



LOUISIANA CENTER FOR
SAFE SCHOOLS

NEWSLETTER

July 2026

Prevent • Prepare • Protect

The Louisiana Center for Safe Schools (LCSS) has joined the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice (LCLE). Together, we are committed to ensuring the safety and security of Louisiana's K-12 schools.

COVER STORY

Thank you to all who attended the 2026 Louisiana K-12 School Safety Summit! Your dedication to school safety makes our communities stronger. We are grateful for your participation and look forward to continuing this important work together. We can't wait to see you again next year!



[Watch highlights from the Summit](#)

Supporting documents from select sessions have been uploaded to the app. Please remember to complete the conference survey on the app to help us make improvements for next year!

MEET OUR INTERIM DIRECTOR



Robert Martin, Interim Director

We're excited to introduce Robert Martin, Interim Director of the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools. With a strong background in school safety and emergency management, Robert is passionate about supporting Louisiana's schools and the people who serve them every day.

As the Center begins this new chapter, Robert looks forward to building strong partnerships, expanding resources, and continuing our mission to help schools Prevent. Prepare. Protect.

Please join us in welcoming Robert to his new role!



IMPORTANT DATES

- **AUGUST 13**– LCSS & LDOE School Safety Monthly Call for Schools @10:00 AM (2nd Wednesday of every month.) Invite will be sent out by LDOE and Area Coordinators.
- **AUGUST 31** – SHIELD Rapid Triage – FREE Webinar
Register: <https://www.koipartners.net/event-details/shield-rapid-triage-introduction>
- **OCTOBER 14** - LCSS & LDOE School Safety Monthly Call for Schools @ 10:00 AM
- **OCTOBER 28–30** – Louisiana School Facility Managers Association Conference

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 2026 Legislative Session introduced several key acts impacting school safety, emergency planning, and security across Louisiana:

- **Act 65** – Charter School Conversion Updates
<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1473885>
- **Act 237** – School Emergency Planning Requirements
<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1475236>
- **Act 425** – School Mapping Requirements
<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1480273>
- **Act 496** – Emergency Response & School Safety Updates
<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1480196>
- **Act 619** – Increased Penalties for School Threats
<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1480521>
- **Act 738** – Required Emergency Key Boxes for Schools
<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1480463>
- **Act 821** – School Safety Program Updates
<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1481450>
- **Act 846** – LCSS Transition to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE)
<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1481476>
- **Act 901** – Mandatory Threat Reporting & Physical Security Assessments
<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1481260>

EMERGENCY PLANNING

As another school year begins, it's a great time to make sure your emergency preparedness requirements are up to date. Taking time now to review plans, reconnect with community partners, and prepare staff helps ensure everyone is ready to respond should an emergency occur.

Schools should update their emergency preparedness plans annually. Key actions include:

- Review and update Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs)
- Coordinate with local emergency partners
- Conduct staff in-service training
- Complete lockdown drills within 30 days (Does not require full scale exercise)
- Verify contact info and communication procedures
- Check emergency equipment and supplies

New School-Level and District-Level Safety Questionnaires from LDOE and LCSS. More information coming soon!

GRANTS

FY27 LCSS Grant Program

- Anticipated Awards announced: Fall 2026
- Expected Projects start: February 1, 2027
- Expected Projects end: January 31, 2028

FY27 awards will come from eligible FY26 applications that were submitted but not funded due to limited funding availability. Selected applicants will receive follow-up details.

Additional Federal Opportunities:

- COPS School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) – Funding for physical security enhancements and school safety technology.
Learn more: <https://cops.usdoj.gov/svpp>
- Project SERV – Emergency funding to help schools recover from violent or traumatic events.
Learn more: <https://www.ed.gov/grants-and-programs/response-programs/safe-and-supportive-schools/school-emergency-response-to-violence-project-serv>

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Louisiana Statewide Threat Assessment Outreach Initiative

Every day, across Louisiana, school administrators, faculty, and staff are actively working to educate our students as well as ensure they are thriving as individuals. But all too often, we see our students struggling—acting out, withdrawing, or showing other signs that cause concern. At the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools, we know that the best way to keep our students safe is to prevent violence before it happens. That's why, as part of our Statewide K-12 School Violence Prevention Plan, we've partnered with Outreach.



Outreach is the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools tool for statewide integrated threat assessment, suicide assessment, and reporting. It is available to all parishes and schools across the state at no cost to you.

Outreach is our statewide standardized, integrated Threat Assessment and Suicide Assessment central reporting platform. This FERPA, HIPAA, and SOC-2 compliant platform builds on LCSS's Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) training to provide infrastructure for multi-agency coordination and communication. It creates the structure and process for all of us to have the right information at the right time so that we can intervene effectively to prevent violence—both harm to others and harm to self. It makes our work more efficient, so we can be more effective.

This effort was endorsed by the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) on August 20, 2025.

Getting Connected to Outreach is fast and easy for you:

Visit the Outreach landing page: <https://getoutreach.us/louisiana-sign-up> to complete your intake form and schedule your initial meeting. As your parish progresses in this effort, you will be able to use the Outreach landing site to schedule each step of the Outreach process.

Ongoing support:

You will have support throughout this process, from Outreach and your LCSS Area Coordinator:

Outreach Implementation Manager: Chris Kennedy, ckennedy@outreachtls.com

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
- SchoolSAFE Tipline – Anonymous Reporting
- LCSS Grant Program

Contact LCSS:

Phone: (225) 925-7500

Email: SafeSchools@la.gov

Website: <https://lasafeschools.la.gov>



MEET THE STAFF

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Statewide Program Contacts

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