



## What is Safer Schools Ohio?

Safer Schools Ohio is a multi-agency effort created to assist schools in continuously improving the safety of our students. Paramount in this effort is ensuring each school has a strong emergency management plan.

## Safety Plans

Schools are comparing their existing plans to a model plan developed by the Attorney General's School Safety Task Force that outlines the best approaches to keeping kids safe. State experts, including those in the Department of Public Safety's Ohio Homeland Security division, review the information and provide guidance to help schools implement best practices and improve their plans.

## Reporting to 844-SAFEROH

By calling or texting the statewide anonymous hotline - **844-SAFEROH** - you can report anything that is suspicious or endangering you, your friends or your school. Public safety officials offer this hotline at no cost to schools as a way for students to report potential suicides, school shootings, bullying or other problems anonymously.

## What is Ohio Homeland Security doing for the Safer Schools Ohio Initiative?

- Reviewing school emergency management plans to help them meet new requirements under O.R.C. 3313.536.
- Making emergency management plans available to local first responders and school administrators through the communications information management system (CIMS) in a secure on-line portal.
- Helping schools locate resources to improve their plans.
- Reducing school vulnerabilities to make schools safer.

Providing a toll-free tip line and anonymous text feature to 844-SAFEROH.

- Providing tip-reporting coverage 24/7/365 with analysts trained in school violence threat assessment by the U.S. Secret Service.

## Threat Assessment & Prevention Unit (TAP Unit)

TAP Unit analysts trained in school and workplace violence threat assessment are available to answer questions, receive suspicious activity reporting and field tips regarding school and workplace violence. The following is a list of items worth reporting:

- Bullying incidents (perpetrators and victims)
- Withdrawn student behaviors
- Verbal or written threats observed toward students, faculty or school
- Weapon/suspicious devices on or near school grounds
- Gang related activities
- Unusual /suspicious behavior of students or associates

*TAP Unit analysts work closely with the Ohio Department of Education to alert schools of important information, and when needed, contact local law enforcement to prevent violence.*