



DHS Efforts to Enhance Security of K-12 Schools and Childhood Education Programs

As of September 30, 2024

January 2025



**Homeland
Security**

Message from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Director

January 16, 2025



I am pleased to present the following report, “DHS Efforts to Enhance Security of K-12 Schools and Childhood Education Programs,” which has been prepared by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS or the Department).

The safety and security of our nation’s schools, children, and educators is a top priority for the Department. Our efforts to prevent, mitigate, and respond to the threats and risks confronting education communities is central to our work. We understand there is no greater or more honorable cause than keeping our nation’s schools and communities safe. We remain dedicated to working with all levels of government, the private sector, law enforcement, non-government organizations, and individual citizens in creating safe and resilient schools.

This document has been compiled pursuant to a requirement in Section 7103 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263). Pursuant to requirements, this report is being provided to the following committees of Congress:

The Honorable Mark E. Green
Chairman, House Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Rand Paul
Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

The Honorable Gary C. Peters
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jen Easterly', written in a cursive style.

Jen Easterly
Director
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Executive Summary

Pursuant to Section 7103 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263), this report summarizes the Department's Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) activities and milestones toward enhancing the security of early childhood education programs, elementary schools, and secondary schools. The report also includes information on structures or efforts within the Department intended to bolster coordination among departmental components and offices involved in school safety and security.

In today's environment, kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) schools and early childhood education programs face an evolving and dynamic set of security risks and threats ranging from targeted violence and natural disasters to the proliferation of cyber-attacks. The threat and risk environment underlies DHS's approach and activities in support of school communities. The Department is executing activities every day that enhance the safety and security of early childhood and K-12 educational environments. Activities include raising awareness through outreach, engagement, and educational campaigns; developing and deploying resources, products, and tools to support schools in building preparedness and resilience capabilities; and equipping stakeholders with training and expertise to apply best practices within their school communities.

The Department is dedicated to strengthening and developing programs and capacity-building products, training, and tools to support schools across the country in their efforts to mitigate and effectively respond to complex physical and cyber threats. In these efforts, DHS will continue working across all levels of government, the private sector, law enforcement, and non-government organizations to ensure its resources, guidance, and support are timely, meaningful, and actionable.



DHS Efforts to Enhance Security of K-12 Schools and Childhood Education Programs

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I. Legislative Language

Section 7103 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) includes the following requirement:

(a) IN GENERAL. —Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report regarding the following:

(1) The Department of Homeland Security’s activities, policies, and plans to enhance the security of early childhood education programs, elementary schools, and secondary schools during the preceding year that includes information on the Department’s activities through the Federal School Safety Clearinghouse.

(2) Information on all structures or efforts within the Department intended to bolster coordination among departmental components and offices involved in carrying out paragraph (1) and, with respect to each structure or effort, specificity on which components and offices are involved and which component or office leads such structure or effort.

(3) A detailed description of the measures used to ensure privacy rights, civil rights, and civil liberties protections in carrying out these activities.

II. School Safety Efforts and Activities: Fiscal Year 2024

During an August 2023 White House hosted “Back to School” event, Secretary Mayorkas committed DHS, alongside its partners across the government, to providing communities and school systems with the support and the resources necessary to protect themselves, their infrastructure, and their students. This section provides information on the DHS efforts to strengthen coordination on and support of the safety and security of early childhood education programs, elementary schools, and secondary schools. It also includes the Department’s key activities and milestones completed in FY24 to support these efforts.

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

CISA provides the public and private sectors with access to a multitude of capabilities that support risk mitigation capacity building efforts. Through trainings, exercises, and best practice resources that focus on prevalent attack methods (e.g., active shooter, vehicle ramming, bombing) and evolving threats (e.g., unmanned aircraft systems), CISA enhances the understanding of potential operational impacts resulting from a successful attack and suggests corresponding protective measures.

CISA School Safety Task Force (SSTF)

CISA established SSTF to support the federal government’s efforts in strengthening the safety and security of K-12 schools across the country. SSTF’s work centers around building the capacity of K-12 schools and districts to protect against and mitigate security threats and risks. It supports schools by developing and deploying actionable and tailorable guidance, resources, and tools, and by educating K-12 communities on school safety issues, threats, and hazards. SSTF works across DHS offices and components to support DHS-wide collaboration on key school safety priorities, activities, engagements, and resources.

SSTF also coordinates federal school safety efforts through the administration of the Federal School Safety Clearinghouse, an interagency collaboration comprised of the U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, and Justice. As part of these efforts, SSTF manages the Clearinghouse’s public-facing vehicle, [SchoolSafety.gov](https://www.schoolsafety.gov), which serves as a comprehensive repository of federal and state resources, programs, tools, and actionable recommendations on a range of school safety topics. The Clearinghouse provides a forum for an ongoing and coordinated effort that includes regular interagency review of evidence-based content and recommended best practices to keep schools safe, as well as the curation and distribution of resources, guidance, and tools for school communities across the country.

ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS

Effort	Date	Description
COORDINATED FEDERAL SCHOOL SAFETY EFFORTS	FY24	<p>Through its stewardship of the Clearinghouse, SSTF manages the public-facing vehicle, SchoolSafety.gov, which serves as a comprehensive repository of federal and state resources, programs, tools, and actionable recommendations on a range of school safety topics. Key FY24 activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded to more than 650 resources published on SchoolSafety.gov to help create and sustain safe and supportive learning environments for students and educators. • Administered the Grants Finder Tool on SchoolSafety.gov, which hosted information from federal grant-funding organizations on more than 50 federal grant opportunities and distributed messages providing information on roughly 25 notices of funding opportunities and related informational webinars. • Launched and administered the SchoolSafety.gov Back-to-School campaign in August 2024, which highlighted resources, tools, and guidance to support K-12 communities in creating safe and supportive learning environments during the school year. • Facilitated quarterly Clearinghouse Editorial Board meetings for interagency partners to collaborate on school safety initiatives and develop guidance on timely topics. The Clearinghouse Editorial Board is comprised of representatives from each of the Clearinghouse agencies that serves to coordinate; collaborate on key school safety activities; and vet, curate, and approve content, capabilities, and tools for the Clearinghouse and its website, SchoolSafety.gov. • Launched the Federal School Safety Clearinghouse External Advisory Board, a group of school safety experts and education leaders that provide advice and recommendations on ways to enhance K-12 school safety and security. The Board builds upon the collective efforts to support K-12 communities in creating safer, more supportive learning environments and fulfills a key requirement of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. The Board will advise the Secretary of Homeland Security on the

	<p>implementation of evidence-based school safety practices and propose additional best practices for publication on the website, SchoolSafety.gov.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched updates to the SchoolSafety.gov Safety Readiness Tool in July 2024. The tool helps school leaders and personnel evaluate their school's safety posture across ten elements and provides a personalized action plan with prioritized options for consideration and aligned resources and federal funding opportunities. Updates to the tool improved user experience/functionality and better aligned action plan results with current available resources and grant funding.
PRODUCTS AND TRAININGS	<p>FY24 SSTF develops and deploys capacity-building training and tools to support and enhance school safety and security efforts. Resources are specifically designed to assist schools in strengthening their protection and mitigation capabilities. Key FY24 activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published the K-12 School Security Guide Companion Product for School-Based Law Enforcement and School Resource Officers. This product assists school-based law enforcement and school resource officers in understanding and applying physical security guidance and best practices as it relates to their role in K-12 communities. The product further supports school resource officers in physical security planning and improvement initiatives across their respective campuses. • Published the K-12 School Security Guide Companion Product for School Business Officials in September 2024. This product assists school business officials, including district administrators and other school personnel, in understanding and applying physical security guidance and best practices as it relates to their role in K-12 communities. This product also incorporates ways to apply the security principles in budget justifications for school security improvements and steps for conducting security measure tradeoff analysis. • Published the Anonymized Threat Response Guidance: A Toolkit for K-12 Schools in September 2024. This resource helps K-12 schools establish and maintain response processes to threats, specifically focusing on the identification and implementation of

		scalable response solutions to threats originating on, or submitted via, anonymized platforms and mediums. The product suite includes a detailed toolkit with guidance in assessing anonymized threats while a user guide provides a streamlined set of best practices for practical application by K-12 stakeholders.
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT	FY24	<p>SSTF collaborates with federal and state government agencies, non-profit organizations, and school safety stakeholder groups to educate, equip, and motivate school communities in creating safer and more resilient school systems. Key FY24 activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted the 2023 and 2024 National Summit on K-12 School Safety and Security in November 2023 and September 2024. The Summits are virtual events that convened thousands of federal, state, and local school leaders to share actionable recommendations that enhance safe and supportive learning environments in K-12 schools. Through expert panels and keynote addresses by leaders in the field, the Summits explored current threats and issues in school safety and considered research-informed strategies for addressing security challenges. • Presented at more than 45 external conferences, providing information about school safety resources, strategies, and evidence-based practices on a range of topics. Conferences were hosted by safety associations; security organizations; publications; think tanks and academia; non-profit organizations; and state, local, and county governments.
PUBLIC EDUCATION	FY24	<p>SSTF regularly communicates with the K-12 academic community and other relevant school safety stakeholders. By leveraging current events and topics, SSTF raises awareness of school safety-related tools, resources, and guides, and educates school communities on current and emerging threats and hazards. Key FY24 activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed a total of 36 monthly communications to external stakeholders. Communications included topical messages, community bulletins, and state partner newsletters. • Released seven SchoolSafety.gov issue briefs. These briefs provided information on a timely school safety issue and corresponding strategies and resources to

	<p>support schools in strengthening their school safety and security efforts. Briefs were specifically tailored to members of the K-12 school system and covered issues such as inclusive emergency planning, cybersecurity, human trafficking, student mental health, school safety reporting programs, and school climate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed a webinar series designed to address new and emerging threats facing the K-12 academic community with more than 5,900 participants across the country. Hosted in coordination with the Clearinghouse, the series covered school safety topics ranging from targeted violence prevention and cybersecurity best practices to funding and grant opportunities for states, districts, and school communities. Each session featured leaders and subject matter experts from across the federal government and K-12 community who shared insights and information on critical school security threats and risks, and the resources available to combat them.
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CISA Exercises

CISA Exercises conducts cyber and physical security exercises with school safety stakeholders to enhance the security and resilience of critical infrastructure. These include cyber-focused exercises with K-12 communities to enhance their cybersecurity posture and exercises focused on physical security threats and incidents, aiming to enhance K-12 communities' physical security and resilience. CISA works with partners to design and conduct exercises that range from small-scale, discussion-based exercises to large-scale, operations-based exercises. CISA also offers a wide portfolio of downloadable CISA Tabletop Exercise Packages to serve as off-the-shelf solutions for a variety of stakeholders' exercise needs.

ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS

Effort	Date	Description
PRODUCTS AND TRAININGS	FY24	<p>CISA Exercises offers an extensive library of downloadable CISA Tabletop Exercise Packages (CTEP). Each CTEP is customizable and includes template exercise objectives, scenarios, and discussion questions, as well as a collection of references and resources. CISA Exercises conducts a monthly workshop to help stakeholders maximize the CTEP resources. These CTEPs are used to conduct interactive, discussion-based exercises focused on various threats. In FY24, the following CTEPs were available specific to the K-12 academic community which were collectively downloaded 3,678 times thus far in the FY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-12 Schools Cyber • Elementary School Active Shooter • High School Active Shooter • K-12 Active Threat • Middle School Active Shooter <p>CISA Exercises uses the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program methodology to design, develop, conduct, and evaluate exercises ranging from small-scale, limited-scope, discussion-based exercises (e.g., two-hour seminars) to large-scale, internationally scoped, operations-based exercises (e.g., multi-day, full-scale exercises).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In FY24, CISA conducted 27 K-12 exercises with 1,397 participants. This included 24 cyber security exercises covering a range of topics from social engineering threats to complex data breaches and exfiltration, and two physical security exercises covering the full range of actions to respond and recover from active shooter events. In June, CISA, in coordination with Fauquier County, VA Fire Rescue System, Fauquier County Public Schools, and Fauquier County Sheriff's Office, conducted a full-scale exercise with over 400 participants to test response and family reunification procedures and public messaging during an active shooter incident at a local high school.

CISA Office for Bombing Prevention (OBP)

OBP seeks to enhance national security by building public and private capabilities to deter, prevent, and respond to bombing incidents. OBP employs several programs and develops and delivers a diverse curriculum of training and awareness products to build nationwide Counter Improvised Explosive Device core capabilities and to enhance awareness of terrorist threats. OBP courses introduce participants to strategies to prevent, protect against, respond to, and mitigate bombing incidents. This no-fee training is available nationwide to all school administrators, staff, and security personnel.

ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS

Effort	Date	Description
PRODUCTS AND TRAININGS	FY24	<p>OBP develops and deploys capacity-building training and tools to help communities – including K-12 stakeholders – prepare for and assess threats. Key FY24 activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Created and released a new virtual instructor-led training, <i>Bomb Threat Assessment for Decision Makers</i>. This course introduces participants to threat types, the threat assessment process, and guides the implementation of a Bomb Threat Management plan.• Developed and published the <i>Bombing Prevention Assistance for K-12 Schools</i> informational resource to provide schools and districts with products, tools, and Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) strategies to protect, prevent, mitigate, and respond to bombing threats.• Developed the <i>Bomb Threat Guide</i>, in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to provide awareness and guidance when preparing for and reacting to a bomb threat. The guide assists decision makers with bomb threat assessment and provides response guidance to protect critical infrastructure. The target audience is critical infrastructure owners/operators, facility security and emergency management officials, and is especially useful to educational facilities in the development of facility response and security plans.• Delivered 14 C-IED and Risk Mitigation courses for K-12 schools, training 1,451 participants in courses such as the <i>Response to Suspicious Behaviors and Items for Bombing Prevention Course</i>. OBP continues to engage with K-12 stakeholders and has additional school-centric courses scheduled for FY24.

CISA Security Programs (SP)

CISA SP delivers expertise and essential guidance to public and private sector stakeholders to build security capacity that addresses the dynamic threat environment. CISA SP employs several programs to deliver tools, resources, and training relevant to the security preparedness of school safety stakeholders. CISA SP's programs address security across the DHS preparedness spectrum, which includes prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery.

Among the programs relevant to school safety stakeholders are multiple products and tools related to enhancing the security of public gatherings, active shooter preparedness training and resources, targeted violence prevention products, and foundational security planning tools and resources. CISA SP also maintains portfolio items tailored to faith-based organizations, designed to assist stakeholders to reduce risk and increase resilience.

ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS

Effort	Date	Description
PRODUCTS AND TRAININGS	FY24	<p>CISA SP delivered multiple presentations to highlight product offerings dedicated to security preparedness. Product topics included active shooter preparedness, insider threat mitigation, conflict prevention techniques, securing public gatherings, and vehicle ramming mitigation. Key FY24 products included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed and released the <i>Violence Prevention through De-escalation Video</i> to provide organizations in the critical infrastructure community and public gathering locations with information to help identify concerning behaviors and mitigate the risk from incidents of targeted violence.• Developed and released the <i>Social Media Threat Guidance for School Staff and Authorities Infographic</i> to highlight social media threats affecting school districts in the United States, provide mitigation and response measures for social media threats directed at school districts, and connect school safety stakeholders to the suite of tools and resources provided by CISA and its partners to promote a culture of readiness and preparedness.

CISA Cybersecurity

CISA provides best-in class services to advance cybersecurity capabilities at scale across the United States. Furthermore, CISA expands risk-reducing services and best practices where appropriate to non-federal partners including K-12 schools and school systems. CISA actively works with the K-12 sector to provide information, tools, technical assistance, and other resources to help K-12 stakeholders reduce their cybersecurity risk while increasing their resiliency and capability.

ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS

Effort	Date	Description
PRODUCTS AND TRAININGS	FY24	<p>CISA develops and deploys capacity-building training and tools to help communities, including K-12 stakeholders, prepare for and assess cybersecurity threats. In FY24, CISA's Cybersecurity Division (CSD) coordinated across CISA and with the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to support K-12 cybersecurity efforts. Key FY24 products include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Protecting Our Future: Partnering to Safeguard K-12 Organizations from Cybersecurity Threats</i> reports on cybersecurity risks facing elementary and secondary schools and provides recommendations that include cybersecurity guidelines designed to help schools face these risks.• The accompanying toolkit to <i>Protecting Our Future: Partnering to Safeguard K-12 Organizations from Cybersecurity Threats</i> includes three one-sheet reference guides on key findings, recommendations, and the most impactful security measures. CISA and the Department of Education jointly released the K-12 Digital Infrastructure Brief: Defensible and Resilient in August 2023. This product provides K-12 districts a starting place to understand the importance of securing digital infrastructure and provides steps schools can take to keep their systems safe.• CISA offers a range of assessment services to K-12 stakeholders to help better understand their risk posture and exposure. In the first three quarters of FY24, 468 new K-12 entities enrolled in CISA's Vulnerability Management services, such as the Cyber Hygiene external vulnerability scanning service.

CISA Stakeholder Engagement

CISA's Stakeholder Engagement Division (SED) conducts the agency's national and international voluntary engagements while serving as the agency's hub for the shared stakeholder information that unifies CISA's approach to whole-of-nation operational collaboration and information sharing. CISA engages with a diverse set of national associations, and coordinates program and stakeholder group-focused engagement across state, local, tribal, and territorial governments; small-to-medium businesses; academia; federal agencies; and non-profits, while providing enterprise tools for collaboration and information-sharing.

To help Americans everywhere better protect themselves online, CISA also conducts collaboration-based outreach to the American public on infrastructure security and cybersecurity topics with awareness campaigns, including Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS

Effort	Date	Description
PRODUCTS AND TRAININGS	FY24	<p>CISA, in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), works to build capacity and improve resilience for state and local partners through targeted grant funding via the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP). FY24 SLCGP Key Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding current cybersecurity postures and identifying areas for improvement based on continuous testing, evaluation, and structured assessments. • Ensuring organization personnel are appropriately trained in cybersecurity; and • Implementing security protections commensurate with risk.
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT	FY24	<p>CISA’s Stakeholder Engagement Division works collaboratively with the Department of Education and K12 Security Information exchange (K12 SIX) to advance cybersecurity in the K-12 space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SED and the Department of Education collectively attended the annual National K-12 Cybersecurity Leadership Conference, hosted by K12 SIX and participated in a moderated panel discussion on the topic, “Working with Federal Partners to Reduce K-12 Cybersecurity Risk”. The summit’s audience included members from schools’ and school districts’ administrators, superintendents, subject matter experts, education technology vendors, and state departments of education. • SED collaborated with and provided guidance and support to the Department of Education as they worked to establish the Education Services and Facilities Sub-Sector (ESFS) first Government Coordinating Council (GCC). Collaboration efforts included CISA educating ED on the Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council (CIPAC) structure and ESFS’s use of the council, chair and vice chair roles and responsibilities, GCC membership, and the member voting process. The ESFS GCC Inaugural Meeting was held on March 28, 2024.

CISA Regional Engagements

CISA's [Regions](#) support K-12 security and cybersecurity efforts as part of the broader CISA school safety effort. School safety efforts to enhance the security of K-12 programs are mirrored across the 50 states as well as in American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS

Effort	Date	Description
PRODUCTS AND TRAININGS	FY24	Within each CISA Region are local and regional Protective Security Advisors, Cybersecurity Advisors, Emergency Communications Coordinators, and Chemical Security Inspectors. To build stakeholder resiliency and form partnerships, these field personnel assess, advise, assist, and provide a variety of risk management and response services on an annual basis. CISA supported over 1,800 K-12 Stakeholder Engagements to include over 300 engagements at the state level, almost 1,150 engagements at the district levels, and over 600 engagements in schools.

DHS Office of the Secretary

The Office of the Secretary oversees DHS efforts to counter terrorism and enhance security, secure and manage our borders while facilitating trade and travel, enforce and administer our immigration laws, safeguard and secure cyberspace, build resilience to disasters, combat crimes of exploitation and protect victims, and provide essential support for national and economic security - in coordination with federal, state, local, international, and private sector partners.

Center for Prevention Partnerships and Programs (CP3)

The Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3) strengthens the United States' ability to prevent targeted violence and terrorism nationwide through funding, training, increased public awareness, and partnerships across every level of government, the private sector, and local communities. Guided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's principles for violence prevention, CP3 approaches its prevention mission by centering locally led efforts to establish and enhance prevention frameworks through a public health-informed approach. These efforts are multidisciplinary, whole-of-society, and seek to ensure the health and well-being of individuals and their communities to prevent all forms of targeted violence and terrorism including racial and ethnic-based hatred that can lead to violent extremism. CP3 also strategically stations Regional Prevention Coordinators (RPCs) across the United States to establish and support prevention efforts at the local level. RPCs help to deliver training, connect prevention practitioners, and build networks that can support local prevention frameworks. The RPCs additionally support the development and implementation of statewide targeted violence and terrorism prevention plans. CP3 also administers the Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant Program, which provides funding to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments; nonprofits; and institutions of higher education to establish or enhance capabilities to prevent targeted violence and terrorism.

ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS

EFFORT	Date	Description
PRODUCTS AND TRAININGS	FY24	CP3 supports its 28 active terrorism and targeted violence prevention (TVTP) grantees in FY24 that are pursuing school safety efforts including 19 grantees implementing primary prevention projects, eight grantees implementing secondary prevention projects, and one grantee implementing a joint primary and secondary prevention project. For descriptions of these grant projects, please visit https://www.dhs.gov/tvtpgrants .
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT	FY24	Since 2021, CP3 has funded the Invent2Prevent program – also known as I2P – each semester. This program is an innovative, experiential learning initiative that challenges high school and college students to create and implement their own initiatives to decrease the likelihood of acts of targeted violence, hate-fueled violence, or terrorism in their specific communities. The program allows essential prevention work to happen at the state and local levels with the goal of using a public health-informed approach to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors among youth. Since I2P’s inception, more than 1,200 students have participated in the program at 119 universities across 32 states and Washington, D.C. and at 138 high schools across 26 states. Through the Invent2Prevent program, collegiate teams can further advance and scale their initiatives and projects. “At the high school level, I2P has received support from state-level school safety officials for program expansion funded and run by the state.”

Office of Partnership and Engagement

The Office of Partnership and Engagement (OPE) coordinates the Department of Homeland Security's outreach efforts with key stakeholders nationwide, ensuring a unified approach to external engagement. OPE partners and conducts strategic engagements and outreach with state, local, tribal, territorial (SLTT) governments, elected officials, the private sector, faith-based and non-governmental organizations (NGO), academia, and communities. OPE advocates and represents interests of these stakeholders through the Department's policy-making process and serves as a conduit for the Secretary to engage with stakeholders and to share information.

OPE's NGO Engagement Office coordinates outreach and engagement with faith-based and NGOs, academic institutions and organizations, and community partners. Additionally, the NGO Engagement Office oversees the Homeland Security Academic Partnership Council (HSAPC) and Faith-Based Security Advisory Council (FBSAC). These councils provide organizationally independent, strategic, timely, specific, and actionable recommendations to the DHS Secretary on key issues across the homeland security enterprise as they relate to the intersection of education and academia and the DHS mission on matters related to protecting houses of worship, preparedness, and enhanced coordination with the faith community.

ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS

Effort	Date	Description
PRODUCTS AND TRAININGS	FY24	<p>OPE coordinates the provision of DHS products, trainings, technical assistance, and resources to support and address the needs of stakeholders including those related to school and community safety. FY 24 activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishing a new, online resource, <i>First Amendment Activity at Academic Institutions</i>, aimed at both K-12 and higher education audiences. This resource provides DHS's recommendations for proactive steps to take to ensure peaceful protests and safe conduct on educational campuses during First Amendment-protected activities including how to prepare the campus ecosystem, communicate policies and procedures, and respond by taking both a whole-of-community, human centric approach and enforcing campus policies as necessary. • Publishing <i>Resources for Swatting and Hoax Threats</i>, which provides stakeholders with a definition of swatting and the various hoax threats an organization may face as well as proactive steps to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a related incident. • Publishing <i>Resources for Individuals on the Threat of Doxing</i>, to provide stakeholders with information on the doxing threat, how to protect personal information from being used in a doxing attack, and steps to take to recover from an attack. • Holding three (3) Regional Security Technical Assistance Workshops for community and academic stakeholders, in collaboration with the CISA Infrastructure Security and Cybersecurity Divisions. Regional Workshops were held in Nashville, TN, Salt Lake City, UT, and Framingham, MA, during FY24.
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT	FY24	<p>FY24 activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing quarterly meetings of the Secretary's Homeland Security Academic Partnership Council (HSAPC). In June 2024, the HSAPC and FBSAC both delivered reports and recommendations to the Secretary on Combatting Online Child Sexual

	<p>Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA) including recommendations on the development of guidelines and best practices for educators and academic institutions, an assessment of DHS educational, awareness, and school safety resources, and ways DHS can partner with faith-based organizations and help bring awareness of online CSEA to faith-based communities and help empower, engage, and foster community involvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing a youth-serving organization listening session with the Boys and Girls Club of America (BGCA) that created new opportunities to collaborate with DHS's Know2Protect campaign to help combat online CSEA and amplify DHS resources to the BGCA club network nationwide. • Conducting academic and community listening sessions in Salt Lake City, UT, Cleveland, OH, Atlanta, GA, Boulder, CO, and other cities to discuss the increase in hate and targeted violence and resources to enhance the security of communities.
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Office for State and Local Law Enforcement

The DHS Office for State and Local Law Enforcement (OSLLE) was created on the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission to provide DHS with primary coordination, liaisons, and advocacy for state, local, tribal, territorial, and campus (SLTTC) law enforcement. OSLLE accomplishes its mission through partnerships and relationships with SLTTC law enforcement, both through national associations and directly with the 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the United States. OSLLE's responsibilities including supporting Department senior leadership engagements with SLTTC law enforcement; sharing pertinent and timely information and resources with stakeholders, including the development of custom solutions when off the shelf resources don't exist; identifying the issues, concerns, and recommendations of non-federal law enforcement; and informing the Department's policies, programs, and initiatives with the perspective of SLTTC law enforcement. OSLLE is also statutorily responsible for ensuring that that law enforcement and terrorism focused grants are appropriately focused on terrorism prevention activities.

ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS

Effort	Date	Description
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT	FY24	<p>In FY24, OSLLE deepened the Department's relationship with the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO). NASRO, the world's leader in school-based policing, is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1991 for school-based law enforcement officers, school administrators, and school security and/or safety professionals who work as partners to protect schools and their students, faculty, and staff members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with NASRO leadership to discuss opportunities for collaboration on NASRO priorities and topics of interest related to homeland security. • Hosted a whiteboarding session with NASRO members during the association's annual training conference. The purpose of the white boarding session was to allow professionals in school administration, mental health professionals/counselors, and law enforcement to collaborate and to discuss current challenges and opportunities to collaborate to enhance school safety nationwide. Topics of discussion included information sharing, training, behavioral threat assessment and management, and SchoolSafety.gov resources. • Regularly shared homeland security information and resources with NASRO for distribution to their members.

DHS Management Directorate

The Management Directorate ensures that the Department's over 260,000 employees have well-defined responsibilities and that managers and their employees have efficient means of communicating with one another, with other governmental and nongovernmental bodies, and with the public they serve.

Federal Protective Service (FPS)

The DHS Management Directorate's FPS is the sector co-lead for the Government Services and Facility Sector (GSFS). The GSFS is also responsible for supporting two subsectors, one of which is the Education Facilities Subsector.

The Education Facilities Subsector covers pre-kindergarten through 12th grade schools, institutions of higher education, and business and trade schools. The subsector includes facilities that are owned by both government and private sector entities.

ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS

Effort	Date	Description
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT	FY24	<p>FY24 activities with the academic community included supporting the Education Facilities Subsector’s priority of information sharing. The Education Facilities Subsector provides a trusted information-sharing network with the means to identify emerging threats and develop innovative protective programs and expertise, all necessary for the protection of government and private sector facilities.</p> <p>The GSFS overall uses coordination mechanisms to facilitate sharing of near-real time information on threats, vulnerabilities, incidents, recommended protective measures, and critical infrastructure security and resilience best practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A memorandum of understanding (MOU) outlines efforts by FPS and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) to achieve a centralized partnership through programs to assist with the standardization and streamlining of field interactions with the local college campus law enforcement in the vicinity of FPS regional commands. Additionally, the MOU is designed to ensure regular contact and communications to develop collaboration in the advancement of information sharing, training, and best practices to protect real property and persons on the property.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

FEMA offers a variety of resources, trainings, and toolkits for schools from across the agency, including the Grant Programs Directorate (GPD), the National Disaster and Emergency Management University (NDEMU), the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), and National Training and Exercise Division (NTED).

FEMA offers tuition-free training to help schools and students prepare for emergencies such as bomb threats, active shooters, and weather-related disasters. This training is delivered in a variety of ways including independent study courses, virtual learning, residential training delivered at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama and the NDEMU at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and through mobile field deliveries to school districts across the country. FEMA training can be found by searching the National Preparedness Course Catalog, accessed through the internet at <https://www.firstrespondertraining.gov/frts/>.

ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS

EFFORT	Date	Description
PRODUCTS AND TRAININGS	FY24	<p>FEMA GPD administers the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), both part of the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). These grants can be used in a variety of ways, with all allowable activities focused on preventing, preparing for, protecting against, and responding to acts of terrorism. FEMA GPD also administers the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP). The objective of the NSGP is to provide funding for physical and cybersecurity enhancements and other security-related activities for nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist or other extremist attack.</p> <p>As per GPD Information Bulletin #504, law enforcement agencies at institutions of higher education (e.g., public and private colleges and universities) are eligible to receive both SHSP and UASI funding for eligible activities as subrecipients.</p> <p>Per the HSGP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), school districts are considered pass-through entities. HSGP funding can also be used for the following example activities at schools, at the discretion of the state/territory receiving the grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partner with local school districts to deliver the Student Tools for Emergency Planning curriculum or other educational programming to guide students on how to create emergency kits and family communications plans.• Hire or maintain staff positions/contractors at state, local, tribal, or territorial (SLTT) levels to deliver community preparedness training, resources and material to schools, community-based organizations, faith-based institutions and local businesses.• In FY24, FEMA awarded \$1.12 billion in HSGP funding. <p>Educational facilities at risk of a terrorist or other extremist attack including institutions of higher education, daycares, pre-schools, and K-12 schools</p>

that are described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (IRC) and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such code may also apply for and receive funding for eligible activities under the NSGP as subrecipients. NSGP funding can be used to enhance the physical security at these educational facilities, for example, with bollards, CCTV cameras, access controls, and contracted security personnel. In FY 2023, FEMA awarded \$305 million in NSGP funding to 2,201 nonprofit organizations, 395 of which self-identified as educational facilities (~18%).

In collaboration with CISA, FEMA administers the SLCGP (see “*CISA Strategic Engagement*”). Key training courses included:

- Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents-- Partnering Rural Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Local School Systems;
- Risk Management for After School Activities and Interscholastic Athletics;
- Bomb Threat Preparedness and Response;
- Preparedness for Child Care Providers;
- Preparing for Mass Casualty Incidents: A Guide for Schools, Higher Education, and Houses of Worship;
- Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools;
- Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters;
- Campus Emergencies Prevention, Response, and Recovery;
- Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents for Key Decision Makers;
- Surviving School Bombing Incidents for Educators; and
- Mass Casualty scenario-based training at FEMA’s Center for Domestic Preparedness.

<https://cdp.dhs.gov/training>

Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC)

FLETC offers a variety of training for state, local, tribal, territorial, and campus (SLTTC) police that focuses on K-12 school safety. FLETC also coordinates the DHS Leadership Academy (DHSLA), the result of a shared vision between FLETC and the National Sheriffs’ Association to establish a professional development forum for SLTTC law enforcement leaders to explore contemporary issues impacting homeland security and law enforcement operations with a specific focus on crisis leadership.

ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS

Effort	Date	Description
PRODUCTS AND TRAININGS	FY24	<p>FLETC offers a variety of training for SLTTC law enforcement officers (LEOs) that focuses on or incorporates K-12 school safety. Training programs relate to planning, response, and recovery/post-event investigation of mass casualty events and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Planning</u> – Physical Security Assessment Training Program (PSATP) and Physical Security Training Program (PSTP). • <u>Response</u> – Active Shooter Threat Instructor Training Program (ASTITP), Active Shooter Threat Training Program (ASTTP), Basic Tactical Medical Instructor Training Program (BTMITP), and Tactical Medical for First Responders (TMFR). • <u>Recovery/Post-Event Investigation</u> – Advanced Interviewing for Law Enforcement Investigators Training Program (AILEITP) and Basic Incident Response to Digital Evidence (BIRDE). <p>Specific examples of FY24 accomplishments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered 17 PSATPs, 10 PSTPs, 19 ASTITPs, 28 ASTTPs, 76 BTMITPs, 113 TMFRs, 25 AILEITPs, and 13 BIRDEs for a grand total of 6,183 LEOs trained in these programs, 5,240 of whom were state and local LEOs. • Each of these deliveries were relevant for school safety at the K-12 level and LEOs with primary and secondary school jurisdiction attended many iterations. • FLETC also delivered two Critical Incident Response In-Service training programs in Kentucky and California to 64 LEOs following requests from municipalities to deliver training focused on “after the threat has stopped.” • FLETC also provided a presentation at the National Sheriffs’ Association (NSA) School Safety Committee during NSA’s Summer Conference in June 2024.
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT	FY24	<p>FLETC coordinates the Department of Homeland Security Leadership Academy (DHSLA), the result of a shared vision between FLETC and the National Sheriffs’ Association to establish a professional development</p>

forum for SLTTC law enforcement leaders to explore contemporary issues impacting homeland security and law enforcement operations, with a specific focus on crisis leadership.

- In FY 2024, FLETC facilitated three iterations of DHSLA with a total of 83 participants. DHSLA includes a block of instruction from a Parkland, FL (Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School) parent who founded Safe Schools For Alex. The program enables participants to return to their jurisdiction and implement safety measures within their school systems.

Science and Technology Directorate (S&T)

S&T is the research and development arm of DHS and serves as the science advisor to the Secretary. Established by Congress in 2003, S&T conducts basic and applied research, development, testing, and evaluation activities to support the DHS mission. S&T conducts research and development that strengthens the nation's overall security and develops and transitions the technologies that allow those on the front lines to complete their missions effectively and safely.

Office of Innovation and Collaboration / Office of University Programs (OUP)

[OUP](#) harnesses the intellectual power of America's universities to provide innovative research, development, and education to the Homeland Security Enterprise through the establishment of [Centers of Excellence](#) – multidisciplinary academic consortia that engage leading experts to conduct groundbreaking research on threats facing the Homeland. OUP established the [Soft Target Engineering to Neutralize the Threat Reality \(SENTRY\)](#) Center of Excellence to develop strategies and innovative solutions to secure soft targets and crowded places from targeted attacks that inflict grave injury to human life and property. These soft target environments, such as schools, surface transportation, sports arenas, places of worship, large outdoor events, and retail facilities, often have limited security or protective measures, making them vulnerable to attack.

SENTRY is developing next-generation tools and methodologies to predict and mitigate these threats. A key aspect of the SENTRY strategy is the development of a real-time decision support system, a Virtual Sentry Framework, that can be used by the stakeholders of soft target venues and crowded places to help defeat attacks. SENTRY has conducted workshops on school safety and collaborates with multiple school districts to identify best practices and develop innovative tools to secure school environments.

ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS

Effort	Date	Description
PRODUCTS AND TRAININGS	FY24	<p>FY24 key accomplishments of SENTRY include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted the 27th Advanced Developments for Security Applications workshop on November 14-15, 2023 focused on developing and deploying technologies to minimize the impact of attacks on soft targets. The event attracted over 150 participants from academia, industry, and government, fostering collaboration on solutions to protect soft targets including educational institutions. • In FY24, collaborated with Lincoln High School and Middle School in Lincoln, RI, and Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT to conduct site visits and collect real-world data to refine SENTRY's virtual framework for soft targets. These efforts improved the framework's ability to enhance threat detection and response strategies, contributing to stronger safety measures in schools. • Established a formal license agreement with Boston Public Schools in FY24, allowing SENTRY researchers to conduct site visits, exchange data, and eventually pilot technologies aimed at enhancing school security. This agreement provides a platform for demonstrating SENTRY's innovative technologies and testing their effectiveness in real-world educational environments. • Organized a symposium on School Safety and Security during the Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting in December 2023, featuring five talks from SENTRY researchers. This event allowed researchers to discuss best practices, innovative solutions, and modeling applications for improving school safety and security. • Co-hosted an expert briefing with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism in July 2024 on protecting educational institutions from terrorist attacks, engaging with over 100 experts worldwide. This collaboration strengthened global efforts to safeguard schools by sharing knowledge and best practices on counter-terrorism strategies. • Published <i>An AI-Based Approach to Create Spatial Inventory of Safety-Related Architectural Features</i>

[*for School Buildings*](#) in the *International Journal of Developments in Built Environment* in February 2024. This resource will ultimately help schools efficiently document and assess safety assets, such as emergency exits, fire safety systems, and surveillance infrastructure, using an AI-driven technology to improve preparedness and response strategies.

Public Safety and Violence Prevention (PSVP)

[PSVP](#) supports the DHS Strategic Framework for countering terrorism and targeted violence and the strategy to combat human trafficking, the importation of goods produced with forced labor, child sexual exploitation, and supporting soft target security. PSVP works with terrorism and prevention stakeholders, such as family members, teachers, practitioners, community-based organizations, etc. with the knowledge they need to better understand how prevention programming can improve while highlighting opportunities to strengthen local prevention initiatives.

PSVP conducts social science research to improve understanding about what works, what doesn't, and what's promising in targeted violence and terrorism prevention programming. Research findings are incorporated into DHS policy and operational decision making while providing tools and capabilities to local prevention stakeholders and practitioners that contribute to the development of evidence-informed prevention programs in the United States.

ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS

Effort	Date	Description
PRODUCTS AND TRAININGS	FY24	<p>PSVP conducts research efforts to better understand the needs and efforts of the education community. Key FY24 activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiated research for the <i>Educational Facility Threat-Hazard-Risk Analysis and Higher Education Safety & Security Needs Assessment</i> to seek to understand what capacity-building (and scalable) resources are needed to support schools in how they approach their security and safety practices. The outcomes from this research will yield the creation of an <i>Online Threat-Hazard-Risk Assessment Tool</i> (will be made available on cisa.gov), which will enable users (e.g. School Superintendents and Principals; School and District Administrators; Teachers and School Staff; School Resource Officers and School-Based Law Enforcement; Policy Makers; Emergency Managers; and other affiliated members assisting in K-12 preparedness processes) to easily look across different sources of data to understand the threats, hazards, and risks that are relevant to their school or school district, and a report summarizing higher education safety and security needs and requirements. CISA, the lead sponsor on this effort, intends to coordinate with the entire DHS enterprise, and other federal agencies, to identify appropriate datasets, libraries, and other information aligned to the many threats, hazards, and risks that disrupt K-12 organizational operations. Initiated development of an agent-based model (ABM) to identify countermeasures that can be applied at a K-12 based off behavioral patterns and attack characteristics from previous events that involved attacks involving IEDs and other weapons. The ABM will be used to assess the impact of common security features such as access control, school resources officers, and on offender and crowd behavior during attacks. This research activity will include the development of an online model which can be used by school

safety stakeholders to leverage research findings to inform security practices at K-12 schools.

- Initiated research for the *Best Practices for School-based Threat Assessment and Management Teams*, which focuses on reducing school violence, including gun violence, through public health approaches to school health and safety. The study will examine elements of school culture and procedures that contribute to safety, specifically looking at school belongingness, bullying and school responses, and school-based threat assessment teams. This study will focus on identifying barriers and facilitators in three states (MA, IL, and CT) that differ in state mandates and development of threat assessment teams, allowing an understanding of how this approach could be applied in different settings. To date, the research team has conducted district-level and state-level interviews to include legislators, researchers, advocates, and/or community organization leaders across the three states. District-level interviews have included school-based stakeholders such as administrators, school law enforcement, mental health providers, etc.

United States Secret Service (USSS)

USSS is a premier federal law enforcement agency and ranks among the most elite in the world. Established in 1865 to combat widespread counterfeiting and ensure the stability of the country's financial system, USSS is one of America's oldest law enforcement agencies. Since then, this responsibility has evolved to include investigating cyber-based financial crimes and partnering with all levels of government, other law enforcement agencies, and private sector financial institutions to secure the nation's financial infrastructure. Notable present-day efforts include sponsoring the Cyber Fraud Task Forces, training partners at the National Computer Forensics Institute (NCFI), and providing critical forensic and technical support for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC)

NTAC is Congressionally authorized by the Presidential Threat Protection Act of 2000 to conduct research, training, and consultation on threat assessment and the prevention of targeted violence. NTAC is comprised of a multidisciplinary team of social science researchers and regional program managers who support and empower our partners in law enforcement, schools, government, and other public and private sector organizations to combat the ever-evolving threat of targeted violence impacting communities across the United States.

NTAC publishes operationally relevant research examining all forms of targeted violence and produces guides for establishing proactive targeted violence prevention programs, which include school violence reports and guides. Additionally, NTAC staff provide training on threat assessment and the prevention of targeted violence, by request, to a variety of public safety professionals. NTAC staff also provide consultation on the development of threat assessment programs and on complex threat cases.

ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS

Effort	Date	Description
PRODUCTS AND TRAININGS	FY24	In FY24, NTAC delivered over 30 trainings and briefings to over 40,000 participants. Attendees included local law enforcement, school personnel, and mental health practitioners.
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT	FY24	In FY24, NTAC participated in over 90 consultation engagements, directly supporting the development of threat assessment programs and plans, as well as complex threat cases. This volume of consultations represents the highest FY totals in the Center's history. NTAC consultations routinely involve supporting K-12 schools in the development of behavioral threat assessment programs or consulting with schools on complex threat cases.

Child Exploitation Cases

USSS partners with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) to provide outreach and education to local communities. USSS offers the Childhood Smart Program (CSP), which educates parents and children in grades K-12 about real-world safety issues and increases awareness of internet safety. This educational program works in partnership with NCMEC to provide educational and interactive sessions on topics such as child sexual abuse material, online enticement, child sexual exploitation, child abduction, and child sex trafficking. USSS employees volunteer nationwide, bringing the CSP to schools and communities in their districts. USSS also provides forensic support to NCMEC as well as to state and local law enforcement agencies regarding child exploitation cases. Such requests may originate from the full-time USSS liaisons at NCMEC; NCMEC personnel; USSS Field Offices; or federal, state, and local law enforcement.

The USSS also runs Operation Safe Kids, which is a program that offers inkless, mobile fingerprinting to consolidate a child's biographical and biometric data into a single document that parents can provide to law enforcement if the child is ever reported missing. No information about the child or their family is recorded or maintained by USSS, its employees, or shared with any other entity.

ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS

Effort	Date	Description
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT	FY24	USSS is committed to expanding its NCMEC Ambassador Program. In November 2023, USSS added over 100 new Ambassadors to enhance the capabilities to further extend its outreach and education to the community.

National Threat Evaluation and Reporting (NTER) Program Office

DHS's Office of Intelligence and Analysis established the NTER Program Office in 2019 to work collaboratively with partners to build capacity to: recognize the warning signs of terrorism and targeted violence, triage suspicious activity reporting (SAR), and address threatening or concerning behaviors before an individual escalates to violence. NTER equips K-12 and higher education partners with tools and resources to identify, report, and mitigate threats of terrorism and targeted violence and help keep schools, staff, and communities safe. NTER's Master Trainer Program (MTP) is an instructor development and certification program that prepares federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial (F/SLTT) partners to train their local communities in Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) techniques and best practices. This program is a key resource for school safety personnel to help directly train their own communities on how to recognize the warning signs and contribute to local terrorism and targeted violence prevention efforts. NTER is actively working to support states that have a mandate to implement BTAM teams in K-12 schools. As of September 2024, NTER has almost 110 certified Master Trainers who work directly in school safety. In addition to the MTP, NTER offers school safety personnel other free resources and training opportunities, including publicly available eLearnings and Quarterly Webinars.

ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS

Effort	Date	Description
PRODUCTS AND TRAININGS	FY24	<p>Key FY24 activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In FY24, NTER onboarded nearly 240 Master Trainer Candidates to the Master Trainer Program through eight Instructor Development Threat Evaluation and Reporting Courses (ID-TERC). The ID-TERC is the primary component of NTER’s Master Trainer Program—a four-day, in-person training that prepares F/SLTT partners to train their communities to identify and mitigate threats and prevent acts of terrorism and targeted violence. • The ranks of Certified Master Trainers grew by 69 percent, with over 160 Master Trainer Candidates obtaining certification through the Master Trainer Program. • NTER Certified Master Trainers delivered almost 650 trainings to over 20,000 students in FY24 – doubling the number of trainings and students reached across the country and helping the Department expand awareness of how to identify and mitigate threats of terrorism and targeted violence across communities. • NTER collaborated with the District of Columbia’s Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (DC HSEMA) to produce a joint-sealed training module, enabling the expansion of training to DC partners, including educators and school administrators, on the topic of targeted violence prevention. • NTER delivered six webinars and exclusive case briefings on key topics related to terrorism and targeted violence prevention to almost 1,300 partners nationwide, including school safety partners. These virtual events help equip partners with operational knowledge and resources that enable them to contribute to local TVTP efforts.
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT	FY24	<p>In FY24, NTER participated in 201 engagements with a variety of TVTP and school safety stakeholders from various sectors including the National School Safety Alliance (NSSA), the National Center for School Safety (NCSS), the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), the Homeland Security</p>

	Academic Partnership Council (HSAPC), and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA). In FY24, NTER routinely engaged school safety partners from K-12 and higher education institutions to discuss current threats and provide resources to help these partners identify, investigate, assess, and manage threats.
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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) is the U.S. government's preeminent transnational criminal investigative agency and a global leader in the investigation and dismantlement of child exploitation cyber-enabled criminal activity. HSI protects our most vulnerable population, children, from online offenders using a talented workforce and cutting-edge technology. Within the HSI-led DHS Cyber Crimes Center (C3), the Child Exploitation Investigations Unit (CEIU) has established itself as a world leader in online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA) investigations.

HSI CEIU oversees the Victim Identification Laboratory (VID Lab), a team made up of special agents, criminal analysts, and computer forensic analysts. This team is responsible for identifying and rescuing victims of online CSEA in the United States and around the world. Each year the VID Lab hosts Operation Renewed Hope (ORH), which is the world's largest Victim Identification Task Force. ORH and ORH II have led to over 700 victim identification leads throughout the world. It has also led to the identification and rescue of over 250 children who were used in the production of child sexual abuse material.

CEIU also directly engages with domestic and international law enforcement partners including state and local agencies, other federal agencies, intelligence and military communities, non-government organizations such as the NCMEC, and international law enforcement organizations such as EUROPOL and INTERPOL. Cases are often initiated by proactive dark web investigations, referrals from HSI field offices, referrals from international partners, and requests for assistance from state and local law enforcement.

CEIU also houses the Angel Watch Center (AWC), which is managed by HSI as a joint effort with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the U.S. Marshals Service. The AWC plays a crucial role in the global fight against child sex tourism by targeting individuals who have been previously convicted of sexual crimes against a child and who may pose a potential new threat traveling overseas for the purpose of sexually abusing or exploiting minors. Using flight data, along with the National Sex Offender Registry and publicly available state sex offender websites, CEIU and CBP identify and alert foreign law enforcement through HSI Attaché offices or CBP joint partnerships, of offenders' pending arrival to their country.

In April 2024, DHS launched a national public awareness campaign titled Know2Protect®. The campaign is embedded within the DHS C3, which is led by HSI. The campaign works daily with HSI's CEIU to ensure its messaging conveys the latest threats, trends and preventive strategies. Know2Protect is the first federal government campaign focused on the education and prevention of online CSEA. The campaign's mission is to mobilize young people, parents, educators, and community leaders to learn the signs of this crime, what they can do to prevent it, how to report it to law enforcement, and how they can support survivors.

HSI also leads Project iGuardian®, the official in-person educational program of the Know2Protect campaign. HSI special agents and other subject matter experts deliver iGuardian presentations to schools, parent and community groups, corporations and nonprofit organizations that want to learn more and join the fight against online CSEA. The iGuardian presentations highlight local and national HSI-led cases and underscore its victim assisting, trauma-informed approach.

ACTIVITIES, POLICIES, AND PLANS

Effort	Date	Description
PRODUCTS AND TRAININGS	FY24	<p>Prior to the beginning of the 2024 school year, Know2Protect launched its Back2School sub-campaign connecting with dozens of youth-serving and educational associations across the country to share Back2School resources. Back2School resources included several important educational, age-appropriate, resources, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources2Educate • Resources2Send Home • Resources2Display in Your School • Activities for the Classroom <p>Visit the Campaign Resources page at know2protect.gov to find all free, downloadable resources.</p> <p>Know2Protect offers free in-person or virtual training through Project iGuardian. In FY 24, iGuardian presenters delivered over 1,100 presentations and staffed over 100 outreach events, reaching over 122,000 people generating more than 75 victim disclosures and 77 investigative leads for online child sexual exploitation and abuse. Know2Protect also offers the Digital Safety Series, 5 short videos featuring information from iGuardian presentations to help educate the public on how to stay safe online.</p>

		<p>Educators and administrators can schedule a free in-person or virtual training through Project iGuardian for their school, their after-school program, a teacher/staff lunch-and-learn, or a PTA meeting. These age-appropriate educational presentations are provided by special agents from HSI.</p>
<p>STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT</p>	<p>FY24</p>	<p>Know2Protect has successfully signed over 20 high-profile technology companies, national and international sports leagues, youth-serving organizations and nonprofits, and other private sector partners to help children stay safer online through education and awareness. Since launch, the Know2Protect campaign has garnered over 267 million impressions across various media platforms in large part due to donated advertising from signed partners and other partner activations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donated ad credits from Meta, Google, Snap and Roblox. • Donated ad space from Lamar Advertising. • Know2Protect partnered with Scouting America to develop a co-branded Know2Protect patch that scouts receive after attending a Project iGuardian presentation. • The Know2Protect PSAs have aired at NASCAR-owned tracks and unused commercial inventory on the NFL Network.

III. Privacy Rights, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties Protections

The DHS Privacy Office works with all components to ensure privacy considerations and protections in all the Department's operational activities. The DHS Privacy Office engages with relevant Departmental stakeholders to assess privacy impacts of school safety activities and to ensure that school safety activities are conducted in accordance with relevant legal authorities and privacy protections. This oversight helps ensure the appropriate privacy compliance documentation is in place prior to the commencement of any data collection for an activity and further mitigates any privacy risks associated with the activity.

The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) supports the Department's mission to secure the nation while preserving individual liberty, fairness, and equality under the law. CRCL integrates civil rights and civil liberties into all the Department activities by:

- Promoting respect for civil rights and civil liberties in policy creation and implementation by advising Department leadership and personnel as well as state and local partners;
- Communicating with individuals and communities whose civil rights and civil liberties may be affected by Department activities, informing them about policies and avenues of redress, and promoting appropriate attention within the Department to their experiences and concerns;
- Investigating civil rights and civil liberties complaints filed by the public regarding Department policies or activities, or actions taken by Department personnel; and
- Leading the Department's equal employment opportunity programs and promoting workforce diversity and merit system principles.

CRCL provides technical assistance for CISA's [National Summit on K-12 School Safety and Security](#) regarding consideration of civil rights requirements, accessibility, and inclusion among summit participants. CRCL also provides advice regarding the Federal School Safety Clearinghouse External Advisory Board to ensure inclusion of appropriate organizations that will represent civil and disability rights. By including civil rights and disability rights organizations, DHS seeks to identify school safety evidence-based practices and recommendations.

DHS adheres to the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which contains the Luke and Alex School Safety Act of 2022, in its administration of the Clearinghouse. As stated in public law, the Department will consult with appropriate federal, state, local, tribal, private sector, and nongovernmental organizations, including civil rights and disability rights organizations to identify evidence-based practices and recommendations related to school safety. Additionally, Clearinghouse evidence and research is consistent with federal civil rights laws, including the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-95), Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1990 (IDEA), the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1481 et seq.), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.).

IV. Conclusion

The Department remains steadfast in its commitment to strengthening the safety and security of the nation's early childhood education programs, elementary schools, and secondary schools.

DHS will continue to develop resources and guidance, coordinate federal school safety efforts, form strategic partnerships, and enhance public education through outreach and engagement to further its mission of enhancing school safety and security throughout the country.

DHS personnel work with dedication each day to secure the country's schools and programs while protecting our freedoms, including core civil rights values of liberty, fairness, and equality under the law.