



DELAWARE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM (CSSP) 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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Herein you will find the annual report for The Comprehensive School Safety Program (CSSP) for the Academic School Year of July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021.

History:

In June 2012, the Delaware General Assembly passed the Omnibus School Safety Act tasking the Department of Safety and Homeland Security (DSHS) with administering a Comprehensive School Safety Program (CSSP). The program falls under the leadership of the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA). The purpose of this Act is to enhance public safety in all of Delaware's public and charter schools, through the development and maintenance of comprehensive, site-specific, National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant safety and emergency preparedness plans. This Act is intended to promote a cohesive and coordinated approach between emergency responders, education professionals and other supporting agencies during a critical incident within a school setting.

Delaware continues to evolve in all areas of school safety, with the primary mission of providing oversight of the Omnibus School Safety Act. Therefore, a subsequent amendment to the Act was passed in 2014, requiring each public and charter school to hold one tabletop exercise and two lockdown/intruder drills per academic school year.

Each year, school representatives are required to provide data to the Comprehensive School Safety Program (CSSP) through the Emergency Management Suite (EMS), Navigate 360, documenting individual school compliance with the Act. This system is administered by CSSP to monitor Omnibus Safety Act compliance. The system is utilized by all Public and Charter Schools in Delaware. The platform houses items such as the National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant plan templates, school floor plans, campus aerial photos as well as data pertaining to completion of drills and exercises. The formally included e-learning for educators is still provided by NaviGate 360 but is housed on a separate platform and still available for schools.

In February 2020, CSSP was also tasked with approving school plans in accordance with House Bill 49 (HB 49) “An Act to amend titles 14 and 29 of The Delaware Code relating to school safety.” Wherein the team reviews all new construction or renovation of 750,00.00 or more to determine if school safety requirements set-forth has been fulfilled.

In order to be considered fully compliant, in addition to NIMS compliant plans, each school must complete the required Lockdown/Intruder Drills, and Tabletop Exercise per academic school year. Since the inception of the program at DEMA, compliance had grown from 69% rate in 2015 for District and Charter schools to a steady and remaining 100% compliance until the COVID-19 Pandemic. This is a proud accomplishment by the school leaders, and all involved in school safety throughout our state.

Compliance with The Omnibus Safety Act is recognized by each school receiving a decal from The Department of Safety and Homeland Security (DSHS) and The Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) CSSP program to proudly display at the entrance of their schools for all to view.



Due to the pandemic constraints placed on schools for the 2020/2021 school year, many were unable to achieve 100% compliance. Recognizing this, the CSSP team determined it was best to forgo decals for the school year, and will re-implement moving forward, as well as discuss approaches early on to try to assist schools in achieving one hundred percent compliance on all requirements.

Despite these limitations and restrictions, most schools were able to achieve some, if not all requirements. For this school year, there were 227 required schools. Completion percentages are as follows:

Table-top: 90%
 Assessments: 100%
 Lockdown #1: 92%
 Lockdown#2: 81%

The CSSP team consists of two team members who monitor and provide support to over 228 public and Charter schools and 6 voluntary alternative schools. Totaling 234 schools and consisting of more than 140,800 students.

Despite pandemic limitations placed on schools and the team for the school year. CSSP was able to adapt and overcome many obstacles by being flexible and utilizing virtual platforms and various other means to accomplish goals and aid schools.

Completed, trained, and/or assisted with the following for the 2020/2021 school year:

- Navigate Emergency Management Suite (EMS) basic training: 223
- Navigate EMS Drills/After Action Report Training: 170
- Navigate eLearning Training: 65
- DEMA "Plug and Play" Table-top training: 138
- Family Reunification Training: 120
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED): 17
- House Bill 49 Approvals: 5
- NAMI Youth Mental Health First Aid training: 25
- NAMI Self-Care training: 60
- NAMI Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide awareness training: 60
- House Bill 49 Certificate of Necessity Training for DOE and partners
- Disseminated 62 emails containing pertinent resources and training opportunities

Accomplishments since inception of the new team in 2019:

In early 2019, CSSP underwent a change in staff to include the two current team members. The new CSSP team has accomplished many goals and initiatives and has many more in its sights.

One way this team determines goals and initiative is by surveying all schools via an annual needs' assessment. This is used as a tool to determine where there are prominent areas of interest and needs. These findings coupled with best practices assist CSSP with determining a path forward annually.

In 2019, such survey results helped pave the path for the 2020/2021 school year to include "plug and play" table tops as well as further research and promotion for a statewide anonymous reporting application available to students, staff, and families. Survey results = 60% agreed an anonymous reporting app would be beneficial. 87%+ agreed "plug and play" Table-tops would be beneficial.

Since the inception of the new staff the following are additional tasks and accomplishments that have taken place:

- Work with The DEMA Radiological Program to load evacuation plans into EMS and provide schools relevant education
- Work with planning divisions to determine school sheltering locations
- Established and disseminated quarterly newsletter which consists of past incidents and lessons learned, trainings, current trends/best practices, helpful tips and resources.
- Established new guidelines, educational materials, and best practices regarding successful school safety methodologies sent out and incorporated into our emergency management platform
- Implemented an annual facilities infrastructure assessment
- Defined parameters for various types of drills and exercises and specified who should be present for each

- Incorporated After Action Reports (AARs) into ERIP to assist schools and CSSP in establishing areas of strengths and potential areas of improvements for future drills/exercises.
- Built a cohesive relationship with the DEMA training section by advertising and hosting trainings and announcements through the Delaware Learning Center (DLC) for consistency throughout the State of Delaware training platforms, professionalism, as well as certificate, and credit requirements for educators.
- Implementation and training for a new emergency management platform, navigate, statewide
- Certified CSSP team in active assailant training through ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate)
- To date over 1,160 school employees have been trained by CSSP in ALICE techniques
- Obtained certification in Trauma Informed Approaches
- Improved relationships and rapport steadily with all stakeholders.
- Increased school stakeholder contact list and routine email distribution list from 120 to over 640 individuals This is imperative for information sharing, transparency, and school compliance.
- Worked with the Delaware State Police (DSP) to create and implement a streamlined DEMA/Law Enforcement infrastructure assessment as well as many other initiatives
- Relationships have been established with DHS, the Delaware Information and Analysis Center (DIAC), and the New Castle County Department of Public Safety (NCCDPS) for information sharing, collaboration, and the implementation of the RAVE panic button.
- Continued to establish a network among schools and determine ways for them to share information and collaborate among one another

- Established relationships with The Wilmington Police Department (WPD), the New Castle County Police (NCCPD), and County EMS individuals in hopes of training their Public Safety Answering Point's (PSAP) personnel as CSSP currently does for DSP on how to access school safety plans, safety team information, floor plans, and maps in the event of an emergency.
- A self-guided PowerPoint training program was also created to train and re-train these individuals.
- Created table-top "plug and play" scenarios for ease of use by schools.
- Created HB49 procedures and forms for CSSP approval process
- Began first approvals of school infrastructure safety plans in accordance with HB49 requirements.
- Initiated website re-design to be more informative and transparent regarding the duties, responsibilities, goals and successes of the program and schools. Added information about House Bill 49 process for approvals on security features.

Forward:

The CSSP Team has numerous items on its agenda for the 2021-2022 school year, though many projects were halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The initial focus for the year will be on monitoring and assisting on the completion of new plans, and furthering training for the new EMS system as well as hosting additional courses to include Behavioral Threat Assessment training by The United States Secret Service as well as Suicide Prevention and Intervention training by NAMI Delaware. Concurrently, focus will be on table-tops and lockdown completions, as well as the completion of the newly implemented AARs, and infrastructure assessment findings.

The team will also continue to focus on initiatives that promote proactive/preventative measures, educating schools on emergency management principles and practices, and building relationships with stakeholders with any new mission.

These efforts led the team to supply The DEMA Director with legislative requests to include:

- Statewide Behavioral Threat Assessment and Risk Assessment model, forms, policies, procedures, and housing platform to standardize all behavioral threat assessments conducted in schools across Delaware
- Required annual infrastructure facility assessments
- Statewide implementation of an Anonymous mobile reporting application for staff and students to be able to report suspicious and concerning behaviors as well as address individual mental health needs such as Stopit
- Interactive Floor Plans for all schools that will work across all electronic platforms to include patrol vehicles, dispatch centers and command posts for both security and daily use purposes
- Repercussions for noncompliance of requirements

We will attempt to reschedule numerous ALICE trainings as well as CPTED and safety audits cancelled due to the pandemic.

We will continue to update floor plans within the new platform for uniformity, and ease of use for first responders. We are examining completing drone certification to assist in such and are currently utilizing certified individuals for this task.

Furthermore, the team will continue to work with existing partners such as The Department of Education, The Delaware State Police, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), The United States Secret Service, additional federal, state, and local agencies for the furtherance of common goals, as well as to establish new relationships. We will also concentrate efforts on outreach via materials or personal contact to students, staff and the community for education and collaboration.

Lastly, the team will continue to examine current legislation as it pertains to the school requirements for possible modifications to include the additional requirements stated as well as address the allocation of monies to schools and CSSP for emergency preparedness.

“School Safety is a continuous, ever changing concept. It is everyone’s responsibility to become and remain educated to the concept, rehearse best practices, develop relationships and rapports with those that share the same mission, and never become complacent to the end goal; keeping our children and each other safe...”

(CSSP, personal communication, June, 2019)