Hearst Television ‘Securing Our Schools’
2022 Questionnaire

This reporting questionnaire was conducted by the Hearst Television National Investigative Unit, with assistance from Hearst Newspapers, as part of its series, ‘Securing Our Schools,’ which was first published in November 2022. The questionnaire was sent to every public school district in all 50 states – a total of 13,204 – and answers were sought between Sept. 12, 2022-Oct. 14, 2022. Responses were furnished on the record. Respondents were asked 15 questions; not all respondents answered all questions. Respondents were required to include the identity of their district when submitting their answers; those that did not were removed from the final results. In total, 1,262 districts are included in the final results (response rates from Florida and the Carolinas may have been impacted by Hurricane Ian).

Some of the questions were multiple choice and others asked respondents to leave written answers. For those written answers, Hearst Television has provided below a sample of the total responses received.

Researchers, education stakeholders or media outlets who wish to use this data for educational, administrative or reporting purposes may do so with mandatory courtesy to the “Hearst Television National Investigative Unit & Hearst Newspapers.” For questions about this survey, please contact: investigate@hearst.com.
1. Does your school district have an active shooter response plan?

- If no active shooter response plan, why not?
  - "We are a very small rural school district with no resource officer." – White Dear, TX
  - "It is a work in progress." – Bowie, AZ
  - "We do not specifically practice a 'active shooter drill', we practice 'Lockdown' drills, with the safeguard step of 'run/barricade/fight' integrated within the Lockdown drill itself. This address all needs that each school would require in their response to such a threat. Lockdown drills are periodically give scenario dangers along with them to simulate various dangers, one of which is a dangerous human with a weapon scenario. This is the most effective way to gradually, successfully and effectively develop the skills, plans, communication, and response needed to keep schools safe in the event of this type of danger or any danger they could encounter." – Yakima, WA
  - "We are being trained this year on a new active shooter process." – Index, WA
  - "We don’t call it ‘active shooter’; we call it ‘lockdown’ because shooters are just one of many similar threats." – Davenport, CA
  - "We realized this year that the active shooter response plan is not formally written into the school safety plan, even though we review it in school site council and with the county sheriff’s department annually. We will add it to the safety plan this year. The
staff has been doing annual active shooter trainings through ALICE (aka Navigate 360) since the 2018 - 2019 school year." – San Lucas, CA

2. How often does your school district hold active shooter drills?
1239 Responses

3. Does your school district have:
1261 Responses
4. Do you have confidence in your local law enforcement agency’s active shooter response plan?
1268 Responses

Additional comments:

- "We are extremely rural with no local Police Department. The County Sheriff’s department covers approximately 920 Square miles with 3 officers. If they are responding to an emergency far from the school, there may be no one available for 30-40 minutes.” – Benkelman, NE

- "We have a guardian program made up of teacher volunteers to carry firearms on campus." – Bellevue, TX

- "Current funding prevents us from being able to afford a full-time resource officer in our district at this time.” – Blanchester, OH

- "We are a small district with an MOU for an SRO, but our small community has been unable to recruit and retain one.” – Estancia, NM

- "Funding for School Resource Officers would be helpful." – Juneau, WI

- "We are very remote. When we call for the police, it is often well over 2 hours before they are on-site.” – Sanders, AZ

- "We are an armed district. We are located approximately 26 miles from the nearest law enforcement agency. We take the safety of our students and staff very seriously here.” – New Raymore, CO
5. Has your district been briefed by local law enforcement about its active shooter response plan in calendar year 2022?

- Yes: 81.2%
- No: 18.8%

1257 Responses

6. Have you briefed all staff members in your district about your local law enforcement’s active shooter response plan?

- Yes: 73.5%
- No: 26.5%

1256 Responses
6a. If no, do you plan to brief staff members this school year (i.e., 2022-2023)?
442 Responses

7. Do any classrooms in your district have doors that cannot be locked from the inside?
1247 Responses
7a. If yes, do you plan to change that in the coming year?

408 Responses

8. Does your district have firearm(s) on school campuses that are not physically worn at all times by a law enforcement officer?

1254 Responses
9a: If so, what are the conditions that apply? (e.g., training requirements, license requirements, storage requirements, if any, etc.)

- “Specific Guardian training requirements as outlined by the Florida legislature.” – Strake, FL

- “Guardian Team members have access to guns in locked safes in their classroom. They have to have a concealed handgun permit. They have three days of intensive training each summer.” – Callisburg, TX

- “We are in the process of hiring a security officer who may carry a firearm. Due to a shortage of police officers, we are unable to fill the SRO position, so are attempting to hire a retired law enforcement or similar individual as a security officer.” – Centralia, WA

- “The recent change in law caused us to not have certain staff carry, with the recent change in legislation once again we are investigating this option.” – Winchester, OH

- “Current Oklahoma law makes it too hard to get people trained to carry on campus.” – Healdton, OK

- “Select staff members have become highly trained auxiliary officers for the county sheriff and carry firearms on campus. They meet monthly for continued training.” – Mena, AZ
"Our district has a policy that would allow for an employee to meet certain criteria to carry a loaded firearm with the School Board's permission. To date, there have been no approvals for this." – Peculiar, MO

10. Has your school district contacted a for-profit corporation to handle your security needs?

1257 Responses

Additional comments:

- "We use protocols from the I Love U guys foundation and an anonymous reporting system through Sandy Hook Promise. These are partnerships." – New Bern, NC

- "We have had a random dog search for drugs in our schools by a security group." – Monticello, KY

- “Raptor Emergency” – Anna, TX

- “Lock Out USA” – Bay City, MI

- “Lagarda Security” – Flint, MI

- “Cinco Peso Training Group” – Bells, TX

- “CrisisGo APP” – Brooklyn, CT
• “Atlas Security LLC” – Livingston Manor, NY
• “Frontline Security” – Omaha, NE

10b. If no, does your district plan to do so in the coming year?
1087 Responses

11. Has your school district entered into a contract with a for-profit corporation to handle your security needs or develop a security plan?
1252 Responses
11a: If yes, what is the name of the company and the value of the contract?

- "Brown County ESC supports all of our district safety plans. They are responsible for managing the reporting, training, and consulting. Our contract is approximately $3500." – Blanchester, OH

- "We are in the final stages of working with two companies that provide school safety/security related products. The use of these products will require the district to sign a contract. The value of both projects is in the range of $450,000.00 with an annual cost to the district of around $30,000.00. The district manages all security plans in house in conjunction with our local police department." – East Greenwich, RI

- "Securitas, $86,218.49" – Ankeny, IA

- "Carolina Consulting Risk Management, LLC $32,000" – Camden, NC

- "FEAPC - Facility Engineering Associates $50,000" – DeKalb, IL

11b. If no, does your district plan to do so in the coming year?

1108 Responses
12a: If yes, please describe the new initiatives:

- “Big campaign to push our anonymous alerting system.” – Belton, TX

- “We have added a reunification drill to our calendar this year, in addition to our intruder drill. We plan to make our intruder drill multi-faceted by reading scenarios and giving teachers and students time to discuss what their response would be in each scenario.” – Farmer City, IL

- “The community and school will work together to practice a school lockdown during the next several weeks. The school will practice lockdown on October 21st.” – Albion, NE

- “Plan to conduct school safety forums with community.” – Broadalbin, NY

- “We have implemented a Security Control Center in our district that we believe to be the only one of its kind throughout our state. It is monitored during school hours and events. We have access to every camera across our five campuses, radio contact with SRO’s, local and state police and emergency services. We are also connected with area, state, and national weather services.” – Brookland, AR
• “The Broward County Public Schools District launched two new initiatives during the opening of the 2022-2023 school year. The use of hand-held metal detector screening randomly in all of our secondary schools. (Not currently using hand-held wands in elementary schools. A district-wide transition to plain language for emergency protocols, moving away from the use of all color codes.” –**Ft. Lauderdale, FL**

• “Training all school staff in Stop the Bleed and placing Stop the Bleed Kits in each classroom. M.I.S.S. - Master Instructor of School Safety - training is being taught to all school staff. Key Exchange for all substitute teachers – ex: car keys for classroom keys.” –**Bolivia, NC**

• “We are currently replacing doors districtwide and are going out to bid for additional door replacement. We also have put in place security measures to be notified when doors are propped open in key locations and are expanding this. We are upgrading our radios through a security grant and adding additional security cameras.” –**Chesterland, OH**

• “All classroom doors must have be locked and we place a magnet strip on the door plate so that they can immediately secure the room without fumbling for keys” –**Laredo, TX**

• “Panic buttons for all staff that initiate a lock down... New anonymous tip [line]” –**East Hampton, CT**

13. Does your district currently use a panic-alert (e.g. ‘panic button’ or similar) system purchased or leased from a vendor?

1247 Responses
13a. If no, are you currently considering the use of a panic-alert system from a vendor?  
630 Responses

14. Does your school district offer direct access to mental health services for students, with either a school psychologist on staff or a telehealth option?  
1260 Responses
15: Any additional comments to this questionnaire?

- “Big campaign to push our anonymous alerting system.” – Belton, TX

- “No money for expensive measures. Would love to be able to more fully ensure our students’ safety.” – Buffalo, KS

- “If school safety is such a priority for the state, I would encourage them to be more proactive with the dollars provided to help implement programming, add personnel in charge of security, and upgrade safety systems to current standards. Cost is an inhibitor for most districts as they work to balance academics that are at the forefront due to the report card, staffing that is difficult to find due to a teacher shortage, increasing costs due to inflation of services and materials needed to maintain operations of the schools, and safety of students in one of the open and public institutions in America. Dollars only go so far and the public support for additional taxes is at an all time low.” – Blanchester Local Schools, OH

- “Keep in mind that with all this School Safety in the forefront there is NO budget monies from either the State of the Federal Government! We have to apply for Safe Schools grants which puts us in competition with other schools and if we don’t get that we have to use very limited local money to keep schools safe!” – Robbinsville, NC
• “This year we are investing in additional training for all of our staff on the components and use of CATAPULT EMS, RAPTOR, the Standard Response Protocol, and Intruder Response/drills” – Calexico, CA

• “The Quitman School District has installed tornado/bullet proof safe shelters in all classrooms, gymnasium and cafeteria. Our staff and students can be in their respective classroom safe shelter in less than 1 minute. If the government really wanted to do something to save lives they would invest in safe shelters for all school districts!” – Quitman, AR

• “This past week, we hosted a Safety Forum with parents.” – Hampton, NH

• “School safety is an important issues that unfortunately has financial impacts. A rural, 62% poverty school district can not afford to have an officer on duty to be on campus. We can’t afford metal detectors or other things. We have trouble buying needed equipment to help with an active shooter situation. It is unfortunate that we don’t have money that suburban school districts have. It is an incredibly mixed up funding system in Wisconsin.” – Gresham, WI

• “We will be working with the communities to address basic safety including doors, locks, access, and egress. We also have some staffing changes and leadership changes that required an update to our crisis plans and strengthening our partnerships to support our local schools. Because the district covers 4 remote and isolated communities, the response people/law enforcement are often hours if not days away and that is a concern.” – Sand Point, AK

• “Our response four years ago to improve school safety was to hire two additional counselors for our district. Addressing the social/emotional needs of our students is the best thing we can do to prevent school violence.” – Ranchester, WY

• “It is sad, but with 400,000,000 registered firearms in this country, I believe the problem will not stop in my lifetime, so we must prepare for the worst day we will ever imagine.” – Des Plaines, IL

• “Currently our buildings are less secure than we would like. Our buildings were built long before the current shooter incidents.” – Sanders, AZ

• “We need money to pay for the security in our schools as a line item not just have security but the state or feds give us no money to do this” – Cuba, NM

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