



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
DATE: August 27, 2019
SUBJECT: Maryland Center for School Safety Update

PURPOSE:

To provide an update to the State Board regarding the Maryland Center for School Safety (“the Center”) and its progress during the implementation of the Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 1265 of 2018, or the Maryland Safe to Learn Act, passed the General Assembly on the final day of the 2018 legislative session and was signed into law by Governor Larry Hogan. It included a number of initiatives that expanded the number of staff at the Center, established the School Safety Subcabinet and Advisory Board, and standardized training for school safety personnel. The legislation also provided funding for a number of grant programs, and the Center has worked for much of the last year to implement the mandates from the Safe to Learn Act.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Center is a granting, training, and coordinating agency that works with local school systems, law enforcement agencies, and other partners. It has made significant strides in the past year working in tandem with the School Safety Subcabinet, which is chaired by the State Superintendent to modernize school safety in Maryland and move forward with implementation of the Safe to Learn Act. Responsibilities, funding, and other mandates are outlined in the attached documents.

ACTION:

This item is informational only, and does not require any action.

Attachments: School Safety in Maryland PowerPoint
School Grant Page

Maryland Center for School Safety (the Center)

- Established by executive order in July 2013
 - The Center had two full-time positions
 - Under the Maryland State Police Governing Board
- The Safe to Learn Act of 2018 expanded the size of the Center and magnified its role
 - 13 new positions added from the Safe to Learn Act
 - Six (6) staff members are assigned regionally throughout the State
 - The Center now an independent unit within MSDE



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Safe to Learn Act of 2018

Senate Bill 1265

- Established the School Safety Subcabinet and School Safety Subcabinet Advisory Board
- Included a number of statutory requirements for the State and local school systems



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Subcabinet Responsibilities

Subcabinet

- Collaborate with school safety stakeholders
- Provide general oversight for the Center
- Identify best practices
- Administer Safe Schools Fund Grant

*Chair: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.,
State Superintendent of Schools*

Advisory Board

- Comprised of 24 members from various stakeholder groups
- Provide the Subcabinet with advice and assist the Subcabinet in completing its duties
- Make recommendations to the Subcabinet

*Chair: Dr. George Arlotto,
Superintendent, Anne Arundel
County Public Schools*



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Safe to Learn Act of 2018 Requirements

Develop: State Behavioral Threat Assessment Model Policy

Identify: Mental Health Services Coordinators and School Safety Coordinators

Conduct: School Resource Officer Training and School Safety Evaluations

Administer: School Safety Grants



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Requirements Continued

June 15, 2019

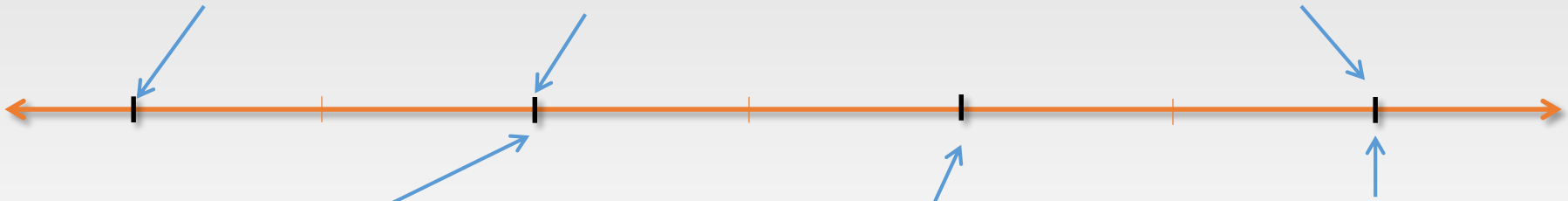
Each LSS shall conduct a safety evaluation of each public school

August 1, 2019

LSS must submit a summary report of annual safety evaluations to the Center

December 1, 2019

MSDE, consulting with the Center, shall update the Emergency Planning Guidelines



August 1, 2020

LSS must:

1. update school emergency plans to include MSDE guidelines
2. submit annual reports on real-world threats, drills, emergency plan failures

Every October 1

The Center shall submit a summary report of LSS SRO adequate coverage

Every December

1st – Use of Force Report (beginning 2020)
15th - Center Annual Report



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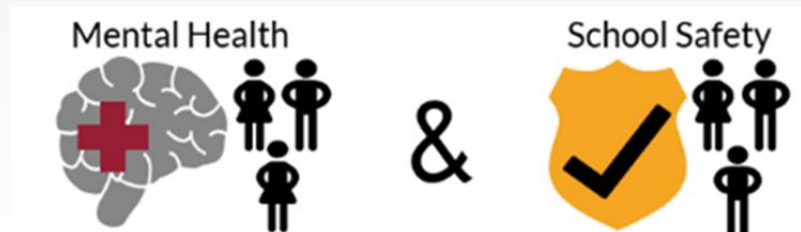
Behavioral Threat Assessment Model Policy

- State model policy developed and adopted by September 1, 2018
 - Includes mechanisms to identify threatening behavior
 - Mechanisms to assess behavior and proper interventions
 - Identifies best practices and appropriate responses
- Local school systems must adopt policies consistent with models by start of the 2019-2020 school year



Local School System Identified Coordinators

- **Mental Health Services Coordinator**
 - Appointed by the local school system
 - Coordinates existing services and develops plans to deliver services to students in need
- **School Safety Coordinator**
 - Appointed by the local school system
 - Serves as a liaison between the local school system and law enforcement

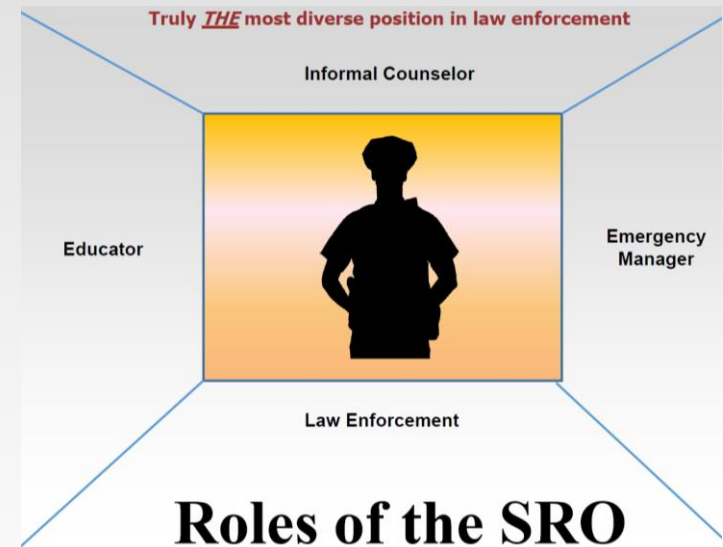


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School Resource Officer Training and Coverage

- Each public school must have an assigned SRO or adequate law enforcement coverage plan
- Standard training curriculum approved by Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC)
- Training for ~1,000 SROs and School Security Personnel



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Baltimore City and County Training July 8-12



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Fiscal Year 2019 and 2020 School Safety Grants

| Fiscal Year 2019 | Amount |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Safe Schools Fund Grant* | \$10,600,000 |
| Hate Bias Crimes Grant | \$1,000,000 |
| School Safety Evaluation Grant | \$2,500,000 |
| TOTAL | \$14,100,000 |

| Fiscal Year 2020 | Amount |
|---|---------------------|
| Safe Schools Fund Grant* | \$10,000,000 |
| Hate Bias Crimes Grant | \$2,000,000 |
| School Traffic Safety Enforcement Grant | \$600,000 |
| SRO / Adequate Coverage Grant | \$10,000,000 |
| TOTAL | \$22,600,000 |

*Administered by the Subcabinet



Grants administered by the Center are available to Local School Systems, Non-Public Special Education Schools, Law Enforcement Agencies, and child care centers as outlined in each grant's Notice of Funding Availability.

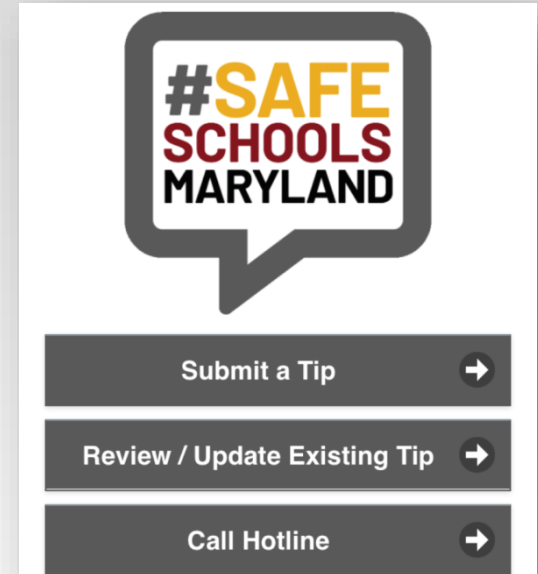


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Safe Schools Maryland Tip-Line

- Launched on October 3, 2018
- 24/7 Anonymous reporting
- 431 tips received from launch to August 2019
 - Online Browser (174)
 - Mobile App (137)
 - Hotline Phone Calls (120)
- Top 3 event types reported:
 - General school complaints
 - Bullying
 - Drugs



safeschoolsmd.org
833-MD-B-SAFE (833-632-7233)

Download the **SafeSchoolsMD** app

Download on the **App Store** | Get it on **Google play**



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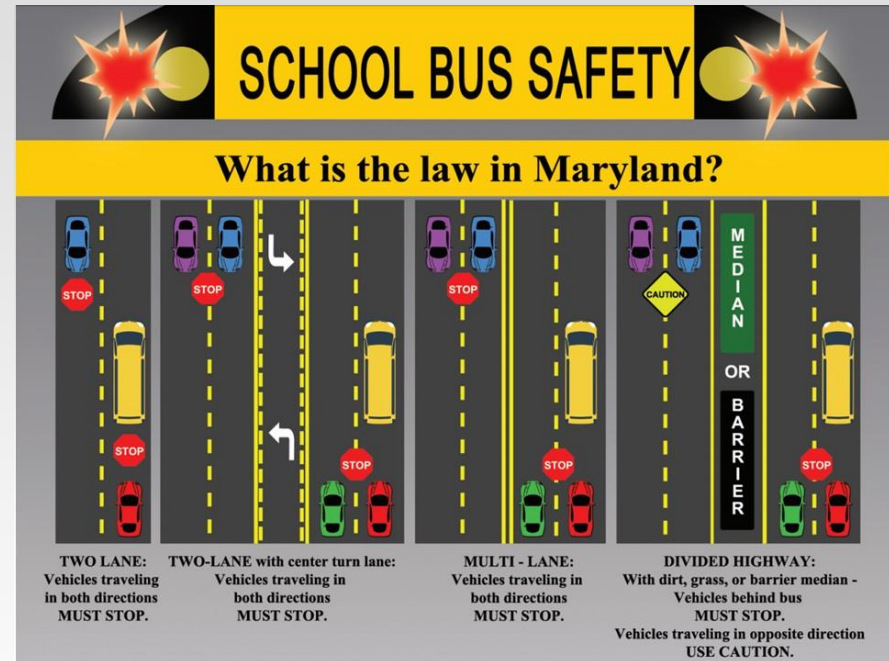
Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration

- Weekly statewide school safety calls
- Monthly Subcabinet and Advisory Board meetings
- Quarterly Mental Health Coordinator meetings
- Quarterly School Safety Coordinator meetings
- Collaboration with national school safety partners
- Annual School Safety Conferences



On the Horizon

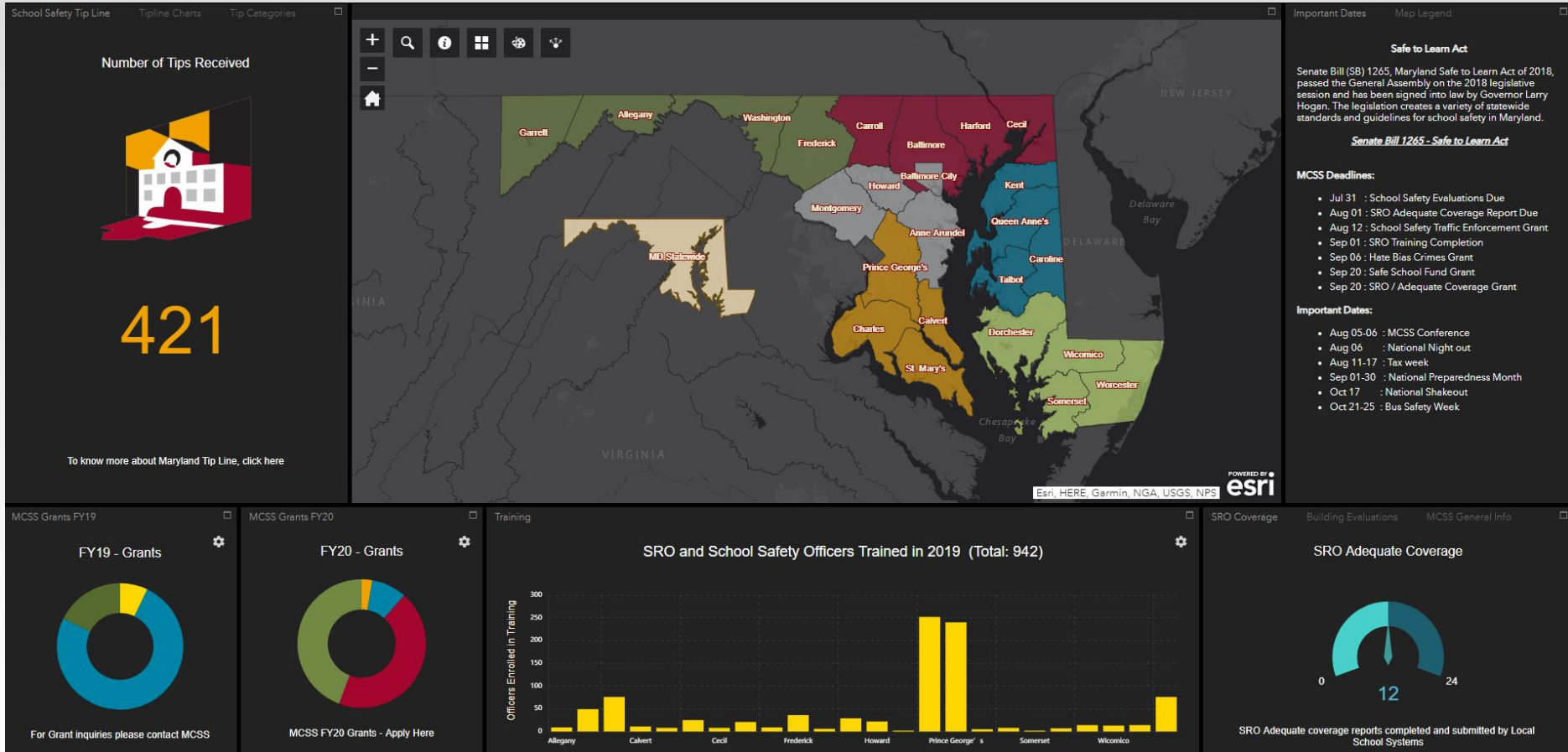
- Expanded Training
- MCSS website redesign
- Marketing on school bus safety and tip line
- Standardized reporting
- Data visualization



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Data Visualization



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Questions?



Executive Director, Kate Hession
kate.hession1@maryland.gov



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Maryland Center for School Safety Accomplishments

13 positions added to the Center from the Safe to Learn Act



All 13 positions filled

Kate Hession appointed as the new Executive Director



School Resource Officer (SRO) and Security Training Curriculum finalized and approved by Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission

Trained and certified more than 700 SROs and School Security Employees

~1,000 will be trained and certified by September 1, 2019



All local school systems (LSS) conducted safety evaluations of each public school



LSSs submitted summary reports of annual safety evaluations to the Center



Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to consult with the Center and update Emergency Planning Guidelines

October 2018



Launched a statewide anonymous school safety tip line operated by MEMA

431
total tips received to August 2019





Gathered data from all 24 local school systems regarding high school SRO coverage or alternative adequate law enforcement coverage

Grants awarded for FY2019



More than \$10,000,000

Over \$10 million in projects approved by the Subcabinet for funding through the Safe Schools Grant Fund determined by a \$200,000 base to each jurisdiction with an additional per pupil amount



\$1 million available awarded to 28 institutions

Notice of funding availability approved for Hate Crimes Grant Program for Schools and Child Care Centers - \$1 million available approved for 28 institutions

Grants available for FY2020



\$600,000



\$2,000,000



\$10,000,000



\$10,000,000

More than \$22 million dollars available



Maryland School Safety Conference held August 5-6, 2019
More than 250 school safety attendees

School Safety Grants in Maryland



✓ SCHOOL SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM

- **\$10 million available in Round 2 of FY2019 and for FY2020** to local school systems through the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) for physical safety and security enhancements to school facilities. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to: secure and lockable classroom doors, security vestibules, security surveillance, and visitor access.

✓ SAFE SCHOOLS FUND GRANT

- **\$10 million available in FY2020** to local school systems and nonpublic special education institutions through the School Safety Subcabinet. For the approximately 98 nonpublic special education institutions, \$5,000 has been allocated per school. The remaining funds were allocated to local school systems with a base allocation of \$179,583 and subsequent per pupil calculations.
- Eligible projects include, but are not limited to: training of behavioral assessment teams, developing plans to deliver wraparound behavioral and mental health services, conducting safety evaluations, outreach to the school community, and identifying behaviors of concern.

✓ HATE BIAS CRIMES GRANT

- **\$2 million available through the Center for School Safety** (“the Center”) to local school systems, public and nonpublic schools, and childcare centers deemed to be at-risk of a hate crime for physical safety and security enhancements to school facilities.

✓ SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER/ADEQUATE COVERAGE GRANT

- **\$10 million available through the Center in FY2020** to local school systems and local law enforcement to assist with the provision of SRO services and coverage at schools throughout the State.
- Local school systems and local law enforcement agencies must enter into a memorandum of understanding identifying needs for coverage at schools through the jurisdiction.

✓ SCHOOL TRAFFIC SAFETY ENFORCEMENT GRANT

- **\$600,000 available in FY 2020 through the Center** to provide funding to local law enforcement and local school systems for school bus and pedestrian safety, speed zone traffic enforcement, and other educational materials. Law enforcement and the local school system must work together to identify the jurisdiction’s greatest needs.

✓ NONPUBLIC AGING SCHOOLS PROGRAM SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

- **\$3.5 million available for security improvements through the Maryland State Department of Education in FY2020** to nonpublic schools that were eligible for the Aid to Nonpublic Schools Textbook Program in FY2019, including preschools. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to: window locking and door hardware, surveillance and security systems, renovations or improvements to improve control of access.
- To be considered an aging school, the building must have a minimum age of 16 years. The school must hold a certificate of approval or be registered with the State Board of Education, and may not discriminate in admissions on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sexual orientation.