

## ***Safe School/Active Shooter Program Overview***

Prior to the tragedy at Sandy Hook, the Indiana State Police were engaged in designing a training program for school administrators in response to an active shooter incident. The program design goes well beyond the previous standard practice of what has become known as “lockdown.” Governor Mike Pence and Doug Carter, who has been appointed to serve as Superintendent of the Indiana State Police (ISP) during Gov. Pence’s administration, established school safety as the number one priority for the newly elected administration. Indiana has been a national leader in school safety for more than ten years by crafting cutting edge legislation and the establishment of the Indiana School Safety Academy.

On December 14, 2012 the tragic shooting took place at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut thrusting the urgency of school safety to the forefront of the nation’s attention. In an effort to take the initiative to the next level, the Indiana State Police joined the Governor in supporting new legislation to provide \$20 million dollars to promote school safety in Indiana over the next two years. That proposed legislation (SEA #1) passed the 2013 General Assembly and became law immediately upon being signed by Governor Pence. This new legislation will be invaluable in assisting school corporations with necessary funding to hire School Resource Officers (SRO) to serve not only as a first line of defense in an active shooter incident, but provide additional security within the schools to combat drug usage, bullying, and other issues often requiring law enforcement intervention.

The Indiana State Police and the Department of Homeland Security will take an active role in the administration and awarding of grant funding to provide resources to employ School Resource Officers, conduct threat assessments and/or purchase equipment to limit access or to expedite the notification of first responders.

In addition to these efforts, the Indiana State Police Department contracted with Dr. Rich Hogue to serve as the School Safety Liaison to work in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Education (DOE) and Indiana schools to promote school safety initiatives throughout the state. This partnership between state police and DOE will provide for a statewide, unified program in which all schools throughout the state have the opportunity to receive the same information and training.

On May 16, 2013 the first Indiana State Police School Safety Seminar was held at Washington Township’s H. Dean Evans Community and Education Seminar. The program featured presentations on threat assessment, “unarmed” response to active shooter protocol, and an overview on bomb threats and appropriate response guidelines.

In the next few months, the Indiana State Police will:

- Reach out to Indiana schools to solicit their participation in a new and innovative program designed to utilize technology in monitoring gang-related activity. In cooperation with Homeland Security, Purdue University and the Indiana Fusion Center, an image analysis program (VACCINE) is being developed to facilitate the sharing of gang related information with law enforcement, school personnel and other related agencies. The potential for information sharing and tracking will be shared with Indiana schools at the upcoming Indiana School Safety Specialist Academy. In addition, ISP will partner with IDOE to disseminate to Indiana schools a state-wide gang survey designed to gather information on gang related activity/involvement.

- Partner with the Indiana Department of Education to conduct school safety site reviews in selected Indiana schools. These reviews are scheduled at random and provide an opportunity for a cooperative on-site review of Indiana School Safety Plans.
- Continue to take an active role in the evaluation and administration of the grants established under SEA # 1 by serving on the Secured School Safety Board and the Grant Evaluation Committee. Under this program, \$20 million dollars will be awarded over the next two years to Indiana schools based on the merit of submitted applications.
- Partner with Indiana educators and local law enforcement to conduct joint training sessions in each of the Indiana State Police Districts.
  - Each session will feature the “unarmed response” to an active shooter concept both from an informational and a practical drill perspective. The program will be held in a local school facility in cooperation with local law enforcement and local school personnel. The focus will be to establish a working partnership among local educators, local law enforcement and the Indiana State Police. This coalition will promote a unified and effective response to all Indiana schools.
  - These sessions will be scheduled by ISP District Public Information Officers in cooperation with local school and law enforcement personnel over the coming months.
  - A training video developed by ISP, including information on this program, is available at the Indiana Department of Education website. The video has three segments: Basics of Threat Assessment, ***Unarmed*** Response to an Active Shooter and Bomb Threat Basics and Protocol.

***Note: Several “Unarmed Response to an Active Shooter Drills” have been conducted to date in Indiana schools with exceptionally positive feedback from the participating school corporations.***

- Provide training to Indiana educators with respect to conducting threat assessment audits. As established in SEA # 1, conducting threat assessments in Indiana schools is a priority. The Indiana State Police will conduct training sessions on performing an appropriate threat assessment in a school setting.
  - These sessions will be scheduled and conducted in cooperation with the County Commissions referred to in SEA # 1. An audit tool will be presented and training will be provided on its use (free to Indiana schools).
- Partner with the Indiana Department of Education to conduct an Active Shooter Training as a breakout session of the September 30-October 1, 2013 Indiana School Safety Specialist Academy. The session will be held at a local school with Indiana State Police conducting the staff development activity.

- Provide training at a breakout session of the ISSSA on Bomb Threat Protocol to Indiana School Safety Specialists

Thank you for your interest in learning more about Indiana's plan and response to reduce the potential for loss of life due to acts of violence in our schools.

### ***Safe School/Active Shooter Training***

**\*To request a Safe School/Active Shooter presentation at a school corporation, please email the following information to the Public Information Officer at the local Indiana State Police District:**

- **School Corporation Contact Person and Title**
- **School Corporation Name, Business Address and Phone number**
- **Best Time to Call or Email the Contact Person**

**To find the local ISP Public Information Officer visit**

**<http://www.in.gov/isp/2365.htm> and click on the county where the school corporation is located**

\*Presentations are scheduled based on personnel availability. While all reasonable efforts are made to present live training sessions, it may not be possible to fulfill all requests. An alternative to live training is to view a recorded session located at this link to the [Indiana Department of Education](#)