

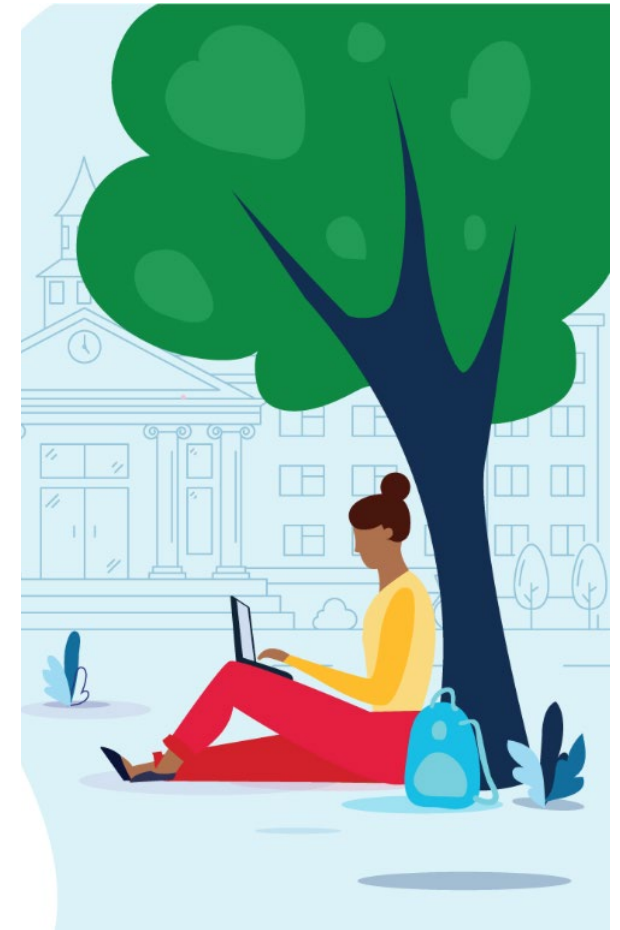
SCHOOL SAFETY AND YOU: TOOLS TO ADDRESS EMERGING THREATS IN THE K-12 COMMUNITY

AUGUST 4, 2022



Key Statistics on Risk Environment

- **91%** of school attackers had observable psychological (depression, suicidal ideation, anger, psychotic symptoms, etc.), behavioral (defiance, poor impulse control, violation of social norms, etc.), or neurological (developmental delays, cognitive deficits, etc.) symptoms.
- **80%** of school attackers were bullied by their classmates. Some of the attackers actively sought help to address bullying but received an ineffective response or no response at all.
- **51%** of school attackers had engaged in observable planning behaviors prior to the attack.
- **94%** of school attackers had experienced a risk factor within six months of their attack.



Source: U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center

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Prevalent Risk Environment Trends

Cybersecurity

1,331 publicly disclosed school cyber incidents affecting U.S. school districts since 2016



Targeted Violence

76% of attackers acquired their firearm from the home of a parent or another close relative

Bombing

3,111 bomb incidents at schools from 2016 to 2020



Mental Health

30% of students reported feeling unhappy and depressed more than usual since the pandemic



Sources: K12 SIX, DHS Office for Bombing Prevention, U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center, America's Promise Alliance

CISA School Safety Task Force Overview



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Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

CYBERSECURITY &
INFRASTRUCTURE
SECURITY AGENCY



**CYBERSECURITY
& INFRASTRUCTURE
SECURITY AGENCY**



CYBERSECURITY



INFRASTRUCTURE
SECURITY



EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS



NATIONAL RISK
MANAGEMENT



Mission

Lead the National effort to understand and manage cyber and physical risk to our critical infrastructure.



Vision

A secure and resilient critical infrastructure for the American people.

CISA's Infrastructure Security Division (ISD) leads the coordinated effort to reduce risks posed to our critical infrastructure.



CISA School Safety Task Force



Coordinate an **ongoing interagency effort** between the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, and Justice to provide a one-stop access to school safety resources and programs to make schools secure and resilient



Design and deploy **school safety-specific doctrine and capacity building** resources, guidance, and best practices that enhance school's capabilities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a range of threats



Conduct **innovative outreach and engagement** with schools to educate school safety stakeholders on risks, threats, and vulnerabilities, and solicit feedback



Clearinghouse Overview



- **Federal School Safety Clearinghouse established, following the school shooting in Parkland, FL, in 2018.**
- **Maintains [SchoolSafety.gov](https://www.schoolsafety.gov), a one-stop, government-wide source designed specifically for academic community users to **access actionable information on school security** and resilience resources; to identify gaps in knowledge, resources, and technologies; and to recommend best practices.**



SchoolSafety.gov



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SchoolSafety.gov Resources



Bullying & Cyberbullying



Mental Health



School Climate



Threat Assessment & Reporting



Emergency Planning



Targeted Violence



Infectious Diseases and Public Health



Cybersecurity



SchoolSafety.gov Tools and Features



SchoolSafety.gov provides a [calendar of events](#) for webinars, training sessions, grant opportunities, and conferences for school safety personnel, administrators, educators, and parents.



School communities can use the [State Information Sharing Tool](#) on the site to access state-specific resources, guidance, and contacts in their area.



The site's [Safety Readiness Tool](#) assists users in evaluating their respective school's safety posture across 10 foundational elements. After completing an online assessment, users are provided a tailored Action Plan with options for consideration, aligned resources, and grant opportunities specific to their individual school's needs.



SchoolSafety.gov Grants Finder Tool

Grants Finder Tool

- New tool that features Federally available school safety-related grant opportunities in one centralized location.
- Designed to help schools determine eligibility and applicability of grant programs for their specific needs, challenges, and characteristics.
- Option to take quiz, select pre-populated lists, or filter grants by specific criteria such as school safety topic, funding agency, application level of effort and deadline, and intended audience.

The screenshot displays the SchoolSafety.gov Grants Finder tool interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'About', 'Topics', and 'Tools and Resources'. The main heading is 'Grants Finder', followed by instructions on how to use the tool. Below this is a 'Take the Grants Finder Quiz!' section with a 'Start Quiz' button. A 'Filter Grants' sidebar on the left allows filtering by topic (e.g., Bullying and Cyberbullying, School Climate) and dollar amount. The 'Quick Filters' section includes 'Upcoming Grants', 'Sub Grants', and 'COVID-19 Grants'. The 'Results' section displays a list of grants, with one example highlighted: 'FY 2021 Preventing School Violence: BIA's STOP School Violence Program' with a deadline of August 16, 2021. A detailed view of this grant is shown on the right, including the description and access link.



Capacity Building



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K-12 School Security Guide (3rd Edition)

The **K-12 School Security Guide (3rd Edition)** provides a comprehensive doctrine and systems-based methodology to support schools in conducting vulnerability assessments and planning to implement layered physical security elements across K–12 districts and campuses.

The guide is organized across three sections that aim to:

- Enhance understanding of a systems-based approach to layered physical security
- Explain the various elements of a comprehensive school security system
- Describe common challenges schools face in planning or making improvements



<p>Accompanying Training Suite (Release: Summer 2022)</p>		<p>Web-Based User Training</p>
		<p>Train-the-Trainer Toolkit</p>

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The Systems-Based Approach

Taking a systems-based approach to school physical security means ensuring that various security measures across a school campus work together in an integrated way, and that planning also incorporates the relevant policies and training programs that must also be in place for the entire system to function effectively.

The Systems-Based Approach At-A-Glance:

- Understand the five core elements of school physical security
- Consider a school's specific circumstances to tailor measures
- Identify the various security layers that exist at the school
- Determine security efforts in alignment with P-PM-RR
- Engage in the school security physical planning process

2.2 | THE SCHOOL PHYSICAL SECURITY SYSTEM: STRATEGIES AND ELEMENTS

After taking this bird's-eye view of a school's physical security system from the perspective of the broader school safety system, local education agencies can delve more deeply into thinking about how to better protect and mitigate against threats. Let's now look at the physical security strategies of detection, delay, and response on their own merits. Table 2.1 details these three physical security strategies and provides examples of measures that contribute to achieving them.

TABLE 2.1. PHYSICAL SECURITY STRATEGIES

Physical Security Strategy	Measure Definition	Examples
Detection	Measures that contribute to a school's ability to identify a security incident as early as possible.	Video-based detection (e.g., CCTV), security cameras, open-air cameras, listening devices, etc.
Delay	Measures that increase the time it takes for an attacker to reach a target or to complete an attack.	Targeted physical barriers or other physical security measures, such as bullet-resistant glass, etc.
Response	Measures that contribute to a school's ability to respond to a security incident as quickly as possible.	Security training, drills, etc.

Importantly, there is no one-size-fits-all approach to school physical security; different combinations of detection, delay, and response capabilities will provide different levels of security benefits across diverse K-12 campuses and schools. Moreover, different schools will take different approaches to physical security to ensure that they do not interfere with efforts they are taking to maintain a positive and welcoming school climate. The next step to implementing a systems-based approach to physical security therefore entails considering the different options available

FIGURE 2.1. ELEMENTS WITHIN THE SCHOOL PHYSICAL SECURITY SYSTEM

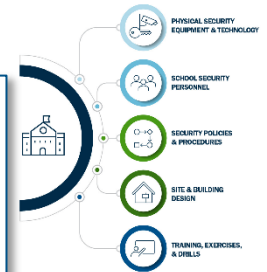


FIGURE 2.4 - STEPS IN THE SCHOOL SECURITY PHYSICAL PLANNING PROCESS

STEP 1.

FORM A PHYSICAL SECURITY PLANNING TEAM

Identify and include relevant school staff and stakeholders, such as community organizations, local law enforcement, and families.

STEP 2.

GATHER RELEVANT LOCAL DATA

Gather local data about safety incidents at schools and the consequences of such events.

STEP 3.

THREAT ANALYSIS

What types of safety incidents are a concern for a school, and how likely are they to occur?

STEP 4.

VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS

What safety and security measures are already in place at the school?

STEP 5.

RISK ANALYSIS

What are the potential consequences of each of the identified safety incidents based on the security measures in place at the school? How do security measures reduce risk? What risk remains?

STEP 6.

CREATE A SECURITY PLAN

Which of those remaining risks are a concern, and what are the most practical and effective additional safety and security measures to address them?

SOURCE: Adapted from Steiner et al., 2021.

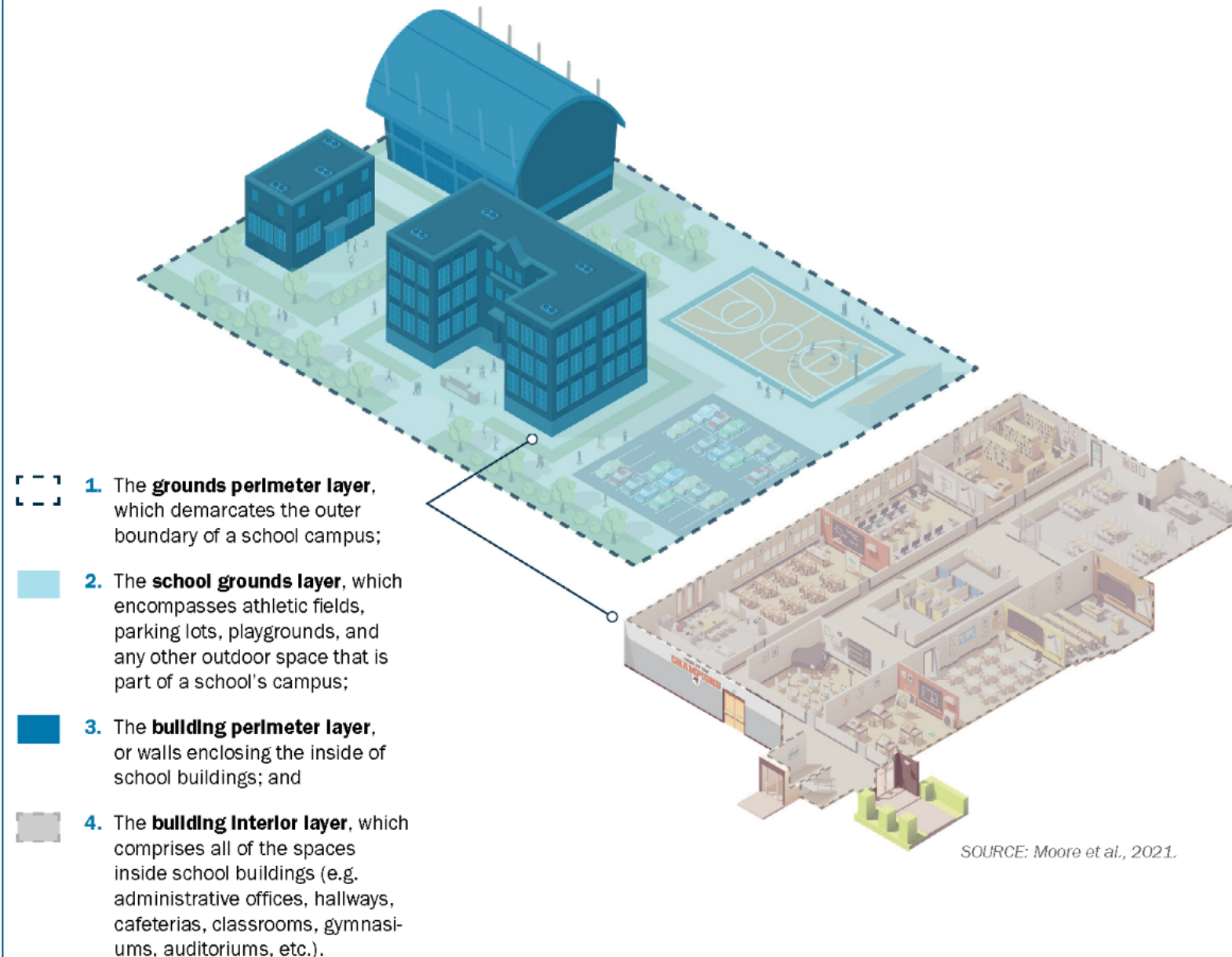


School Physical Security Across Layers

It's About Controls

P – People
P – Policies
E - Equipment

D - Deter
D - Detect
D - Delay
D - Defend



People



Policies

ALWAYS WEAR
YOUR STUDENT
ID BADGE

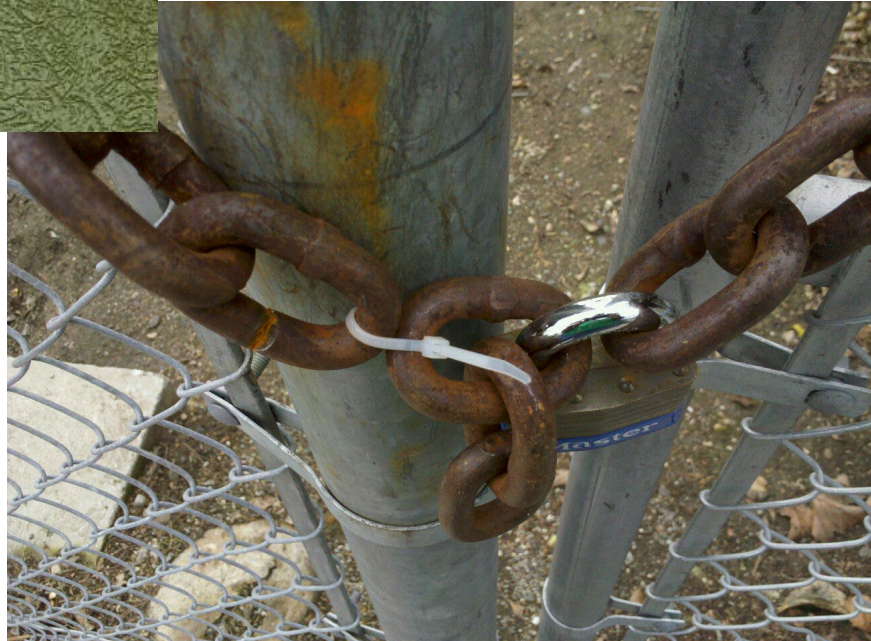
Keeping
Students
Safe



**Piggy Backing
&
Tail Gating
(Security)**



Equipment



Common Challenges Schools Face

Planning for and implementing a school physical security system is a complex undertaking, and local education agencies will need to navigate myriad challenges as they engage in the process. The **Common Challenges and Tradeoffs** section is designed to help schools identify how measures may affect and interact with efforts to prevent violence.

Common Challenges At-A-Glance:

- Policies (Federal, State, Local)
- Seeking Approval (Administration, Board)
- Funding (Initial, Long Term)
- Use and Effectiveness of Measures
- Understanding Limitations (Physical, CRCL, Technology)



SECTION 4.0
**COMMON CHALLENGES AND TRADEOFFS
IN SCHOOL PHYSICAL SECURITY PLANNING**

Planning for and implementing a school physical security system is a complex undertaking, and local education agencies will need to navigate myriad challenges as they engage in the process. In addition to thinking through what is in place and what gaps exist at each layer, they will also need to think about things such as costs associated with various measures, the extent to which physical security measures adhere to code and comply with state- and local-level school safety policies, and how the measures they put in place might degrade an otherwise welcoming school climate or have differential impacts on diverse segments of their student body.

4.1 | POLICIES

Many policies, statutes, and regulations pertaining to school safety exist at the federal, state, and local levels; making sure that a school is adhering to them can be a challenge, especially for local education agencies who are not experts in security (Steiner et al., 2021).

TABLE 4.1 - TYPES OF PHYSICAL SECURITY POLICIES AT THE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVELS

	Federal Policy	State Policy	Local Policy
Statutes and Regulations	✓	✓	✓
Guidance	✓	✓	✓
Funding	✓	✓	
Codes		✓	✓

SOURCE: Steiner et al., 2021.

At the federal level, a number of statutes and regulations exist to protect the rights of individuals. The Fourteenth Amendment, the Civil Rights Act (Pub. L. 88-352, 1964, as amended and codified), the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (Pub. L. 93-380, 1974, § 513), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (Pub. L. 101-336, 1990) are all examples of federal laws that local education agencies should consider when planning, selecting, and implementing their physical security system. To avoid installing measures or putting in place measures that might violate the rights of individual students, teachers, and staff, schools should consider these and other regulations in their planning process. Carefully laid out policies and procedures to dictate the use of security measures, as well as communication with the school community about the use and intended purpose of measures, can work to mitigate against unintended adverse consequences in this area.

Regulations that govern school physical security are enacted largely at the state level, and there is considerable variance in policy across states (see e.g., Ehlenberger, 2002). States commonly develop guidance specific to these statutes and regulations, and many also outline best practices related to physical security. While they employ a range of strategies to disseminate this guidance, it is common for state-level agencies involved with school safety to host websites that point local education agencies to specific state-level requirements, as well as to guidance from the federal government, other states, or non-governmental agencies that they deem relevant and useful.

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K-12 School Security Guide Key Themes



Each school is unique. There is no one size fits all approach to physical security.



A systems-based approach to physical security helps schools address their unique circumstances while ensuring protection and mitigation measures complement those which prevent violence and also respond to and recover from violent incidents.



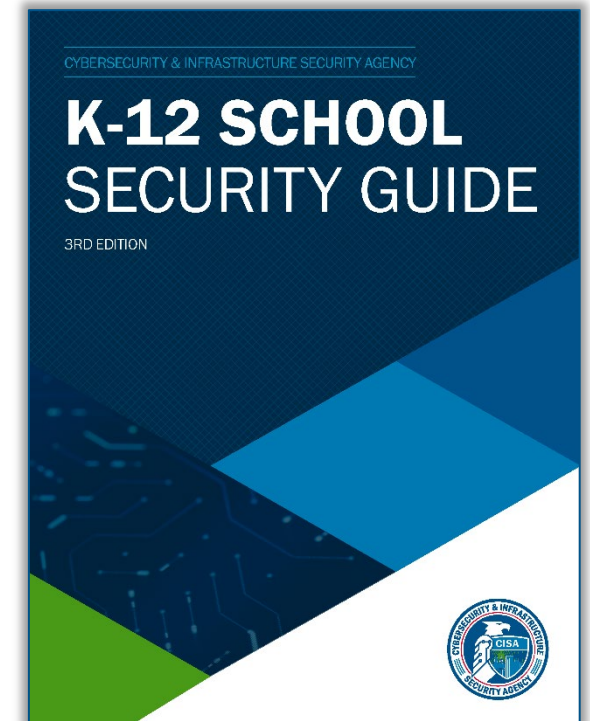
A layered approach to physical security ensures that the system works in an integrated way to detect, delay, and respond to threats, and helps to prevent single points of failure.



A layered, systems-based approach to physical security ensures that the five core elements of school physical security work cohesively to provide security benefits.



Schools should build a multi-disciplinary team that will lead the physical security planning process to ensure that the needs of diverse stakeholders are met, and that response capabilities are enhanced.



K-12 School Security Assessment Tool

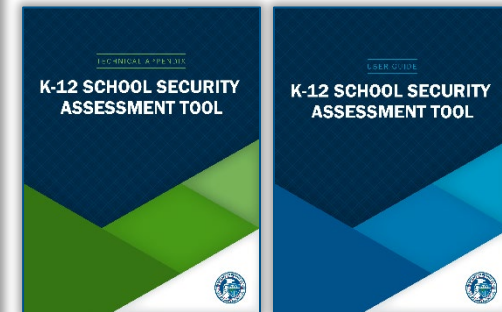
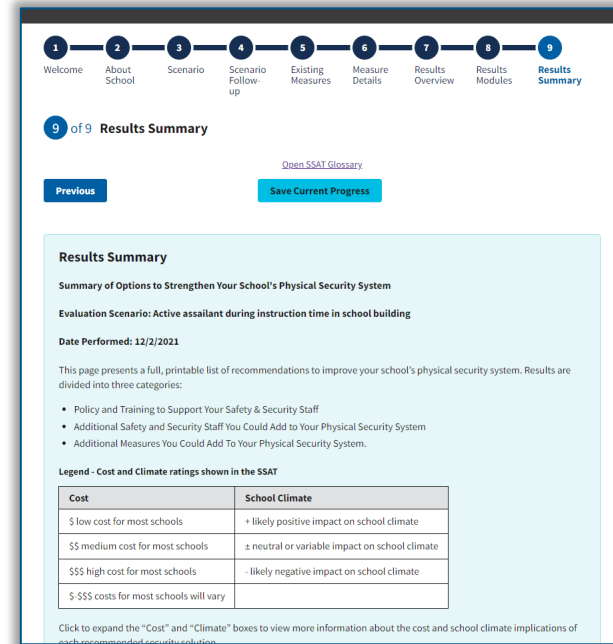
The **K-12 School Security Assessment Tool (SSAT)** is a web-based program that offers stakeholders a vulnerability analysis and provides recommendations for improving physical security based on provided specifications.

HOW TO USE THE SSAT



The tool launched with the K-12 Guide and:

- Is highly portable
- Is simple in language & design
- Serves all users, regardless of level of expertise
- Prioritizes results
- Recommends immediate actions



Web-Based User Training



MODULE 1

Why Take This Course?



MODULE 2

**Analyzing Existing Systems
and Needs**



MODULE 3

**School Security Physical
Planning Process**



MODULE 4

Building a Layered System



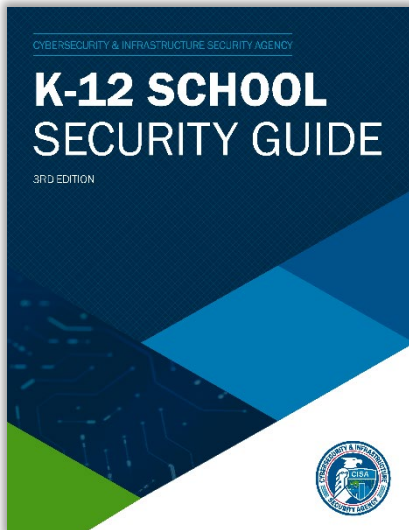
Release: Summer 2022

School Safety Task Force

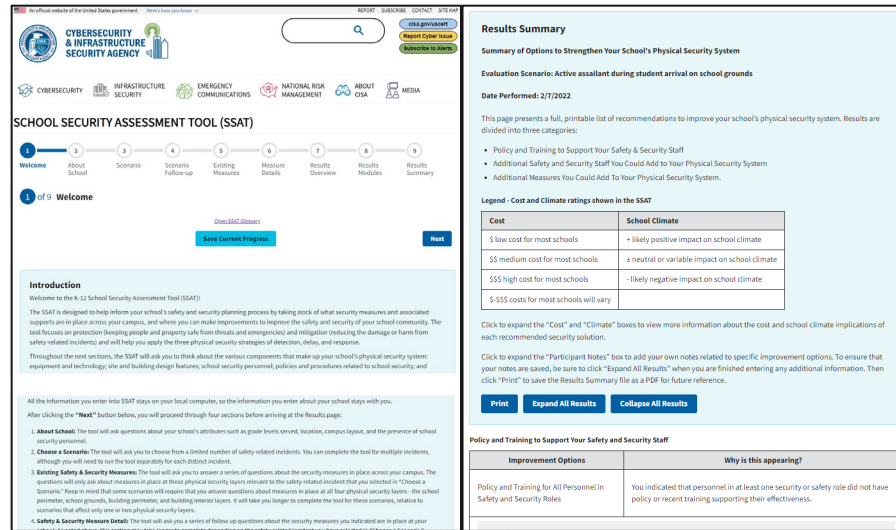
June 8, 2022

K-12 School Security Guide Product Suite

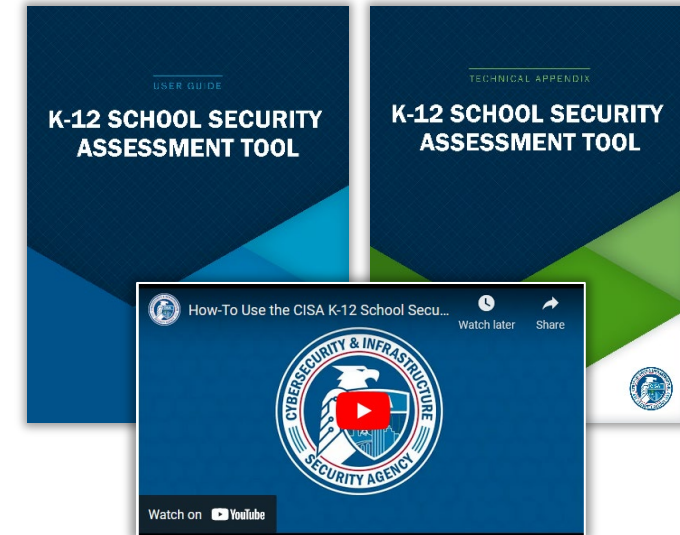
Now Available at <https://www.cisa.gov/k-12-school-security-guide>



**K-12 School Security Guide
(3rd Edition)**



**K-12 School Security Assessment Tool
(SSAT)**



**SSAT Companions
(Guide, Appendix, & Video)**



<p>Accompanying Training Suite <i>(Release: Summer 2022)</i></p>	 <p>Web-Based User Training</p>
	 <p>Train-the-Trainer Toolkit</p>

Next Steps

To find resources and learn more about the information discussed today, please visit www.SchoolSafety.gov.

Follow us on Twitter for upcoming events and school safety news: [@SchoolSafetyGov](https://twitter.com/SchoolSafetyGov). 

Click [here to sign up](#) for regular updates or scan QR code.



SCAN ME

Questions, feedback, or ideas?
Please contact SchoolSafety@hq.dhs.gov.





Question & Answer

References

- [Mitigating the Threat of School Violence as the U.S. "Returns to Normal" from the COVID-Pandemic and Beyond](#)
- [U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center](#)
- [Averting Targeted School Violence: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Plots Against Schools](#)
- [Protecting America's Schools: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence](#)
- [K12 SIX: The K-12 Cyber Incident Map](#)
- [DHS Office for Bombing Prevention](#)
- [America's Promise Alliance: The State of Young People during COVID-19 \(2020\)](#)
- [Final Report of the Federal Commission on School Safety](#)
- [Safety Readiness Tool](#)
- [State Information Sharing Tool](#)
- [Grants Finder Tool](#)
- [K-12 School Security Guide \(3rd Edition\)](#)
- [K-12 School Security Assessment Tool](#)
- [If You See Something, Say Something](#)
- [Exercise Starter Kits](#)



