LOUISIANA CENTER FOR
SAFE SCHOOLS

NEWSLETTER

October 2026

Prevent • Prepare • Protect

COVER STORY

READY AS ONE

2027 K-12 School Safety Summit

JULY 20–22, 2027
Golden Nugget Casino
Lake Charles, Louisiana

Save the Date! The Louisiana Center for Safe Schools is excited to announce the 2027 K-12 School Safety Summit, coming to the Golden Nugget Casino in Lake Charles, Louisiana, July 20–22, 2027.

Building on the success of the 2026 Summit, next year's event will once again bring together educators, school leaders, law enforcement, emergency responders, and school safety partners from across Louisiana for 2½ days of learning, collaboration, and connection focused on strengthening school safety and preparedness.

Our 2027 theme, READY AS ONE, reflects what school safety is truly about—working together

One Mission. One Plan. One Community.

- **Keynote Speakers**
- **Expanded Breakout Sessions**
- **Practical Training**
- **Exhibitors & Networking**

Early Conference Check-In will be available Monday, July 19, giving attendees an opportunity to check in ahead of the Summit. The conference will begin Tuesday, July 20, and conclude at noon on Thursday, July 22.

More information on conference registration, hotel accommodations, speakers, sessions, and exhibitors will be announced in the coming months.

For now, **mark your calendars** and make plans to join us in Lake Charles as we get READY AS ONE!

📅 IMPORTANT DATES

- **OCTOBER 19-23-National School Bus Safety Week EXIS Link to tool**
- **October 21-Unity Day: Stop Bullying**
- **October 23-31-Red Ribbon Week**
- **OCTOBER 28-30– LA School Facility Managers Association Conference**
- **OCTOBER 26-27- LEPA Conference (Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association)**

  DECEMBER 9– LCSS & LDOE School Safety Monthly Call for Schools @10:00 AM (2nd Wednesday of every month.) Meeting Link

- **DECEMBER 10-11- LA Public Risk Managers Conference**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Emergency Key Boxes for Public Schools

Act 738 of 2026 requires public school systems to ensure first responders have access to locked school facilities through an exterior master key box at each school campus. The Louisiana Center for Safe Schools has received funding to provide master key boxes to public schools to assist with meeting this requirement.

To help determine statewide needs, Area Coordinators will be sending a separate questionnaire to public school district emergency response coordinators requesting information about existing key boxes and the number of boxes needed.

Please be on the lookout for this questionnaire. If you do not receive it, contact your Area Coordinator directly.

Annual School Safety Questionnaire

Act 821 of 2026 requires each Louisiana public school to complete an annual School Safety Questionnaire developed by the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools in partnership with LDOE.

A school-specific questionnaire link has been emailed to each principal, based on the contact list provided by LDOE. The email was sent from noreply-smart@lsu.edu.

If you did not receive your school's link, please contact your Area Coordinator.

Once all schools within a district have completed their questionnaires, a District Safety Questionnaire will be sent to the superintendent for completion.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

Swatting & Bomb Threats: Plan Before the Call Comes

Schools continue to face threats communicated by phone, email, social media, and other online platforms. Some may be credible, while others are deliberately false reports intended to create fear, disrupt operations, and trigger an emergency response.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) defines swatting as the malicious use of hoax calls or reports to emergency services, typically claiming an immediate threat to life. These false reports are intended to generate a significant law enforcement response and can create very real risks for students, staff, first responders, and the community.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) recommends that schools incorporate threat response into their Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs), establish clear roles with law enforcement and emergency partners, and ensure staff understand reporting and response procedures before an incident occurs.

Evacuation Is Not Always the First or Safest Response

Receiving a bomb threat does not automatically mean the building should be evacuated. Federal bomb-threat guidance emphasizes assessing the threat and considering the totality of the circumstances before determining the appropriate protective action. Depending on the situation, that may include lockdown, sheltering in place, partial or full evacuation, or another action identified in the school's EOP.

An immediate evacuation can move students and staff from the protection of a secured building into an open and potentially less-controlled environment. Federal guidance notes that, absent evidence of an actual explosive device inside the facility, remaining inside may provide protection while information is gathered, students and staff are accounted for, and a safe evacuation route is established if evacuation becomes necessary.

When evacuation is appropriate, routes and assembly areas should be selected away from the potential hazard and should be searched and cleared before use. Schools should also maintain accountability of students and staff and coordinate the response with police, fire, and EMS.

The goal is not simply to get everyone out of the building—it is to determine where students and staff are safest based on the circumstances of the threat.

Preserve the Information

Information collected during the first few minutes can be critical. For telephone threats, remain calm, keep the caller on the line when possible, document the exact wording of the threat, and gather as much information as possible.

For threats received through email or social media, preserve the original message. Do not delete or share the post. Capture screenshots and available information such as the sender, date, time, subject line, and other identifying information, and immediately notify the appropriate authorities.

Schools should consider keeping the CISA Bomb Threat Checklist readily available for staff who may receive a threat. The checklist provides step-by-step prompts for gathering information from a caller and guidance for threats received by phone, in writing, by email, or through social media.

Review Your Plan Now

Review your bomb-threat and swatting procedures with local law enforcement and first responders before an incident occurs. Staff should know who to notify, what information to preserve, who has decision-making authority, and how protective-action decisions will be communicated.

Most importantly, plans should allow for an informed and flexible response rather than an automatic action. Treat every threat seriously, preserve available information, involve law enforcement quickly, assess the circumstances, and use the established EOP to determine the safest course of action.

RESOURCES

DOJ Bomb Threat Guidance
Quick-reference guidance developed by DHS in partnership with the FBI covering preparation, threat assessment, staff response, evacuation, and shelter-in-place considerations.

CISA Bomb Threat Checklist
A printable checklist schools can make readily available to employees who may receive a bomb threat.

CISA Social Media Threat Guidance for School Staff and Authorities
School-specific guidance for preparing for, reporting, preserving, and responding to threats received through social media.

FBI Swatting Information and Reporting Guidance
Public FBI information explaining swatting, protective measures, preservation of incident information, and reporting procedures.

Information for this article was adapted from resources and guidance provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

New Interactive Resource Helps Louisiana Youth Stay Safe Online

The Louisiana Office of Human Trafficking Prevention has made a new interactive resource available to help young people recognize and respond to potential online predators.

PlaySafe Louisiana is a free, interactive game designed primarily for youth ages 10–16. In less than 15 minutes, players work through 10 realistic scenarios based on situations they may encounter while gaming, using social media, or communicating online. The game teaches youth how to recognize common predator tactics, make safer choices, and know when to report, screenshot, and tell a trusted adult.

The resource can be used by schools, after-school programs, parents and guardians, youth organizations, and community partners. School personnel, parents, coaches, and mentors are encouraged to play the game themselves before sharing it with youth so they are prepared for any follow-up conversations.

Players who complete all 10 lessons can also earn a printable Online Safety Certificate. The game is free, does not require an account, and can be played on a desktop computer or mobile device.

Explore PlaySafe Louisiana:
PlaySafe Louisiana – Interactive Game

This is a great resource for schools to share with students, families, counselors, school safety teams, and community partners as part of ongoing online safety and prevention efforts.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

SCHOOL SAFETY ALERT

The Rise of Nihilistic Violent Extremism (NVE) and the "TCC" Subculture

What is it?

The **True Crime Community (TCC)** can refer to online spaces centered on true-crime content. Most true-crime interest is harmless, but school safety and threat assessment teams should be aware of a smaller online subculture that romanticizes or glorifies school shooters and mass murderers. In the K-12 space, this content can intersect with **Nihilistic Violent Extremism (NVE)** and decentralized criminal networks sometimes referred to as **"The Com."**

On platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, Reddit, gaming chats, and private messaging spaces, some networks may use violent content, peer pressure, coercion, or grooming tactics to draw young people into increasingly harmful communities.

Understanding the Risks for Students:

- **Extremist Networks:** Dangerous online groups under **"The Com"** (such as **764, No Lives Matter**, and **Maniacs Murder Cult**) use gaming chats and social media to connect with kids. They look for lonely or vulnerable students and slowly pressure them into harmful behavior or violent ideas.
- **Peer Influence and Echo Chambers:** Lonely or isolated students often get pulled into unmonitored online groups. In these spaces, they face heavy peer pressure to accept violent ideas and normalize self-harm.
- **Idolization and Subculture Dynamics:** These groups act like a fan club for criminals. Students make fan art, write stories, and edit videos that romanticize real-world killers, treating them like celebrities or pop stars.
- **Algorithmic Exposure:** Most kids do not search for this content at first. Mainstream social media algorithms automatically push stylized video edits and memes about school shooters onto a student's feed, which can slowly guide them into dangerous, private chat rooms.

What Warning Signs Should Administrators, Staff, & BTAM Teams Look For?

- **Glorification of Notorious Killers:** Students drawing sketches, creating fan art, or writing romanticized fictional stories about real-world mass murderers.
- **Imitative Clothing and Visuals:** Posing in photos or wearing clothing that intentionally mimics the exact outfits worn by past school shooters (such as specific graphic tes, military gear, or trench coats).
- **Obsessive Digital Footprints:** Creating social media "fan pages," video edits, or profiles dedicated to mass violence perpetrators.
- **Signs of Digital Coercion:** Sudden, drastic changes in behavior, unexplained distress, or withdrawal, which may indicate a student is experiencing online harassment, exploitation, or extortion.
- **Misanthropic or Nihilistic Language:** Verbal or written statements expressing a severe hatred of humanity, an intense preoccupation with death, or an excessive obsession with the specific dates and details of historical mass attacks.

Where to Find More Information & Resources:

- Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) Networks of Harm Resource Guide
- Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Center on Extremism
- National Center for School Safety (NCSS)
- Texas School Safety Center Social Media Toolkit

LCSS RESOURCES

Training

LCSS provides or coordinates the following training for school communities:

- Behavioral Threat Assessment
- Emergency Planning
- Tabletop Exercises
- Situational Awareness Training
- Drills & Exercise Design
- Physical Security Best Practices
- Emergency Response Protocols
- Stop the Bleed
- And more

Training is practical, relevant, and tailored to the needs of school communities.

Tools & Platforms

- Outreach – Statewide Threat & Suicide Assessment Platform
- Safe Schools LA Tipline – Anonymous Reporting
- RAVE - Panic Button
- LCSS Grant Program

Contact LCSS:

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