

# Legislative Report 2024



## Idaho School Safety and Security Program

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## 2 STATUTORY MISSION SUMMARY

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**Goal 1:** Develop and employ a comprehensive process and instrument for triennial school assessments and reports. [33-5902] (4)(5)(8)

**Goal 2:** Maintain accurate information on school locations and conditions, tracking facility additions and changes. [33-5902] (1)(2)(3)

**Goal 3:** Identify and implement multiple modes of support for the improvement of safety and security within schools. [33-5902] (1)(2)(3)(6)(7)

**Goal 4:** Identify and establish connection with the agencies, institutions and organizations that serve schools, school personnel, or provide some type of service useful for promoting safety and security within the school environment. [33-5902] (1)(3)

**Goal 5:** Identify incidents, conditions and trends that threaten schools. Research and develop effective practices and training. Research and evaluate the efficacy of technological security solutions, advising school on possible implementation. [33-5902] (1)(2)(3)(6)(7)(8)

### 3 GOAL PROGRESS DATA

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#### 3.1 TRIENNIAL ASSESSMENT (GOAL 1,2)

Number of school campuses that have been completed in round 2:	523 (goal 1,2,3)
Number of school campuses that have been completed last school year 22/23:	216 (goal 1,2,3)
Updated Vulnerability Assessment to current law and research	(goal 1,3,5)
Began Data Aggregation Project for Assessment Data	(goal 1,3,5)
Updated Vulnerability Assessment methods to allow for better data aggregation	(goal 1,3,5)

### 3.1.1 Triennial Vulnerability Assessment Outlook

216 assessments were completed during the 2022/2023 school year and all assessment documentation was delivered to local school boards and administrators. These vulnerability assessments were accurate snapshots of analyst observations at the time of the assessment.

Although by law, assessments are not required to maintain the triennial schedule, we believe that a 3-year rotation strikes the correct balance between frequency and burden for Idaho schools. Consequently, the program is currently working to catch up with scheduled assessments following the disruptions of the pandemic years.

Recovering from the pandemic-related disruptions is progressing as anticipated. Regions 1 (North Idaho) and 2 (Southwest Idaho) and 3 (Eastern Idaho) have completed a second assessment at all schools within the regions.

Region 3 (Central Idaho) remains a challenge due to staffing and geography. Analysts and central office staff have been conducting assessments in region 3 as schedules allow. This strategy has helped to mitigate the assessment shortfall, however school support in this region is still hindered by limited support relationships. A new Central Idaho Analyst is expected to begin in January of 2024.

The information generated from the vulnerability assessments proved to be tremendously important as a planning and guidance tool as schools applied for federal and state grant funding. The information also helped to guide the development of the Securing Our Future Grant Program and continues to help districts as they develop their own internal facility, security, staffing and operational plans to improve student safety.

### 3.1.2 Domains within ISSSP Vulnerability Assessment

#### **Student Supervision:**

Schools shall demonstrate appropriate student supervision across the campus, throughout the day, and at all school activities.

#### **Operations:**

Schools shall demonstrate safe daily operational procedures and practices.

#### **Facility:**

Schools shall demonstrate physical measures that maximize facility safety.

#### **Security:**

Schools shall demonstrate security measures that control space to prevent intrusion or victimization.

#### **Policy/Training:**

Schools shall demonstrate effectiveness by creating and reviewing policies that establish protocols, practices, and define training for a safe school environment. Training programs shall be aligned with safe school policies.

#### **Community:**

Schools shall demonstrate cooperative planning for prevention and mitigation of, response to, and recovery from all hazards affecting schools.

#### **Climate/Culture:**

Schools shall demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between safe school environments and a positive climate and culture.

### 3.1.3 Elements within Domains

#### **Student Supervision:**

- General supervision
- Specific supervision
- Indoor supervision
- Outdoor supervision

#### **Operations:**

- Visitor management
- Access control
- Communication
- Safety practices

#### **Facility:**

- Communication equipment
- Building usage and capacity
- High risk areas
- Maintenance
- Parking
- Safety Equipment
- Signage

#### **Security:**

- Outer perimeter
- Exterior Areas
- Internal Spaces
- Secure spaces
- Surveillance

#### **Policy/Training:**

- Discipline processes
- General safety policies
- Staff training
- Planning
- Specialized staff training
- Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

#### **Climate/Culture:**

- Behavior support resources
- Mental health support resources
- Physical health support resources
- Community involvement
- Student engagement
- Social Skills programs

#### **Community:**

- Community resources
- Emergency management
- Medical
- Fire suppression
- Law Enforcement
- School Resource Officer
- Written Agreements (MOU)

## 3.2 GOALS 3, 4, 5: RESPONSIVE INITIATIVES

Goals 3,4 and 5 represent the program commitment to improving safety through localized support to districts and schools. These activities compose a large portion of the program effort and often evidence the most successful movement toward improved student safety. Responsive Initiatives are rooted in the observations gathered and assessed through the Triennial Vulnerability Assessment, interagency contacts, stakeholder feedback as well as the continual evolution of the threatscape for students and schools.

Major 2023 Responsive Initiatives Include:

- 3.2.1 Federal Grant Management
- 3.2.2 Securing Our Future Grant Program
- 3.2.3 Training, Support and Consultation Opportunities
- 3.2.4 Expansion of Statewide Tipline
- 3.2.5 SRO Support Technical Working Group



3.2.1 Federal Grants-\$3,180,970 Awarded

US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance: Stop School Violence Grants

Grant #2018-YS-BX-0222, State of Idaho Threat Assessment Model for Schools

\$ 344,970.00, 10/01/2018 - 09/30/23- **Completed**

Grant #2019-YS-BX-0086 Enhancing Idaho State School Safety Center

\$ 445,000.00, 10/01/2019 – 09/30/23- **Completed**

IOEM Hazard Mitigation Grant- 2 Districts- **Completed**

\$91,000- Federal pass-through grants to mitigate vulnerabilities in high-density environments.

Saving American School Infrastructure Grant- **Applied- Not Awarded**

\$5 Million- Grant project intended to gather baseline data related to facility condition, facility management ability and to support LEAs with facility planning, management and maintenance needs.

School Violence Prevention Program Grants- **5 districts applied- 4 awarded**

\$2.3 Million- Grants for school security infrastructure or program improvement to LEAs.

### 3.2.2 Securing Our Future Grant Program-\$20,000,000

The Idaho Legislature approved a one-time, \$20,000,000 appropriation to create the Securing Our Future Grant Program. The program was designed to financially support the implementation of durable, meaningful, and demonstrated-effective security solutions at all Idaho schools. The Idaho School Safety and Security Program developed and administrated the grants.

Phase 1 (Formula Allocation) allocated \$20,000 to each Idaho School to address noted vulnerabilities from the Triennial Vulnerability Assessment. Projects included access control improvements, emergency communication repairs, surveillance upgrades and many other remedies to the vulnerabilities noted in the Triennial Vulnerability Assessments. Phase 1 awards were closed November 5<sup>th</sup> and awarded a total of

Phase 2 (Competitive Project Grants) the remainder of the appropriation will be used for competitive grants to address the most significant vulnerabilities throughout the state. Phase 2 awards will be a maximum of \$200,000 and will be evaluated based on the significance of the project to support student safety.

A full report of the Securing Our Future Grant and more information on how to participate is available on our website at <https://schoolsafety.idaho.gov/grants/securing-our-future-sof-grant-program/>

It should be noted that several LEAs leveraged the SOF Phase 1 allocation as the required match for successful application for Federal School Violence Prevention Programs (SVPP) grants resulting in total awards of 2.2 million dollars.

### 3.2.3 Training and Consulting Projects

Training and Consulting for various school stakeholder groups is critical to increasing the statewide student safety capacity within publicly funded educational institutions. To that end, the program prioritizes analyst time and effort to develop high-quality training products in a variety of venues, topics and modalities.

#### 2023 Training Opportunities/Products

- Reunification Plan Development and Exercises
- Grant Administration (Securing Our Future)
- Grant Writing Support (SVPP Grants)
- SRO Support Plan Development
- Idaho Standard Command Responses for Schools (ISCRS)
- SASI Grant Application/Facilities Planning
- Behavioral Threat Assessment
- Title IX Support
- Emergency Operations Planning Support
- Radio Communications Plan Development
- Social Media Threat Detection Training

Additionally, the program coordinates and supports training offered through federal and state partners to improve LEA safety capacity and awareness.

- Idaho Prevention and Support Conference (Idaho Department of Education)
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (Various Counties)
- Idaho School Board's Association
- Educator/Administrator Degree Programs (BSU, ISU)
- P-20 Educator Conference

### 3.2.4 Statewide Tipline Expansion

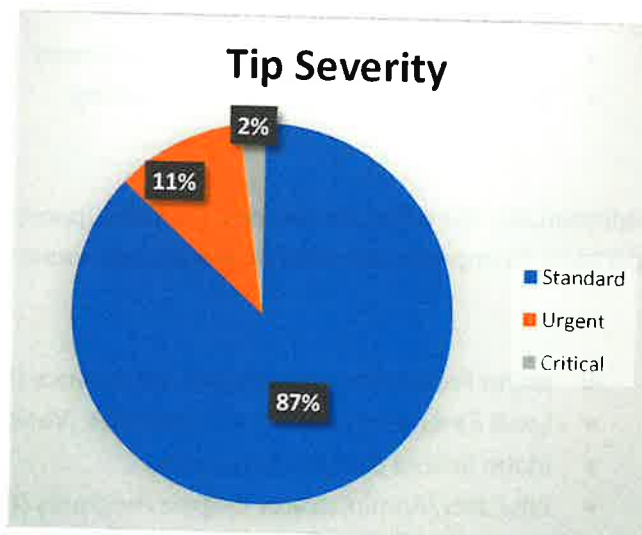
The statewide confidential tipline has continued to expand the number of schools that are actively participating this year. School leaders have found the service to be of great benefit for students and school communities. The legislature's movement to ongoing program funding has demonstrated a commitment to the safety of all students.



Most importantly the program is working. Students, parents and community members are using the service to confidentially communicate safety concerns to the local leaders who can directly address them. The tipline is available to all students, in all schools throughout the state.

The number of schools actively promoting the program to their students has expanded each year since the inception of the program. Over 320 schools are presenting the tipline to their students. Tipline materials or training are available to all students, in public, charter and private schools.

**Tip Severity-** The majority of tips are related to interpersonal conflict within the school setting but do not represent an imminent threat to students. A significant number (139) require immediate attention to address safety concerns. Thankfully the highest level of severity is relatively infrequent, however 22 critical tips represented an imminent threat to a student's life and were immediately transferred to emergency services.



**Youth Suicide Prevention-** Approximately % 6 of all tips received are related to concerns of youth suicide. Most tips are from students reporting concerns for a friend or peer. Students who contact the tipline to self-report suicidal ideation are immediately connected to professional support through the Idaho Crisis and Suicide Hotline.

A full report of the progress of the See Tell Now tipline and more information on how to participate is available on our website at <https://schoolsafety.idaho.gov/see-tell-now/>

### 3.2.5 SRO Support Position

During the summer of 2021 a multi-agency working group was developed to investigate and mitigate weaknesses within the statewide deployment of School Resource Officers. This working group continues to evaluate and support SROs. A multi-strategy approach was adopted that included the following initiatives.

1. School Resource Officer Census- **Completed**
  - 199 School Resource Officers in 40 Police and 26 Sheriff’s departments.
  - Developed a secure statewide SRO communication network to improve SRO awareness of threats, trends and opportunities.
  
2. Adoption of a common SRO training standard- **Completed (a), Ongoing (b)**
  - a. SRO Support Coordinator is NASRO Certified to teach SRO Basic classes in Idaho to allow for minimal cost training for SROs.
  - b. Identification of need and development of an Idaho-specific “Pre-SRO” course that addresses basic Idaho educational environments and requirements.
  
3. Support IDASRO (Idaho Association of School Resource Officers)- **Ongoing**
  - a. Newly elected IDASRO Governance Board
  - b. Regular IDASRO meetings
  - c. 1<sup>st</sup> Annual IDASRO Annual Conference (June 2024-Boise)
  - d. Refreshed Website and Information Portal ([IdahoSRO.org](http://IdahoSRO.org))
  - e. Development of Regional Training Calendar
  
4. Policy Advising
  - a. Coordination with the Technical Working Group to create a model Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for District-Department SRO agreements.

### 2022-2023 Training Opportunities

Topic	Location
Basic SRO (2 day)	Middleton, ID
US Secret Service School Safety	Post Falls, Nampa, Twin Falls, Idaho Falls- Cancelled for Federal Shutdown
NASRO Adolescent Mental Health (2 day)	Shelley, ID
Various DHS, ISP, Childhood Advocacy Centers	Online/Zoom
Interviewing Child Victims	Meridian, Twin Falls, Caldwell (Partnership with St. Lukes)

## 4 CONCLUSION

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The Idaho School Safety and Security Program is evidence of the commitment of the citizens, policymakers, and parents of the State of Idaho to the conviction that students deserve safe schools.

Without the continual partnership and cooperation of stakeholder groups, professional associations, state agencies and the time and effort of many individuals, this program would be insufficient to the demands of the task.

It is to these partners that we would like to extend our thanks, our gratitude and our ongoing pledge to continue to work relentlessly each day for safer students, staff and schools.