

State's School Safety Task Force, Advisory Council and Commissions

Last updated: June 1, 2018

The following is a collection of links to state school safety task forces, advisory councils or commissions. CCSSO will continue to update this list as we receive more information. If you would like to submit a link for your state, please contact communications@ccsso.org.

Alabama

- **Emergency Task Force on School Safety and Security**
 - [Report on the Emergency Task Force on School Safety and Security](#)
 - Description: During the 2016 Regular Session, the Legislature adopted House Joint Resolution 19 to establish the Emergency Task Force on School Safety and Security to accomplish the following three objectives: Complete a comprehensive review and assessment of state laws, regulations, protocols, and minimum standards in place concerning school safety and security, identify gaps in school safety and security that need to be addressed, and submit recommendations for immediate, achievable, legislative actions to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the appropriate legislative committees to ensure that public schools across the state are as safe, secure, and protected as possible.

Alaska

- **Alaska Safe Children's Act Task Force**
 - [Report to the State of Alaska Department of Education & Early Development](#)
 - Description: The Alaska Safe Children's Act (House Bill 44) was signed into law on July 9, 2015 by Governor Bill Walker. The Act requires public schools to provide child sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention training (Grades K-12) and teen dating violence awareness and prevention training (grades 7-12). The Alaska Safe Children's Act goes into effect June 30, 2017.

Connecticut

- [Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety](#)
 - Description: A special bipartisan task force charged with developing recommendations designed to reduce gun violence, enhance school safety and increase access to mental health care has scheduled a series of public hearings.
- [School Climate Task Force](#)
 - Description: There is established a task force to review, streamline and align state policies relating to school climate, bullying, school safety and social-emotional learning. The task force shall examine the manner in which local and regional boards

of education are implementing the safe school climate plans, pursuant to section 10-222d of the general statutes, and any issues resulting from such implementation. The task force shall make recommendations relating to (1) school climate standards for local and regional boards of education to use to develop and implement safe school climate plans, and (2) an accountability methodology that uses the results from student surveys to assess the effectiveness of such safe school climate plans.

DC

- [Task Force on School Mental Health](#)
 - **Description:** The Task Force on School Mental Health was established in the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Support Act (L22-0033) to steer the creation of a comprehensive plan to expand school-based behavioral health programs and services and provide a report to the Mayor and Council of the District of Columbia by February 9, 2018.

Illinois

- [School Security and Standards Task Force](#)
 - **Description:** [PA 98-695](#) created the School Security and Standards Task Force within the State Board of Education. The purpose of the Task Force is to make recommendations and draft minimum standards for use by schools to make them more secure and to provide a safer learning environment for the children of Illinois.
- **Illinois Terrorism Task Force’s School Safety Working Group**
 - [Recommendations of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force School Safety Working Group](#)
 - **Description:** The School Safety Working Group is composed of local law enforcement professionals, Illinois State Police, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, representatives of campus emergency management, campus police, the school resource officers association and representatives of statewide school associations. Brief bios of the members of the School Safety Working Group are included at the end of this report. There is no single answer to achieving school safety, and no individual has all of the answers, but the bios illustrate the experience and subject-matter expertise that has gone into this report.

Iowa

- [Iowa Suicide Prevention and Trauma-informed Care Task Force](#)
 - **Description:** The Suicide Prevention Working Group was established as part of Senate File 446. The Iowa Department of Education will work with the Iowa Department of Human Services and the Iowa Department of Public Health to develop recommendations for training requirements for individuals licensed by

the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners. The Department will consult with mental health professionals, school officials, and other stakeholders.

Kentucky

- [School Safety Advisory Council](#)
 - Description: The purpose of the School Safety Advisory Council (SSAC) is to ensure services provided by the Kentucky Center for School Safety address the needs and concerns of professionals, students, parents, and other Kentucky citizens.

Maryland

- [Taskforce to Study the Creation of a Maryland Center for School Safety](#)
 - Description: In June 2011, the Task Force to Study the Creation of a Maryland Center for School Safety was established ([Chapters 550 & 551, Acts of 2011](#)). The Task Force considered issues of school safety, and whether creating a Maryland Center for School Safety would be the best way to address them.

Massachusetts

- [Massachusetts Task Force Report on School Safety and Security](#)
 - Description: In January of this year, Governor Deval Patrick signed Executive Order 548 establishing a CrossSecretariat Task Force on School Safety and Security, with the Secretaries of the Executive Offices of Education, Health and Human Services, and Public Safety as co-chairs. The Task Force held meetings in locations throughout the Commonwealth and heard from teachers, superintendents, parents, students, law enforcement and experts from a variety of fields who presented their research and discussed best practices. This type of strategic cross-collaboration forced us to work outside silos. In many ways, this report is emblematic of the collaboration we expect to see happening at the municipal level as local communities work to strengthen school safety and security.

Missouri

- [School Safety Taskforce](#)
 - Description: House Bill 2567 would establish a School Safety Task Force, which would study school-based mental health services, mental health staffing, school discipline and intervention and interagency collaboration. The bill would also require all public and charter schools to conduct active shooter and intruder response training for staff members every year.

Nebraska

- [School Safety Task Force Education Sub-Committee](#)
 - Description: To collectively support, enhance and sustain safe, healthy and successful learning environments for all Nebraska's children and youth through a comprehensive, integrated cross-systems approach to school safety, grounded in collaboration, context and best practice.

Nevada

- [Statewide School Safety Task Force](#)
 - Description: Governor Brian Sandoval has established a Statewide School Safety Task Force that is charged with, the safety of Nevada's schoolchildren as a matter of unparalleled importance and significance. School superintendents, principals, teachers, and state and district officials should be commended on the advances which make our schools safer and the diligence and dedication with which they have approached this issue. Despite these advances, the recent tragedy in Parkland, Florida demonstrates the real danger posed by an active shooter to students, teachers and staff on a school campus. It is imperative that the State of Nevada devote its resources toward making schools as safe as possible, so that students are free to learn, grow, and excel, becoming the citizens and leaders of tomorrow.

New Jersey

- [New Jersey School Security Task Force Report and Recommendations](#)
 - Description: In the attached final report, we have compiled 42 recommendations that we believe are not only thoughtful, but also practical in terms of time and resources available at both the State and school district levels. We hope the recommendations will assist you in prioritizing the initiatives that you determine are most appropriate. Thank you for the opportunity to advise you on these significant matters.

North Carolina

- [The Task Force on Safer Schools](#)
 - Description: The Center for Safer Schools Task Force was established in September 2013, by Executive Order 25, tasked to serve as an advisory body to the Center. The Task Force is comprised by appointed stakeholders to include parents, students, teachers, school administrators, law enforcement, juvenile justice professionals and mental health professionals. The Task Force is divided into working groups to include School Climate and Discipline, Mental Health, Substance Use, Physical Security and Emergency Preparedness, School Resource Officers, and Gang Intervention.

Oklahoma

- [Oklahoma Commission on School Security](#)
 - **Description:** Formed in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy in Connecticut, the Oklahoma Commission on School Security was established to evaluate school safety statewide and build a report to be presented to the Oklahoma Legislature with information and recommendations on how to enhance school security.

Oregon

- [Oregon Task Force on School Safety \(Report to the Oregon State Legislature\)](#)
 - **Description:** School violence has become all too common in our state and throughout the nation. Recent school attacks have created uncertainty about the safety and security of our schools. In 2014, to address this concern, the Oregon State Legislature enacted House Bill 4087, establishing the Oregon Task Force on School Safety, bringing together representatives from police, fire, school administration, teachers, school boards and service districts, along with the Governor’s education and public safety policy advisors, and legislators.

South Carolina

- [School Safety Task Force](#)
 - **Description:** The Safe Schools Taskforce was established by State Superintendent of Education Molly M. Spearman in November of 2015. Dr. Traci Young Cooper, immediate past chair and current member of the South Carolina State Board of Education, co-chaired the taskforce along with Superintendent Spearman. Both leaders believe that in order for all students to be prepared for success after high school, the school environment must be one of trust, respect, and order. By bringing together all stakeholders, we can ensure that school communities have the best resources available, the proper procedures in place, and the appropriate training needed for student success. The taskforce was charged with examining current school policies and educator and law enforcement training criteria and making recommendations as to best practices to ensure safe school climates throughout the state. The Safe Schools Taskforce was comprised of educators, law enforcement officials, and parents.

Texas

- [School Safety Task Force](#)
 - **Description:** The School Safety Task Force was established by [SB 1556](#) in the 83rd Texas Legislature and sunset following the 85th Legislature. The task force studied best practices for school multi-hazard emergency operations planning. Based on these studies, the task force made recommendations to the

legislature, the Texas School Safety Center, and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security.

Utah

- [Utah School Safety Commission](#)
 - Description: The Utah School Safety Commission was created to bring community members of varying expertise together to discuss potential policy ideas that could be used to make Utah schools safer.

Vermont

- [Governor's Community Violence Prevention Task Force](#)
 - Description: The mission of the Task Force will be to identify the primary root causes of behavior that leads to violence against others in schools and communities and lead the State's response to address these issues by ensuring full interagency and intra-agency coordination among state and local governments and schools. The Task Force will identify strategies and lessons learned, replying on credible research and successful community-based violence prevention programs.

Wyoming

- **School Safety and Security Task Force**
 - [School Safety and Security Task Force- Reports and Recommendations](#)
 - Description: The team was asked to evaluate the current state of safety and security across Wyoming school districts; identify weaknesses, strengths, and best practices; and to propose recommendations for improvement. During its inaugural meeting in January 2013, the task force determined that Wyoming has no baseline standards for evaluating safety needs, nor guidelines driving continuous review and improvement. It also identified three immediate priorities: 1) Increase the number of School Resource Officers in Wyoming schools 2) Update/modify schools with controlled access systems 3) Develop a comprehensive crisis management training program for district staff. Based on these priorities, the task force was divided into three subcommittees to evaluate and focus on different issues: School Resource Officers, Facilities Analysis, and Response Planning and Training.