



# School Safety Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

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## School Safety Information Sharing Program

The Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC), in partnership with the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF), has established a program for sharing information as it relates to school safety with those whose job it is to protect students, employees, and infrastructure. This initiative, the School Safety Information Sharing Program (SSISP), promotes mutually collaborative communications, working relationships, partnerships, and information sharing.

Members have access to:

- A dedicated K-12 and campus intelligence officer
- For Official Use Only (FOUO) information for those who “need to know” to help aid in school and campus safety
- Law Enforcement Sensitive (LES) information directly to their email related to school and campus safety (Sworn Officers Only)
- Situational Awareness on topics that could affect safety at Illinois schools and campuses
- Monthly newsletter outlining legislation in Illinois, grant opportunities, Illinois and national trends, and other material to help protect our future through information sharing
- Monthly webinars

Administrators, or those in charge of making safety decisions, as well as sworn police officers involved in school and campus safety are encouraged to join.

Those wishing to join this free program must complete the SSISP application and non-disclosure agreement. Please send inquiries to [schoolsafety@isp.state.il.us](mailto:schoolsafety@isp.state.il.us).



*Protecting our  
future through  
information  
sharing*

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## **Governor Quinn Signs School Safety Legislation**

July 1, 2013

CHICAGO – Governor Pat Quinn today signed a new law that requires all Illinois schools to hold active safety drills with local law enforcement to ensure they are as prepared as possible in the event of a shooting incident. Today's action is part of the governor's agenda to improve public safety in Illinois. Source: <http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/P20/Documents/What's%20New/School%20Safety%20Leg.pdf>

### **Questions Regarding School Safety Legislation**

The amended senate bill 1625 School Safety Drill Act was signed July 1, 2013, by Governor Quinn has raised a number of questions. Jonathon Monken, Director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, was interviewed regarding the amended bill.

*What was the motivation for amending the School Safety Drill Act?*

Director Monken: The bill was amended to align fire service and law enforcement language and requirements. It is also the driving legislative force to require law enforcement to be present during law enforcement drills, which was previously not required at schools.

*What is the goal of the amendment?*

Director Monken: The goal is for efficient active shooter drills to become common and improve communication and involvement with local law enforcement to allow improved response.

*Does the amended bill require students to be present?*

Director Monken: The amended bill does not require students to be present during a law enforcement drill. However, I do recommend them to be present to make the drill more meaningful. Students are present during fire drills, and the practice allows them to be efficient and knowledgeable about what to do and where to go in case of a real fire. The intent behind preparing students for a fire is the same as preparing students for an active shooter situation.

*Some law enforcement involved with schools have asked what it means to have law enforcement present. Does that mean to have one law enforcement officer there or a team?*

Director Monken: The drill can be satisfied with one law enforcement officer present. However, the drill's goal is to improve efficiency so a team of local law enforcement who would respond in a real situation would be most beneficial. Local law enforcement would have the opportunity to increase their knowledge and familiarity with school floor plans while also provide input with the school's emergency operation plan for law enforcement threats.

*How many school drills are currently required?*

Six drills are required for each school year: three evacuation drills, one severe weather drill, one bus evacuation drill and one law enforcement drill.

### **Update on Other School Legislation**

Senate Bill 1931 School Security and Standard Task Force passed both houses and has been sent to the governor for a signature. The task force will study school security and draft minimal standards to create safer schools in Illinois. The task force will be responsible for submitting recommendations for change of current law and legislation on or before January 1, 2014.



**Next Monthly  
School Safety  
Information  
Sharing  
Webinar will be  
Wednesday  
October 2, 2013  
at 10 am.**

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

### **Upcoming State of Illinois School Grant Opportunities**

Recently, \$25 million worth of capital funds for physical school improvements have been set aside for an upcoming State of Illinois School and Higher Education grant opportunity. Higher Education institutions will receive \$5 million of the funding; Cook County school districts will receive \$5 million, and the rest of the state school districts will receive the remaining \$15 million.

The goal is to award grants for low cost items that will highly impact the schools security through physical improvements. The grant will consist of a “menu” of physical improvement items to pick from such as shatter proof window films, exterior door locking systems, security camera, panic buttons etc. Each physical improvement will be purchased through a state contract in order to help reduce costs.

The grant is at the district level and partial awards will be handed out. The official rules will be released December 2013. Schools are encouraged to evaluate what type of physical improvements are most needed to slow down an active shooter ahead of the grant rules release. Grant applications are being written to be simple and to the point so that anyone who is interested will have time to apply.

The competitive grant roll out is planned for January 1, 2014, and will include a 90 day review process. Those who receive a grant award will have a 12 month performance evaluation from March 2014 until March 2015.

### **Guides for Developing Emergency Operations Plans for Schools and Institutions of Higher Education (IHE)**

June 18, 2013

Schools, IHEs, and houses of worship need comprehensive guidance on how to effectively plan and prepare for emergencies. Many of the plans in place at these critical centers of our communities have not been developed effectively or coordinated with local community partners. Even those organizations that have good plans in place may not have implemented them well. A 2010 survey found that while 84 percent of public schools had a written response plan in the event of a shooting, only 52 percent had drilled their students on the plan in the past year. Ineffective emergency planning, or unfamiliarity with existing plans, may unnecessarily put lives at risk. Source: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/fact\\_sheet\\_emergency\\_planning\\_0.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/fact_sheet_emergency_planning_0.pdf)

The federal government has prepared guides for developing emergency operations plans for schools and higher education institutions. These guides may be beneficial in assisting with your overall school safety efforts.

Link: [Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans](#)

Link: [Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Institutions of Higher Education](#)

Mia Ray Langheim has been hired as the School Intelligence Officer in charge of the School Safety Information Sharing Program (SSIS). She has taught and continues to teach at both the community college and university level for the past five years. In addition, Mrs. Langheim has close to ten years of large data collection and data analysis experience and has written multiple published research articles. Mrs. Langheim has a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Illinois Springfield and a M.S. in Molecular Biology, Microbiology and Biochemistry from Southern Illinois University Carbondale.



If you have any Questions, Comments, Ideas?

Please contact Mia Ray Langheim

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### ***Important:***

*Report any unusual or suspicious activity to your local law enforcement.*

### **The Seven Signs of Terrorism**

The seven signs of terrorism could be indicators of a not only planning of a possible terrorist attack but indicators of a violent plan aimed at schools and campuses. It is important everyone has a basic understanding of what to look for, remain observant of unusual behavior in their environment, and report any suspicious activity to their local law enforcement.

1. **Surveillance**—Someone recording or monitoring activities. This may include the use of cameras (either still or video), note taking, drawing diagrams, annotating on maps, or using binoculars or other vision-enhancing devices.
2. **Elicitation**—People or organizations attempting to gain information about military operations, capabilities, or people. Elicitation attempts may be made by mail, fax, telephone or in person.
3. **Tests of Security**—Any attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures in order to assess strength and weaknesses.
4. **Acquiring Supplies**—Purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, etc. Also includes acquiring military uniforms, decals, flight manuals, passes or badges (or the equipment to manufacture such items) or any other controlled items.
5. **Suspicious Persons Out of Place**—People who don't seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood, business establishment, or anywhere else includes suspicious border crossing and stowaways aboard ship or people jumping ship port.
6. **Dry Run or Trial Run**—Putting people into position and moving them around according to their plan without actually committing the terrorist act. This is especially true when planning a kidnapping, but it can also pertain to bombings. An element of this activity could also include mapping out routes and determine the timing of traffic lights and flow.
7. **Deploying Assets**—People and supplies getting into position to commit the act. This is a person's last chance to alert authorities before the terrorist act occurs.

