Maryland Center for School Safety

A Safer School Begins with You

Annual Report
2019
The Maryland Center for School Safety has fully expanded and transformed the scope of its work and responsibilities over the past year. Since the passage of the Safe to Learn Act of 2018, the Center and the School Safety Subcabinet have worked diligently to ensure that we are meeting the new charges entrusted to us, while continuing to provide coordination and technical support to all 24 local systems, and non-public schools throughout the State.

This year, we have fully staffed the Center, moving from two (2) full-time staff to 13 with a regional representative designated to provide assistance to schools in six (6) geographic areas of Maryland. This represents an innovative approach to providing immediate and quality technical assistance and coordination between the Center, Subcabinet, and local school systems.

Over 1,000 school resource officers and school security personnel were trained with new curriculum approved by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission at trainings held throughout the State during the summer of 2019. As the Center continues to maintain training and support for school resource officers, the successful completion of this monumental effort illustrates that the Center is demonstrating efficient and effective leadership towards our ultimate goal of providing a safe environment for all of Maryland’s students.

The Subcabinet, in collaboration with the Center, has also distributed millions of dollars through the Safe Schools Fund Grant to school systems as they seek to provide additional training for staff, supports, and resources for students experiencing issues of mental and behavioral health, while bolstering security and employing the best safety practices available.

I am very proud of the work the Center and the Subcabinet have completed in this past year, and I look forward to continue working with all stakeholders in Maryland to serve our students well and provide them with the safe and healthy learning environment they deserve.

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019 Accomplishments</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About Us</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Safety Subcabinet</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Safety Advisory Board</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Team</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Resource Officer (SRO) Training Program</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal Year 2019 Grants</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Collection</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe Schools Maryland Tip Line</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnerships and Outreach</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subcabinet Recommendations</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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## 2019 Annual Report

The Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) Annual Report outlines activities, accomplishments, and data from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2019.
2019 Accomplishments

- **Jun:** All local school systems (LSS) conducted safety evaluations of each public school
- **Aug:** LSSs submitted summary reports of annual safety evaluations to the Center
- **Dec:** Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) consulted with the MCSS on updated Emergency Planning Guidelines

**Maryland Model School Resource Officer (SRO) Training Program certified by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission**

- Trained and certified ~1,000 SROs and School Security Employees in 10 weeks in 31 different classes

**Identified Training Needs**

- Understanding the SRO
- Mental Health First Aid
- Critical Response
- Stop the Bleed
- Restorative Practices
- Behavioral Threat Assessment

**Tip Line: One Year Later**

- **2018 Oct:** Safe Schools Maryland Tip Line launched
- **2019 Nov:** +500 total tips received to November 2019
- Website on mobile devices most popular way to submit tips

**Trending Tip Line Topics**

- General School Complaint
- Drug Usage
- Bullying
Maryland School Safety Conference held August 5-6, 2019
More than 250 school safety attendees

- McLean, VA
- Richmond, VA
- Washington, D.C.
- Minneapolis, MN
- North Little Rock, AK
- Las Vegas, NV
- Reno, NV
- Chicago, IL

Presented and trained at more than 30 state and national conferences across Maryland & United States
See the entire list in Appendix D

Grants awarded for FY2019

$10.6 million school safety-related projects approved by the Subcabinet through the Safe Schools Fund Grant

$2.5 million in grants award for school safety evaluations

Notice of funding availability approved for Hate Bias Crimes Grant for Schools and Child Care Centers - $1 million available approved for 28 institutions

FY2020 Grants

- School Traffic Safety Enforcement Grant $600,000
- Hate Bias Crimes Grant $2,000,000
- Safe Schools Fund Grant $10,000,000
- SRO / Adequate Coverage Grant $10,000,000

More than $22 million dollars available
The Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) serves as an independent unit of State government providing grants, training, and support to public, non-public special education, and private Pre-K through 12 schools throughout Maryland. MCSS was established in 2013 to provide a coordinated and comprehensive approach to school safety in Maryland.

In 2018, the Governor and General Assembly worked together to enact comprehensive school safety legislation (Safe to Learn Act 2018) and Maryland continues to be a leader in school safety initiatives.

MCSS’ team promotes collaboration among students, parents, educators, mental health practitioners, and law enforcement to focus on the physical and emotional well-being of Maryland students. These strategies, plans, and cooperative relationships allow schools to better identify and address the needs and concerns of our students, creating inclusive educational environments free from fear, harm, adversity, trauma, and hardship.

A regional map of our state can be found under Appendix A.

**Our Vision**

*Safe Schools*

*Inclusive educational environments without fear, harm, adversity, trauma, or hardship.*

**Our Mission**

*To promote and enhance safer school communities.*

**Our Values**

- Integrity
- Kindness
- Service
- Respect
- Professionalism

Maryland Center for School Safety

*A Safer School Begins with You*
The Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018 (Senate Bill 1265) was signed into law by Governor Hogan on April 10, 2018, and this legislation significantly altered and expanded the role of the Maryland Center for School Safety as well as establishing the School Safety Subcabinet and Advisory Board.

The Subcabinet serves as a regulatory authority and as the governing board of the MCSS.

Members of the Subcabinet include:

- **Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D., Chair**
  State Superintendent of Schools

- **Colonel William M. Pallozzi**
  Secretary of State Police

- **Brian E. Frosh**
  Attorney General of Maryland

- **Robert R. Neall**
  Secretary of Health

- **Carol A. Beatty**
  Secretary of Disabilities

- **Robert A. Gorrell**
  Executive Director of the Interagency Commission on School Construction
The Advisory Board provides the Subcabinet with advice and assists them in completing their duties. The Chair is selected from the Advisory Board membership by the Governor. There are 23 total members of the Advisory Board that represent a number of agencies and stakeholder groups. A representative of a non-public special education facility was added in the 2019 legislative session. The 2018-2019 Advisory Board includes:

<table>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Association</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. George Arlotte, Chair</td>
<td>Superintendent of Anne Arundel County Public Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric Ebersole</td>
<td>Maryland House of Delegates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Katherine Klausmeier</td>
<td>Maryland State Senate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Sharon A. Hoover</td>
<td>Center for School Mental Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karin Bailey</td>
<td>Maryland Association of Boards of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Kellie Anderson</td>
<td>School Psychologist, LCSW</td>
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<td>Pamela Gaddy</td>
<td>Maryland State Education Association</td>
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<td>James T. Bell</td>
<td>Parent of a Public School Student</td>
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<td>Lourdes Padilla</td>
<td>Department of Human Services</td>
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<td>Sam Abed</td>
<td>Department of Juvenile Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jon Carrier</td>
<td>Maryland Association of School Resource Officers</td>
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<td>Sheriff Scott Adams</td>
<td>Maryland Sheriffs’ Association</td>
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<td>Chief Tim Altomare</td>
<td>Maryland Chiefs of Police Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachael Faulkner</td>
<td>Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care</td>
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<td>David Engel</td>
<td>Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center</td>
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<td>Laurel Moody</td>
<td>Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems</td>
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<td>Jayshree Srinivasan (2019 - 2020)</td>
<td>Maryland Association of Student Councils</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manfred Reek</td>
<td>Representative of School Bus Drivers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Berger</td>
<td>Disability Rights Maryland</td>
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<td>Dr. Chanta’ M. Booker</td>
<td>School Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain Patrick D. Herring</td>
<td>Parent of a Child with Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas E. Alban</td>
<td>Representative of a Non-Public School</td>
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</table>
Our Team

Our team has a variety of backgrounds and experience including emergency management, public safety, SROs, educators, school administrators, and the private sector. Each of them are dedicated to our mission to promote and enhance safer school communities.

Kate Hession
Executive Director

Sandra Caldwell
School Safety Analyst

Christian Cymek
Special Assistant

Jeyan Jebaraj
Data and Policy Analyst

Emily Allen Lucht
Communications and Media Specialist

Jesika McNeil
Executive Assistant

Gifty Quarshie
Fiscal & Grants Analyst

Dawn O’Croinin
Counsel

Joseph Dino Pignataro
Deputy Director

Andrew Turner
Prevention and Intervention Administrator

Tarik Harris
Prevention and Intervention Specialist

James Hott
Regional Training & Certification Specialist

Ron Pierce
Prevention and Intervention Specialist

Michael Rudinski
Regional Training & Certification Specialist
The Maryland Model School Resource Officer (SRO) Training Program requires SRO and School Security Employees to attend and pass a 40-hour block of instruction that prepares them to carry out their primary duties.

The main role of the SRO is exactly what the title implies – being a resource. The officer is there to help assist in finding solutions to issues that are beyond the capability of students, faculty and administrators to handle alone. The officer is often the conduit between other resource agencies such as juvenile probation, juvenile courts, social service agencies, non-profit, civic and faith-based organizations.

The SROs and School Security Employees are taught prevention techniques that will be beneficial in preventing violent incidents within a school. Keeping this in mind, the SRO must be prepared and trained to respond as a single officer to any active threat that arises on campus.

Certification of Training

Both the full program and the comparative compliance program were certified by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission in February, 2019. This certification allows police officers to earn in-service learning credit for the course.
The Training Period

During the summer months of 2019, MCSS held thirty-one (31) total classes over a 10-week period. During this period, nearly 1,000 individuals were trained under the Maryland Model SRO Training Program.

Future Trainings

Currently, MCSS is building a four-hour administrator class called *Understanding the SRO*. The purpose of this class is to better inform school administrators on the roles and responsibilities of the SROs that serve in their schools.

Future Trainings

- Mental Health First Aid Training
- Behavioral Threat Assessment
- Critical Response Training
- Restorative Practices Training
- Stop the Bleed Training
Safe Schools Fund Grant

$10.6 million was distributed to local school systems for the enhancement of school safety. Local school systems used Grant funds to:

- Train students and staff on the proper use of de-escalation strategies;
- Train administrators and school staff to identify, properly respond to, and report threats or behaviors of concern that may pose a threat to the safety of students;
- Acquire technology and software to assist in training; and
- Apply many other measures as deemed appropriate to overall enhance school safety.

Hate Bias Crimes Grant

The Hate Bias Crimes Grant provided grants to public, non-public, private schools, and child care centers determined to be at risk of hate crimes.

Twenty-eight applicants received a portion of the $1,000,000 grant. Funds from this grant were used for:

- Security related training;
- Additional security personnel;
- Security related equipment;
- Security related technology; and
- Other security related facility upgrades.

Safety Evaluation Grant

$2.5 million was distributed to local school systems to aid in conducting the required school safety assessments mandated by the Safe to Learn Act of 2018. These safety evaluations were used to:

- Identify and, if necessary, develop solutions for physical safety concerns, including issues with building security; and
- Identify and evaluate any patterns of safety concerns on school property or at school-sponsored events.

Additional information on local school system grant allocations can be found under Appendix B, C.
Assigned SRO and Adequate Law Enforcement Coverage

As a requirement of the Safe to Learn Act of 2018, MCSS collected data on public schools in Maryland with an assigned SRO and adequate law enforcement coverage for all. Of the 1,428 public schools in Maryland, the local school systems identified 360 assigned SROs for these schools. If there was not sufficient SRO coverage, the jurisdiction identified how adequate law enforcement coverage was being provided to each public school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local School System</th>
<th>Number of Public Schools</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Number of Assigned SROs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total State</td>
<td>1,428</td>
<td>893,689</td>
<td>360</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>8,629</td>
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<td>Anne Arundel</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>82,777</td>
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<td>Baltimore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltimore City</td>
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<td>80,591</td>
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<td>15,908</td>
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<td>Caroline</td>
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<td>5,787</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Carroll</td>
<td>44</td>
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<td>Charles</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>26,891</td>
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<td>Dorchester</td>
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<td>4,767</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frederick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garrett</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3,811</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harford</td>
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<td>37,780</td>
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<tr>
<td>Howard</td>
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<td>Kent</td>
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<td>1,993</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>161,546</td>
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<td>Prince George’s</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>132,322</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queen Anne’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint Mary’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somerset</td>
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<td>2,918</td>
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<td>Talbot</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4,646</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
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<td>Wicomico</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worcester</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6,684</td>
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Public School and Student Data provided via the Maryland State Department of Education
As required by the Safe to Learn Act of 2018, by June 15, 2019, each local school system conducted a safety evaluation of every public school under their jurisdiction in order to identify factors impacting school safety. The first purpose was to identify, and if necessary, develop solutions for physical safety concerns including issues with building security. The second was to identify and evaluate any patterns of safety concerns on school property or at school–sponsored events. Each local school system selected an evaluation tool that would best address their particular needs, or elected to have a vendor perform the evaluations. The majority of Local School Systems elected to create their own evaluation tools. The summary findings of these evaluations were sent to MCSS by August 1, 2019.

These initial safety evaluation summaries were shared with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) in order to update the Emergency Planning Guidelines for local school systems and Schools by December 1, 2019.

By August 1, 2020 each local school system will update their school emergency plan for each public school to conform to the Emergency Planning Guidelines updated by MSDE and incorporate any changes required as a result of annual reviews of emergency events, exercises and drills.
Behavioral Threat Assessment Policy

In September of 2018, the Subcabinet developed a model policy that outlines the establishment of an assessment team or teams for each local school system. The model policy includes, but is not limited to, the mechanisms, best practices, procedures, policies, and guides subsequently referenced in Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-1507(B)(1-8) (2018).

Throughout the 2018 - 2019 school year and into the summer months of 2019, local school systems developed and adopted their own Behavioral Threat Assessment Policies. Data on the local school system policies was collected by MCSS as referenced in Md. Code Ann., Educ. §7-1507 (c).

Critical Life Threatening Incidents

Each local school system shall promptly inform MCSS of any critical, life–threatening incidents that occur on school grounds, conduct an after action review, and file an after action report with MCSS as referenced in Md. Code Ann., Educ. §7-1510 (g).

Data Collection 2019-2020 School Year

Use of Force

On or before December 1, 2020, and each year thereafter, the MCSS will report data from local school systems regarding use of force incidents as referenced in Md. Code Ann., Educ. §7-1508 (h).

Threats and Emergency Plan Effectiveness

On or before August 1, 2020, and each year thereafter, the MCSS will collect data from local school systems regarding threats and emergency plan effectiveness as referenced in Md. Code Ann., Educ. §7-1510 (f).
The Safe Schools Maryland Tip Line is an anonymous, free reporting system for anyone to report school safety concerns. There are three methods of submitting a tip and they include:

- calling 833-MD-B-SAFE;
- completing the online form www.safeschoolsmd.org; or
- downloading the smart device app Safe Schools MD.

Once the information is submitted, trained tip takers triage the tip and route it to the correct contacts at the local school system or school, and if warranted, the local 911 center and local law enforcement. The school system and/or law enforcement then investigates the tip, take appropriate action to address the concern, and close out the tip per safety protocols.

Currently, all 24 local school systems in Maryland participate in the tip line. Additionally, many private and non-public special education schools also participate and more are being added all the time.

From the launch of the tip line in October 2018 thorough November 2019 the Center received over 500 tips.

MCSS hopes every school in Maryland will see the value of the tip line and elect to register.
Safe Schools Maryland Tip Line

What is the Safe Schools Maryland tip line/app?
An anonymous 24/7/365 app/web-based system used to report threats to the safety and/or well-being of Maryland students

Who can report tips?
School students, parents, faculty and staff, and anyone in the Maryland community

How can I report a tip?
Make a call, visit the website, and/or use the free smart phone app

What type of tip should I report?
School safety concerns such as:
- Mental health crises
- Bullying
- School violence
- Community violence
- Drug activity
- Abuse
- Other issues affecting Maryland students

What happens to my tip after I submit it?
Trained technicians process and send your tip to local school officials. Sometimes the tip can be solved right away and sometimes it might need more help from mental health professionals, law enforcement officials, or other school safety partners.

Say Something. It could save a life.
833-MD-B-SAFE
(833-632-7233)

DI ALGO. PODRÍAS SALVAR UNA VIDA.
833-MD-B-SAFE
(833-632-7233)

SRO Training
Fiscal Year 2019 Grants
Data Collected by the Center
Safe Schools Tip Line
Partnerships and Outreach
The MCSS collaborates and works with all local school systems, non-public special education facilities, private schools, law enforcement agencies, state and local government entities, community organizations, parents, and other stakeholders to provide a comprehensive and coordinated approach to school safety.

Additionally, MCSS serves as a resource for information regarding school safety, and a best practices clearinghouse for stakeholders of up-to-date, research-based, and data-driven information on effective strategies for creating and maintaining safe schools as well as violence prevention. These include, but are not limited to the Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Work Group (AAIWG) and the Opioid Operational Command Center (OOCC).

MCSS hosted its annual school safety conference in August, partnered with Virginia in the 2019 National Threat Assessment Conference for Educational Institutions, held in November. Additionally, MCSS has hosted and participated in school safety trainings and conferences across the State and the nation.

Information about these events can be found in Appendix D.

School Bus Safety Video

MCSS worked with numerous partners to develop our School Bus Safety Video that was aired on local news stations and at the MVA.

- Maryland State Police
- Maryland Department of Transportation
- Maryland State Department of Educations
- Maryland Emergency Management Agency
- Howard County Public School System
- Bowens Bus Service

Partnerships and Outreach
School Safety and Mental Health Services Coordinators

As of September 1, 2018, all 24 local schools systems have identified and assigned one professional to be their school safety coordinator and one professional to be their mental health services coordinator. These individuals are responsible for coordinating effective responses to issues dealing with mental and behavioral health, as well as to the safety of the school.

School Safety Coordinators (SSC)

Serve as liaisons between the local school system and local law enforcement in promoting collaborative efforts in school safety evaluations, SRO adequate coverage and other school safety related issues.

The SSCs are appointed by the local school systems. These individuals are crucial members in communication between stakeholders including MCSS, local law enforcement, local school systems, SROs, and other school safety employees. The purpose is to provide these different stakeholders a point of contact that will coordinate services, identify shortcomings of communication, and provide reports to MCSS from their local school systems. The SSCs work closely with MCSS staff members in both gathering data from their communities, as well as disseminating data from the MCSS to the local school systems.

Mental Health Services Coordinators (MHSC)

Assist students and parents in navigating the mental health system in their local districts as well as act as educational advocates in the local educational system.

The MHSCs assist schools in discovering private or public mental health services available. The purpose is to provide opportunities for children and families to take advantage of the "wraparound" services that can be offered/applied for in the various family situations. The MHSCs will work with central office and school staff to screen, identify, and provide services to students with mental and behavioral health concerns and/or needs. MHSC will train staff to recognize mental health issues as well as other issues related to trauma and coordinate access to needed mental health and other services for students, as part of the effort to increase school safety.
Subcabinet Recommendations

The School Safety Subcabinet has identified a number of areas that would aid in the improvement of school and student safety, these areas include:

- Developing and implementing School Resource Officer-related training for school administrators.

- Prioritizing the development, sourcing, and delivery of "Prevention and Intervention" strategies, programs, and resources throughout the State.

- Continuing regular calls and meetings with the Mental Health Service Coordinators and providing support and resources to support their roles in their local school systems.

- Adding in-depth training in Restorative Practices to affect school climate positively regarding violence in our schools.

- Providing Behavioral Threat Assessment Training Workshops in all six regions to provide practical exercises to the process and implementation of approaching students and staff with concerning behaviors.

State Department of Education
Department of Health
Department of State Police
Department of Disabilities
Attorney General’s Office
Interagency Commission on School Construction
**Appendix B**

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<tbody>
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* Use of Funds broken down on following page.

** This grant was available to local school systems as well as law enforcement agencies.

*** Non-public Special Educational Facilities.
FY19 Safe Schools Grants were used to fund various projects to improve school safety. The chart above breaks down the projects into general categories.

**Equipment**  
Grant funds in this category were used to improve school security and safety through equipment purchases including but not limited to: stop the bleed kits, two-way radios, safety vests, security cameras, camera system upgrades, and door entry access control hardware.

**Organization**  
Grant funds in this category were used to fund personnel time to work on short term projects that support various school safety initiatives or support the delivery of wrap-around mental health services for students and staff.

**Planning**  
Grant funds in this category were used to enhance emergency planning including but not limited to: the development of school emergency plans, conduct school safety assessments, and various emergency planning materials.

**Training**  
Grant funds in this category were used to provide training to students and staff in various areas including but not limited to: de-escalation, identifying and reporting behaviors of concern, behavioral threat assessment, crisis prevention and intervention, social-emotional learning, and other behavioral health and response-related training.
Appendix D

Trainings and Presentations

1. Preparing and Responding to Active School Threats: February 8, Chevy Chase, Maryland
2. Maryland Active Assailant Workshop/Conference: February 22, Annapolis, Maryland
3. Mental Health Awareness Night: April 10, Smithsburg High School, Washington County
4. Mid-Atlantic Student Safety & Security Conference & Workshop: April 11 - 12, McLean, Virginia
5. Maryland DARE Training Conference: April 16 - 18, Ocean City, Maryland
6. Allegany County Mental Health Fair: May 1, Cumberland, Maryland
7. Cecil County Wellness Fair: May 4, Elkton, Maryland
9. Metro Crime Stoppers Meeting: May 15, Hanover, Maryland
10. Maryland Emergency Management Association: May 28 - 31, Ocean City, Maryland
11. Maryland State Fireman’s Association: June 17, Ocean City, Maryland
12. Anne Arundel County Public Schools Mini Conference: June 21, Crofton, Maryland
13. Maryland Municipal League Conference: June 23 - 25, Ocean City, Maryland
14. NGA Strategies to promote Child Health, Wellbeing and Safety in Schools and Communities: July 9 - 10, Minneapolis, Minnesota
15. Arkansas Center for School Safety: July 15 - 17, North Little Rock, Arkansas
17. Maryland Center for School Safety Conference: August 4 - 6, Annapolis, Maryland
18. TUGIS 2019 - Maryland Geospatial Conference: August 8, Towson, Maryland
19. Maryland Association of Counties (MACO): August 13 - 16, Ocean City, Maryland
20. Implicit Bias Training: August 22, Braddock Middle School - Cumberland, Maryland
21. Maryland State Sheriff’s Association Conference: September 8 - 10, Ocean City, Maryland
22. Mental Health First Aid for Youth: September 16 - 18, Cumberland, Maryland
24. MD Quarterly Emergency Managers Meeting: October 10, Cumberland, Maryland
25. Advanced Learning Institute: October 15 - 17, Chicago, Illinois
26. SE Train-The-Trainer: October 23, Silver Spring, Maryland
27. Anti Bullying Prayer Breakfast: October 26, College Park, Maryland
28. Association of Independent Maryland Schools: October 29 - 30, Silver Spring, Maryland
29. Implicit Bias Training: November 1, Washington Middle School - Allegany County, Maryland
30. National Threat Assessment Conference for Educational Institutions: November 4 - 6, Richmond, Virginia
31. Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) Fall Leadership Conference: November 23, Perry Hall, Maryland