

Oregon Task Force on School Safety

as established by House Bill 4087 during the 77th Oregon Legislative Assembly



Background Information: Oregon Task Force on School Safety

*Provided by Kim Ybarra, J.D., Senior Public Safety Policy Advisor
Clackamas County Sheriff's Office*

- **Origin:** Created by the Oregon Legislature in 2014¹, to address the concern of rising school violence
- **Purpose:** to bring policy makers, education and law enforcement leaders together to examine ways to improve school safety²
- **Members:** Task Force is comprised of 16 Members from state agencies, Oregon state legislature and professional organizations representing:
 - school administration
 - teachers and school staff
 - school boards and school districts
 - police and fire
 - Governor's education and public safety policy advisors
 - Oregon State Legislators from the House and Senate.
- **Task Force Meetings & Records:** Oregon State Police provides staff support to the Task Force³ to organize meeting agendas and record minutes. Meetings occur every other month and are held at OSP headquarters in Salem unless otherwise noticed. Meeting information and Task Force records are available at the OSP website: www.oregon.gov/osp/Pages/Task-Force-on-School-Safety
- **Report to the Oregon State Legislature (Fall 2015):**
 - In 2015, the Task Force issued a report to the Oregon Legislature⁴ identifying several critical legislative objectives to improve safety in Oregon Schools:
 - I. **Establish standardized terminology** for emergency response and drills for all Oregon schools. (*HB 2661 – enacted 2015, amending ORS 336.071, Emergency Drills and Instruction*)⁵

¹ Task Force enabling legislation HB 4087, chapter 93, Oregon Laws 2014; amended by, chapter 74, Oregon Laws 2016 (adding to membership, ODE and Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs)

² HB 4087 Legislative Mandate: (1) Develop a Request for Proposals for a data base for school floor plans; (2) Examine education and training models for school safety and incident response for school employees and first responders; (3) Examine models for school safety and incident response protocols and determine whether to recommend standardized statewide school safety and incident response protocols.

³ HB 4087(11)

⁴ Available on the OSP website: www.oregon.gov/osp/Pages/Task-Force-on-School-Safety.aspx

⁵ ORS 336.071 (d) Drills and instruction on safety threats shall include:

- (A) **Procedures related to lockdown, lockout, shelter in place and evacuation; and**
- (B) **Other** appropriate actions to take when there is a threat to safety.

- II. **Establish and fund a statewide tip line** with text, call and web-based options allowing students, families and others to report information anonymously about potential threats. (*HB 4075 – enacted 2016*)
Chapter 74, Oregon Laws 2016, sections 1 & 3
- Tip Line to be established by OSP
 - OSP to adopt Administrative Rules to operate Tip Line⁶
 - Amended crime of “Improper Use of Emergency Communications System” to include misuse of Tip Line
- III. **Establish and fund a statewide student threat assessment system** to identify, evaluate and support students who present a potential risk for violence and self-harm. (2015 Report)
The Task Force’s work has further informed this recommendation to include an expanded focus of a statewide school safety and prevention system to assist schools in every region of our state in implementing four major school safety/prevention initiatives:
1. Technical assistance to school multi-disciplinary teams to support safety plans for students presenting a potential risk of violence
 2. Youth suicide prevention and mental wellness training and support
 3. Implementing Bullying and Harassment Prevention Programs
 4. Promoting use of SafeOregon
 5. [Crisis response assistance]

Statewide School Safety and Preventions System (Goal for 2019 Legislative session)

The Task Force proposal led by Willamette ESD, Superintendent Dr. Dave Novotney, OTFSS Vice-chair, in consultation with ODE and with input from Suicide Prevention and Mental Health experts, proposes a system that would **operate under the Oregon Department of Education, with services contracted through ESD’s to manage 8-12 designated statewide regions, led by School Safety and Prevention Specialists.**

The School Safety and Prevention Specialists will:

- Assist schools in implementing a multi-disciplinary student threat assessment system to help school personnel to identify, assess and support students who present a potential risk for **violence toward others**. Student threat assessment is a promising practice recommended by the US Department of Education, the FBI and the US Secret Service.
- Assist schools in implementing effective **youth suicide prevention and mental wellness** programs to help school personnel combat the tragic and ongoing issue of youth suicide in our state. Suicide remains the second leading cause of death for Oregon students between the ages of 10 and 24. The youth suicide rate for 10-17 year-olds has risen each year since 2011.

⁶ See, OAR, Chapter 257, Division 95 - School Safety Tip Line Program

- Assist schools in implementing effective **bullying and harassment prevention** programs to help school personnel curtail the persistent problem of bullying and harassment in our schools. Concerns about bullying and harassment are the most frequent issues reported through SafeOregon, our statewide school safety tip line. Bullying and harassment continues to be one of the most significant concerns reported by 8th and 11th grade students in the Oregon Healthy Teens survey.

IV. **Fund and develop a statewide school floorplan database** to store facility information for Oregon Schools to enhance the readiness of first responders.

- In 2015, the Oregon State Police conducted a statewide *School Floorplan Database Needs Analysis*. OSP met with first responders and school superintendents from Portland, Salem, Seaside, Astoria, Pendleton, Bend and Roseburg to identify benefits expected and desired features. Results were published in the 2015 OTFSS Report to the Legislature. Currently, the Task Force is evaluating how mapping objectives can be achieved at an affordable cost for school districts using existing platforms and first responder databases.

Task Force on School Safety - 2018 Members & Representative Organizations:

Craig Roberts, Chair, Clackamas County Sheriff
Oregon State Sheriff's Association

Dave Novotney, Ph.D., Vice Chair, Supt. - Willamette ESD
Oregon Association of Education Service Districts

Lindsey Capps, Education Policy Advisor
Governor's Office

Heidi Moawad, Public Safety Policy Advisor
Governor's Office

Travis Hampton, Supt.
Oregon State Police

Eriks Gabliks, Director
Dept. of Public Safety Standards and Training

Sarah Drinkwater, Ph.D., Asst. Supt. – Student Services
Oregon Department of Education

Charan Cline, Supt. – Yamhill-Carlton SD
Confederation of Oregon School Administrators

Caryn Connolly
Oregon Education Association

Susan Graves, Safety Coordinator - Lincoln County SD
Oregon School Employees Association

Peggy Holstedt, Director
Oregon School Boards Association

Ted Kunze, Retired Fire Chief
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association

Cherryl Ramirez, Director
Association of Oregon Comm. Mental Health Programs

Geoff Spalding, Chief of Police – Astoria
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Jeff Barker, Oregon State Representative
District 28 – Beaverton & Aloha

Rob Wagner, Oregon State Senator
District 19 - Tualatin