



# School Safety Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 8

March 2016

## Two Charged with Failing to Report Weapon Used in Ohio School Shooting

CNN, March 4, 2016

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/04/us/ohio-school-shooting/index.html>

Two boys have been charged with failing to report a weapon used in a shooting on February 29, 2016 inside an Ohio school cafeteria, authorities said Friday .

Both juveniles knew that the shooting suspect -- James Austin Hancock, 14 -- brought a weapon into Madison Junior-Senior High School in Middletown, Ohio, but didn't alert authorities, Butler County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Melissa Gerhardt said.

The sheriff's department claimed that Hancock "showed the gun to both boys early in the school day." Then, at lunchtime, gunshots rang out in the cafeteria in the community of about 50,000 people between Dayton and Cincinnati.

Four students suffered injuries in Monday's incident -- two hit by bullets, with the other two hurt "either by shrapnel from the handgun or by injuries getting away from the active shooter," according to Butler County Sheriff Richard Jones -- before Hancock was taken into custody.

The teenager faces charges of two counts of attempted murder, two counts of felonious assault, inducing panic and making terrorist threats. In court, his lawyer denied those charges on behalf of his client.

The two unnamed 14-year-old boys charged with failing to report a crime -- namely, that Hancock had a gun on school grounds -- have been issued summons to appear in juvenile court at a later date, according to Gerhardt. They have not been taken into custody, nor are there any plans to arrest them, and the charge they face is a 4th degree misdemeanor.

"It is imperative that if there is rumor or first-hand knowledge about any type of weapon or weapons that someone has or is intending to bring to school, it has to be reported to someone," Jones said Friday in a news release. "Schools are supposed to be safe for kids and anyone working there."

Others charged at county's schools

Authorities haven't explained why Hancock allegedly opened fire, though Jones did note, "It seems as there (are) more school shootings (and) police officers being shot." The sheriff added, "It's the times we live." His office noted several other alarming incidents this week at Butler County schools.

At Madison, the same school where Monday's shooting occurred, a 15-year-old student was charged with illegally bringing a weapon onto school grounds after bringing knives disguised as credit cards into school, Gerhardt said.

The Butler County sheriff's office also noted two other incidents about 7 miles away at Edgewood City Schools. A 12-year-old student there faces a felony charge of making terroristic threats by saying at school that he was ready for another school shooting and vowing to bring a gun to school. And a second student from the same school district, this one 14 years old, faces the same charge after allegedly making threats over social media

Jones, the Butler County sheriff, praised those who came forward, alerted authorities and helped them quickly address all these cases. Still, he also acknowledged the various "bad decisions." "It is troubling that all these kids are so young," he said. "This has to start in the home. We are taking all threats extremely serious, we don't have a choice."

*Protecting our  
future through  
information  
sharing*

### In This Issue

- Two Charged with Failing to Report Weapon Used in Ohio School Shooting
- Task Force Makes School Safety Recommendations
- Next Monthly Webinar - April 6, 2016
- Release of 2014 School Health Policies and Practices Study (SHPPS) Fact Sheet
- Excerpt from SHPPS 2014 Study - Trends Over Time: 2000 - 2014

# Task Force Makes School Safety Recommendations

Greenville Online, March 8, 2016

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/education/2016/03/08/task-force-makes-school-safety-recommendations/81491296/>

COLUMBIA — In announcing the final recommendations of a school-safety task force, S.C. Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman acknowledged that some school resource officers have taken on disciplinary roles better left to teachers and administrators.

“As we got more and more comfortable, maybe there were times we were asking resource officers to do roles that they weren’t really intended to do,” Spearman said during a news conference outside her agency’s headquarters in downtown Columbia. “We want them to serve as a law enforcement officer and to be a good mentor and role model for the students – and nothing beyond that,” she added.

Spearman, a Republican, established the 25-member “Safe Schools Taskforce” in November following an incident – captured on a video that received national attention – in which a male school resource officer (SRO) at Spring Valley High School in Richland County forcibly removed a female student from her classroom desk.

“The Spring Valley incident was a terrible incident, but it doesn’t define the school resource officer program in the state,” Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott, who fired the SRO officer following the incident, said during the news conference.

The task force, co-chaired by Spearman and Traci Young Cooper, immediate past chairwoman and current member of the S.C. Board of Education, met five times and approved the following nine recommendations:

- Adopt the federal definition of a school resource officer in state law;
- Provide uniform training requirements for school resource officers;
- Allow certified, training law enforcement officers to provide basic SRO training in addition to the state Criminal Justice Academy.
- Require a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between all SROs and school administrators, which should be reviewed annually;
- The S.C. Department of Education (SCDOE) shall provide access to “best practice, evidence based interventions” for students, teachers, administrators and SROs;
- SCDOE recommends that SROs receive training in “classroom management, positive intervention, cultural diversity, de-escalation, and CPI training”;
- SCDOE will offer to incoming principals “an overview of new discipline regulations along with positive intervention and frameworks”;
- SCDOE recommends that teachers and principals receive “comprehensive training on the progressive behavior plan”; and
- The task force recommends that the “best practice” is “for schools to contract with school resource officers as defined by state statute.”

“The task force has made a strong set of recommendations that we feel if implemented, will strengthen and clarify the roles of the teacher and principal and school resource officer in the school,” Spearman said.

Proposed state regulations to be implemented by local school districts include defining three levels of student misconduct, ranging from a verbal reprimand for the least-serious offense to arrest and expulsion from school for the most-serious incidents.

Least-serious offenses include such things as “abusive language” among students and possessing “an electronic communication device,” such as cell phones and computer tablets, “inconsistent with school board policy.” Most-serious offenses include incidents such as assault and battery and sexual crimes, possession of dangerous weapons, and major vandalism.

“When we approached this work, we started with the student in mind and ended with the student in mind because we want to make sure we promote a safe and welcoming environment for each and every student in each and every school every day in South Carolina,” Cooper said.

The task force, however, did not recommend that SROs be required in every public school in the state. Spearman said proposed regulations will have to be reviewed by the state Board of Education and the state Legislature, adding that a “few things,” such as the definition of a school resource officer, would require changes in state law.

Spearman also said her agency plans to work “very closely” with local school boards “as they adopt their own discipline policies.” Spearman did not answer, when asked by a reporter, how much the proposed changes would cost.

## Monthly Webinars!

Normally first Wednesday of Every Month at 10 am.

### Next Webinar

Wednesday April 6, 2016

Each webinar has a round table discussion at the end. Questions are always welcome!

To participate, you must be a vetted member. For more information please email [schoolsafety@isp.state.il.us](mailto:schoolsafety@isp.state.il.us)

## Release of 2014 School Health Policies and Practices Study (SHPPS) Fact Sheets

On March 13, 2016, the Division of Adolescent and School Health released 11 new fact sheets from the 2014 School Health Policies and Practices Study, available on the Healthy Youth website ([http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/data/shpps/results.htm?s\\_cid=govd-shpps-2014fs](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/data/shpps/results.htm?s_cid=govd-shpps-2014fs)). Each fact sheet summarizes results from either a specific topic or a specific component of the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model.

The release includes facts sheets on:

- Alcohol or other drug use prevention
- Counseling, psychological, and social services
- Health education
- Health services
- HIV prevention
- Integrated pest management
- Physical school environment
- Pregnancy prevention
- STD prevention
- Suicide prevention
- Violence prevention

SHPPS Background:

SHPPS is a national study periodically conducted to assess school health policies and practices at the state, district, school, and classroom levels. SHPPS was conducted at each of these levels in 1994, 2000, 2006. In 2012, SHIPPS was conducted at the state and district level. In 2014, SHPPS was conducted at the school and classroom levels. Data collection for 2016, conducted at the district level only, is in progress. Results will be released in 2017.

For more information about SHPPS:

- Web site: [www.cdc.gov/shpps](http://www.cdc.gov/shpps)
- Phone: 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)
- E-mail: [nccddashinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:nccddashinfo@cdc.gov)

### Excerpt from SHPPS 2014 Study - Trends Over Time: 2000 - 2014

[http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/data/shpps/pdf/2014factsheets/trends\\_shpps2014.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/data/shpps/pdf/2014factsheets/trends_shpps2014.pdf)

### **Counseling, Psychological, and Social Services**

Percentage of Schools with Specific Counseling, Psychological and Social Services Practices, SHPPS 2000, 2006, and 2014				
Practice	2000	2006	2014	Trend
Someone at school oversees or coordinates mental health and social services	77.8	76.8	67.3	Decreased
Offers mental health or social services to students or families through arrangements with providers not on school property	51.6	44.8	40.5	Decreased
Mental health and social services coordinator received professional development on specific topics*				
Alcohol or other drug use prevention	68.2	54.9	52.4	Decreased
HIV prevention	34.9	25.3	22.2	Decreased
Injury prevention and safety counseling	27.7	47.9	47.8	Increased
Peer counseling or mediation	61.9	47.4	48.9	Decreased
Services specifically for gay, lesbian, or bisexual students	20.2	24.2	39.4	Increased
Tobacco use prevention	43.1	37.1	30.1	Decreased

\*During the 2 years before the study.

## Excerpt from SHPPS 2014 Study - Trends Over Time: 2000 - 2014 (continue)

Mia Ray Langheim

School Intelligence

Officer



### Healthy and Safe School Environment (includes Social and Emotional Climate)

Percentage of Schools with Specific School Environment Policies or Practices, SHPPS 2000, 2006, and 2014				
Practice	2000	2006	2014	Trend
Uses security or surveillance cameras (inside or outside school building)	16.7	43.0	78.8	Increased
Has or participates in a program to prevent bullying	63.0	77.3	83.2	Increased
Prohibited all tobacco use during any school-related activity*	46.3	63.6	65.3	Increased
Has a plan to address mold problems	NA	67.0	78.2	Increased
Has a school health council, committee, or team	65.7	39.5	35.7	Decreased

NA=Not asked in this survey year.

\*Prohibited 1) cigarette smoking and smokeless tobacco use among all students, all faculty and staff, and all school visitors in school buildings, outside on school grounds, on school buses or other vehicles used to transport students, and at off-campus, school-sponsored events; and 2) cigar or pipe smoking by all students, all faculty and staff, and all school visitors.

### Health Services

Percentage of Schools with Specific Health Services Practices, SHPPS 2000, 2006, and 2014				
Practice	2000	2006	2014	Trend
Provides specific health services:				
Assistance with accessing benefits for students with disabilities	NA	44.9	58.0	Increased
Assistance with enrolling in WIC or accessing food stamps or food banks	29.9	35.5	40.8	Increased
Counseling for emotional or behavioral disorders (e.g., anxiety, depression, or ADHD)	NA	44.7	75.6	Increased
Crisis intervention for personal problems	63.2	64.6	84.2	Increased
HIV counseling, testing, and referral*	11.8	39.3	27.5	Increased
Identification of emotional or behavioral disorders (e.g., anxiety, depression, or ADHD)	NA	60.8	77.4	Increased
Identification of or referral for physical, sexual, or emotional abuse	76.0	70.0	85.1	Increased
Identification or school-based management of chronic health conditions (e.g., asthma or diabetes)	57.9	81.9	82.7	Increased
Services specifically for gay, lesbian, or bisexual students*	13.2	18.8	26.4	Increased
Stress management	41.2	42.3	58.6	Increased
Health services coordinator received professional development on specific prevention topics:†				
Alcohol or other drug use prevention	56.5	48.7	39.1	Decreased
HIV prevention	62.5	43.3	32.0	Decreased
STD prevention	47.3	42.8	33.8	Decreased
Tobacco use prevention	51.2	43.5	29.5	Decreased
Violence prevention	62.1	58.9	73.9	Increased

NA=Not asked in this survey year.

\*Not asked among elementary schools.

†During the 2 years before the study.

#### School Safety Newsletter

Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center  
2200 S. Dirksen Parkway  
Springfield, IL 62703  
Phone: 217-558-2661

E-Mail:

Schoolsafety@isp.state.il.us