

BACK TO SCHOOL 2025

SAFE SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS



Connections & Climate

There is not any ONE thing that makes a school safe. It is the combination of things. School Safety is accomplished by layering approaches.

- ✓ **Personal Connections**
Build trusting relationships between each student and at least one adult. Use activities like "Mix It Up" days to foster a sense of belonging among students and create open communication with adults.
- ✓ **Positive School Climate**
Foster positive school climate by promoting trusting relationships between students and adults and implementing evidence-based programs for social-emotional learning and bullying prevention.
- ✓ **Mental & Behavioral Health**
Ensure the ongoing availability of trauma-informed resources and evidence-based mental health support, including suicide screening and assessment tools, to maintain student and staff well-being.
- ✓ **Transportation Safety**
Partner with state agencies, such as the Maryland Department of Transportation, and MCSS, to advance the importance of school bus safety by promoting awareness for motorists and students.
- ✓ **Behavioral Threat Assessment**
Prevent and respond to student and adult behaviors of concern by enhancing multidisciplinary BTA team skills through professional development and discussion-based exercises.
- ✓ **Anonymous Reporting**
Promote the use of an anonymous reporting system, such as Safe Schools Maryland, and empower all stakeholders to report safety concerns and overcome the "code of silence."

Anonymous reports can be submitted by...



Calling
1-833-MD-B-SAFE



Visiting
SafeSchoolsMD.org



Using the
App



Connections & Climate Resources

<https://bit.ly/MarylandBTA>

<https://bit.ly/MixItUpMD>

<https://bit.ly/HealthyMDstudents>

<https://www.schoolsafety.gov/school-climate>



SchoolSafety.Maryland.gov

BACK TO SCHOOL 2025

SAFE SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS



Security & Preparedness

There is not any ONE thing that makes a school safe. It is the combination of things. School Safety is accomplished by layering approaches.

- ✓ **Safety Drills and Exercises**
Conduct comprehensive safety drills and multi-agency exercises, use after-action reviews (AARs) to identify successes, gaps, and areas for continuous improvement in emergency response procedures.
- ✓ **School Safety Plans**
Review and update your school emergency plan regularly to address identified threats and hazards. Incorporate a coordinated, multi-agency approach within your plan.
- ✓ **Standard Response Protocols**
Practice standard response protocols like those from the "I Love U Guys" Foundation to build "muscle memory" and ensure common terminology for all emergency actions among students, staff, parents, and first responders.
- ✓ **Digital Safety & Cybersecurity**
Educate the community on the dangers and legal repercussions of making false online threats. Collaborate with police and other partners to strengthen cybersecurity and rapidly identify the origin of threats.
- ✓ **Campus Security**
Conduct safety audits and physical security evaluations to identify and make plans to address identified vulnerabilities and gaps.
- ✓ **Interagency Information Sharing**
Maintain and formalize information-sharing agreements with law enforcement, mental health partners, and social service agencies so that information can be shared legally and quickly to support student safety.

[I Love U Guys
Foundation](https://www.iloveuguy.org/)



HOLD



SECURE



LOCKDOWN



EVACUATE



SHELTER

Security & Preparedness Resources

<https://bit.ly/CampusAssessment>

<https://bit.ly/MCSSTTX>

<https://bit.ly/EOPGuidelines>

<https://bit.ly/MDEMcyberk12>

<https://bit.ly/InteragencySharing>



SchoolSafety.Maryland.gov