



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

### Memorandum

**Date:** 9/16/13

**To:** District and Public Charter School Superintendents and Administrators

**From:** Matt McCarter, Student Engagement & Postsecondary Readiness Division Director

**RE:** Idaho School Safety and Security Threat Assessment Implementation

In January 2013, in the wake of the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna convened The Safe and Secure Schools Task Force to take a renewed look at school safety and security across Idaho. Idaho first took a comprehensive look at school safety and security in 2007, the convening of the Task Force is a continuation of this effort.

The Task Force is made up of representatives from education, law enforcement, first responders and includes the involvement of Colonel Russell, former Idaho State Police Director recently appointed by Governor Otter to identify school safety improvement strategies. The group has met regularly since January and expects to have recommendations prepared for the 2014 Legislature. The focus of the Task Force includes the following:

- To identify the critical infrastructure, resources and action steps (statewide plan) to create a culture of readiness to prevent and respond to crises in every school community in Idaho.
- To build capacity for local jurisdictions to effectively prevent and respond to their unique crisis situations.
- To assure every student, parent and staff member feels safe in Idaho schools.

To this end, the Task Force reviewed recent guidance and recommendations for addressing school safety from multiple sources, and based on this guidance, is establishing a structure to support districts and schools in taking the first steps, which include: 1). establishing a representative local committee, and 2). implementing a valid, reliable safety and security threat assessment tool.

A multi-hazard school threat assessment tool provides critical information to most effectively allocate limited resources based on objective data. The Task Force has identified and adapted a multi-hazard threat assessment tool for implementation in Idaho. Next steps include administering the threat assessment tool among a sample of Idaho schools with the support of technical experts in order to support the local safety planning of selected schools and provide an aggregate summary of safety / security strengths and weaknesses to the Idaho legislature during the 2014 session. The sample includes 75 schools with varying geographical location, enrollment, governance (charter and traditional) and grades served. Selected schools, along with a description of the sample parameters and process, are



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attached to this correspondence. These activities are not intended replace local school safety efforts currently in place but to foster continuous improvement and inform local districts and policy makers on statewide trends.

Participation in the effort is entirely voluntary and is intended to provide value and actionable data to schools and districts. The state's School Safety Specialist Contractors are Guy Bleisner, former Health and Safety Coordinator for the Bonneville School District and Brian Armes, former middle school principal in the Bonneville School District. Both have served on the Safe and Secure Schools Task Force and bring a depth of knowledge and passion for school safety.

The implementation of the Idaho School Safety and Security Threat Assessment requires 2 to 3 hours of the building administrator's time in addition to involvement of the school's safety lead the day of the onsite visit. In addition, the School Safety Specialists will conduct brief visits with staff, students and parents who may be present and available. Prior to the onsite visit a copy of the school's emergency operations plan will be requested for review.

Selected schools can expect communication from the School Safety Specialists in September and October, 2013 to ascertain interest and schedule dates and times for assessment implementation.

Schools can expect a detailed report, commendations and recommendations at the conclusion of the assessment.

Idaho's common School Safety and Security Threat Assessment, along with instructions for implementation can be found at the following weblink: [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/safe\\_secure/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/safe_secure/)

For more information on this project or other Safe and Secure Schools Task Force strategies to improve school safety, contact:

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Thank you for your continued commitment to the safety of students and staff in Idaho public education.



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### *School Selection Process for Inclusion in the Initial Phase of the Idaho School Safety and Security Assessment Implementation*

The goal of the initial phase of the Safety and Security Threat Assessment is to capture a representative sample of school safety profiles among public schools in Idaho by January, 3014.

Based on the State Department of Education enrollment reporting for the 2012-2013 school year the nineteen (19) largest school districts by student population all have greater than 4,000 students. There appears to be a natural break in district level student enrollment at the 4,000 level.

School districts with a student population of 4,000 or greater represent approximately 61% of the total student population of the state. Schools in those districts represent fewer than 34% of all Idaho schools and those same nineteen (19) school districts represent approximately 12% of the school districts in the state when charter schools are included in the calculation.

A simple stratified random sampling method was used to determine schools to be included (if they choose). The study design called for a total of 75 schools (approximately 10% of Idaho schools) - 36 schools (18 elementary, 9 jr. high/ middle schools and 9 high schools) from districts of 4,000 students or greater and the same from districts of 3,999 students or less with three (3) K-12 schools. K-12 schools pose a unique set of safety and security concerns and need to be considered separately. This created three (3) distinct groups. Numbers were assigned to all the schools in each group and a computerized random number generator was used to select schools for inclusion in the assessment.

In keeping with the study design, no school district was allowed to have more than one (1) school in any category for a total possible of three (3) schools from any one (1) school district to be included in the assessment.

### **School Assessment Candidates**

Elementary schools in districts with student enrollment over 4,000

<b>School District</b>	<b>School</b>
Boise S.D. #001	Collister Elementary
Meridian Jt. S.D. #002	Paramount Elementary
Kuna Jt S.D. #003	Hubbard Elementary
Pocatello S.D. #25	Syringa Elementary
Idaho Falls S.D. #91	Linden Park Elementary
Bonneville S.D. #93	Cloverdale Elementary
Nampa S.D. #131	Park Ridge Elementary
Vallivue S.D. #139	East Canyon Elementary



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Jefferson Ct. Jt. S.D. 251	Midway Elementary
Coeur d'Alene S.D. #271	Dalton Elementary
Lakeland S.D. #272	Garwood Elementary
Post Falls S.D. #273	Mullin Trail Elementary
Madison S.D. #321	South Fork Elementary
Minidoka S.D. #331	Acequia Elementary
Lewiston S.D. #340	McGhee elementary
Caldwell S.D. #132	Van Buren Elementary
Twin Falls S.D. #411	Harrison Elementary
Blackfoot S.D. #55	Groveland Elementary
Cassia S.D. #151	Raft River Elementary

Jr. High /Middle schools in districts with student enrollment over 4,000

School District	School
Boise S.D. # 001	Fairmont Jr. High
Twin Falls S.D. #411	O'Leary Jr. High
Cassia S.D. #151	Burley Jr. High School
Post Falls S.D. #273	River City M.S.
Coeur d'Alene S.D. #271	Lakes M.S.
Meridian Jt. S.D. #002	Lowel Scott
Bonneville S.D. #93	Sandcreek M.S.
Nampa S.D. #131	West M.S.
Lakeland S.D. #272	Lakeland M.S.

High schools in districts with student enrollment over 4,000

School District	School
Boise S.D. # 001	Borah H.S.
Blackfoot S.D. #55	Blackfoot H.S.
Cassia S.D. #151	Oakley H.S.
Idaho Falls S.D. #91	Idaho Falls H.S.
Pocatello S.D. #25	Pocatello H.S.
Coeur d'Alene S.D. #271	Lake City H.S.
Twin Falls #411	Canyon Rim H.S.
Meridian S.D. #002	Mountain View H.S.
Vallivue S.D. #	Vallivue H.S.

Elementary schools in districts with student enrollment fewer than 4,000

School District	School
Basin S.D. #72	Basin Elementary
St. Maries S.D. #41	UpRiver Elementary
Lapwai S.D. #341	Lapwai Elementary



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Kamiah S.D. #304	Kamiah Elementary
Camas County S.D. #432	Camas Co. Elementary
Snake River S.D. #52	Moreland Elementary
Lake Pend Oreille #84	Kootenai Elementary
Salmon S.D. #291	Pioneer Elementary
American Falls #381	Hillcrest Elementary
Ririe S.D. #252	Ririe Elementary
Notus S.D. #135	Notus Elementary
Soda Springs S.D. #150	Thirkill Elementary
Challis S.D. #181	Clayton Elementary
Salmon River S.D. #291	Riggins Elementary
Fremont S.D. #215	Henry's Fork Elem.
Wallace S.D. #393	Silver Hills Elementary
Bear Lake S.D. #33	Paris Elementary
Emmett S.D. #221	Butte View Elementary
Alt. West Jefferson 253	Hamer Elementary

Jr. High/Middle schools in districts with student enrollment fewer than 4,000

School District	School
Teton S.D. #401	Teton M.S.
Plummer/Worley #44	Lakeside M. S.
Troy S.D. #257	Troy Jr/Sr H.S.
Shelly S.D. #60	Hobbs M.S.
Aberdeen S.D. #58	Aberdeen M.S.
Filer S.D. #413	Filer M.S.
Midvale S.D. #433	Midvale M.S.
Bliss S.D. #234	Bliss k-8
Moscow S.D. #281	Moscow M.S.

High schools in districts with student enrollment under 4,000

School District	School
Mountain Home S.D. 193	Mountain Home H.S.
Nezperce S.D. #302	Nezperce Jr/Sr high
Oneida S.D. #351	Malad H.S.
Soda Springs S.D. #150	Soda Springs H.S.
Kellogg S.D. #391	Kellogg H.S.
West Bonner S.D. #83	Priest River Lamanna HS
Kimberly S.D. #274	Kimberly H.S.
Melba S.D. #136	Melba Jr/Sr H.S.
Weiser S.D. #431	Weiser H.S.



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K-12 districts / schools with student enrollment under 4,000

School District	School
Valley S.D. 262	Valley k-12 school
Blaine Co. S.D. 61	Carey k-12 school
Genesee S.D. 282	Genesee k-12 school