS): Technical Assistance Center</b>	<a href="http://rems.ed.gov/">http://rems.ed.gov/</a>
<b>U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC)</b>	<a href="http://www.secretservice.gov/ntac.shtml">http://www.secretservice.gov/ntac.shtml</a>
<b>FEMA: Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed</b>	<a href="http://www.ready.gov/">http://www.ready.gov/</a>
<b>Primer to Design Safe School Projects in Case of Terrorist Attacks and School Shootings</b>	<a href="http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/st/bips07_428_schools.pdf">http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/st/bips07_428_schools.pdf</a>
<b>Educational Facilities Vulnerability/Hazard Assessment Checklist</b>	<a href="http://www.acefacilities.org/Resources/documents/ACEF%20-Vulnerability- Hazard%20Assessment%20Checklist.pdf">http://www.acefacilities.org/Resources/documents/ACEF%20-Vulnerability- Hazard%20Assessment%20Checklist.pdf</a>
<b>DHS Protective Security Advisors</b>	<a href="http://www.dhs.gov/protective-security-advisors">http://www.dhs.gov/protective-security-advisors</a>
<b>Critical Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessments</b>	<a href="http://www.dhs.gov/critical-infrastructure-vulnerability-assessments">http://www.dhs.gov/critical-infrastructure-vulnerability-assessments</a>
<b>Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI)</b>	<a href="http://nsi.ncirc.gov/">http://nsi.ncirc.gov/</a>
<b>Student Reports of Bullying and Cyber-Bullying: Results from the 2009 School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey</b>	<a href="http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011336.pdf">http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011336.pdf</a>
<b>Safe Havens International: A Non-Profit Campus Safety Organization</b>	<a href="http://www.safehavensinternational.org/">http://www.safehavensinternational.org/</a>

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