



SUFFOLK COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION TO ENHANCE SCHOOL SAFETY SUMMARY – FALL 2018

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Dr. Kenneth Bossert
Elwood UFSD

President-Elect
Ms. Bernadette Burns
West Islip UFSD

Vice President
Dr. Ronald M. Masera
Remsenburg/Speonk UFSD

Treasurer
Ms. Eva J. Demyen
Deer Park UFSD

Secretary
Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly
West Babylon UFSD

Past President
Mr. Lars Clemensen
Hampton Bays UFSD

CLUSTER LEADERS

Islip Cluster
Dr. Dennis O'Hara
Hauppauge UFSD

Brookhaven/Riverhead Cluster
Dr. Paul Casciano
Port Jefferson UFSD

East End Cluster
Dr. Ronald M. Masera
Remsenburg/Speonk UFSD

Huntington/Smithtown Cluster
Dr. James Polansky
Huntington UFSD

Babylon Cluster
Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly
West Babylon UFSD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Gary Bixhorn
scssaexecdirector@gmail.com

The Blueprint for Action to Enhance School Safety, the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association's five-point plan, itemizes what needs to be done to address a wide range of school safety issues based upon what the Association has learned in the 20 years since the Columbine massacre. The five areas of focus and recommended actions include:

I. Invest in the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program. The SCSSA, SCPD, town and village PDs can...

- Develop roles and responsibilities statement for SROs.
- Establish consistent best practices for lockdown, sheltering and school hardening protocol.
- Coordinate training and educational activities for SROs.
- Establish communication protocols between SROs and school districts.
- Involve SROs in the annual review of safety plans.
- Expand technological school access and emergency response.

II. Adopt legislation that enhances campus safety. The NYS legislature can...

- Amend NYS Criminal Procedures Law dealing with setting bail, including sections 1510 and 530, to include the "red flag" process.

III. Make SAFE the "Law of the Land." The U.S. Congress can...

- Use NYS SAFE Act as a template for federal action.

IV. Support the social, emotional and mental health needs of children. The county, state and local school districts should work together to...

- Provide mental health education literacy initiatives aligned with state requirements.
- Require the use of social-emotional screening programs to help identify emotional instability and apply appropriate interventions.
- Incorporate Sandy Hook Promise Training Programs.
- Replicate Suffolk County's G.R.E.A.T. Program.
- Explore the concept of social media monitoring to identify at-risk behaviors.
- Pursue "red-flag" provisions related to access to guns in the home.

V. Provide institutional support to enhance school safety. The NYS legislature can...

- Establish a new, expense-driven categorical state aid designation, "School Security Aid," to partially reimburse school districts for expenditures related to school security in a wealth-sensitive manner.
- Expedite the review period for submission of Smart Schools funding to assist districts in making essential upgrades to safety-related items within districts.
- Allow expenditures for school safety to be included as expenses that are exempt from the tax levy limit calculation.

1. INVEST IN THE SCHOOL
RESOURCE OFFICER
(SRO) PROGRAM.

2. ADOPT
LEGISLATION
THAT ENHANCES
CAMPUS SAFETY.

3. MAKE "SAFE" THE
LAW OF THE LAND.

4. SUPPORT THE
SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL
AND MENTAL HEALTH
OF CHILDREN.

5. PROVIDE
INSTITUTIONAL
SUPPORT TO FINANCE
SCHOOL SAFETY.

Any questions regarding this document should be directed to scssaexecdirector@gmail.com.