

# **Safe and Secure Schools**

## ***A Parents' Forum***

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**March 27, 2013**

Paramus High School

99 East Century Road

Paramus, NJ 07652



New Jersey School Boards Association

[www.njsba.org](http://www.njsba.org) | 609. 695. 7600 | 888.88NJSBA

# NJSBA Safe Schools Resources

## njsba.org/schoolsecurity

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### SCHOOL SECURITY RESOURCES

The safety of our schoolchildren is of paramount importance to all people in the education community. The tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut, has prompted school districts to reassess security measures in place in their facilities. The New Jersey School Boards Association has created the School Security Resources web page with the goal of assisting school officials in the process.

#### SAFE AND SECURE SCHOOLS

On Jan. 18, 2013, NJSBA sponsored "Safe and Secure Schools: Perspectives after Newtown" at The College of New Jersey. Here are resources from the program:

**View Keynote Video**  
Keynote address: Dr. Maurice J. Elias, "The Essential Connection between a Safe and Secure School Climate and Students' Educational and Life Success." Dr. Elias serves as director of clinical training in Rutgers University's Department of Psychology; director of the Rutgers Social and Emotional Learning Laboratory; and director of the Collaborative, Rutgers' Center for Community-Based Research, Service, and Public Scholarship; and former director of New Jersey's Developing Safe and Civil Schools Initiative. [View the PowerPoint presentation.](#)

**View Panel I Video**  
Panel Discussion I: "Looking Forward: State School Security Procedures and Requirements"

- Ronald Susswein, Esq., Assistant Attorney General, State of New Jersey
- Anthony Bland, State Coordinator, Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning, New Jersey Department of Education
- Raymond J. Hayducka, President, New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police; Chief of Police, South Brunswick Township

**View Panel II Video**  
Panel Discussion II: "Looking Forward: Safety and Security at the School Building Level"

- Dr. Christopher Manno, Chief Education Officer, Burlington Township Public Schools
- Christopher Brown, Director of Security, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick
- Dr. Michael Wanko, Principal, Piscataway High School; author of "Safe Schools: Crisis Prevention and Response;" Past



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# Safe and Secure Schools *A Parents' Forum*



## PANELISTS:

**John Molinelli**, Bergen County Prosecutor

**Chief Donald V. Keane**, Cliffside Park

**Chief Robert J. Kugler**, Saddle Brook

**Deputy Chief Kenneth R. Ehrenberg**, Paramus

**Sgt. Michael Pontillo**, Westwood

**Sgt. Matthew McClutchy**, Westwood

**Kenneth Rota**, Superintendent of Schools,  
Paramus

**Cynthia Randina**, Superintendent of Schools,  
Secaucus

## MODERATOR:

**Raymond R. Wiss**, Immediate Past President,  
New Jersey School Boards Association



# School Violence Is Not New

- Worst incident in U.S. history took place in Michigan in 1927.
- Increased exposure due to media/Internet.



# Manpower

- Student Resource Officer (SRO)
- Juvenile officer
- Youth-related services



# Memorandum of Agreement



# The “Mission-Oriented” Shooter

- Not profit-motivated criminality
- But premeditated and predatory violence
- 26% of school killings also involve the homicide of the parent or guardian of the shooter
- Suicide often attempted or completed at end



# Media Coverage



# Three-Fold Approach

- Identify the threat
- Assess the threat
- Manage the threat



# Identify the Threat

## No Demographic Profile of School Shooters

- The bullies and the bullied
- Academically gifted and challenged

## ‘Brittle’ People

- Feelings of persecution and alienation
- Sensitive to slights and rejection

## Behavioral Warning Signs

- Neglect/Abuse
- Absence of family/friend support network

## Typically Not Under the Influence of Drugs



# Assess the Threat

- In 81% of the school shootings, at least one other person knew of the plan beforehand.
- In 59%, two or more other people knew about it.
- Over 50% of the attackers spent more than two weeks planning the incident.



# School & Police Department Partnership

- The schools are here to educate your children and keep them safe.
- A lot of effort goes into planning your children's school years.
- The school is required to report certain things to the police department.
- The police are required to investigate matters that are reported by the school district.



# School & Police Department Partnership

- Some of these investigations can be informational and some can be criminal.
- The police are here to keep your children safe both inside and outside of school.
- **POLICE CAN ONLY INVESTIGATE MATTERS THAT ARE BROUGHT TO THEIR ATTENTION.**



# Manage the Threat

## Prevention is the Best Medicine

**Q.** *If you hear someone threatening to hurt others, what is the most important step you should take?*

**A. IMMEDIATELY** tell an adult in a position of authority so that there can be efforts taken to prevent a problem!!!



# Blocks to Reporting

- Threat not taken seriously
- Doesn't know who to tell
- Doesn't want to be a "snitch"



# Safety Manual



# Technology

- Access (locks, swipe cards)
- Cameras
- Communications
- Structural



# Additional “Eyes and Ears”

- Sworn officers (SROs)
- Retired officers
- Class II officers
- Private security (armed/unarmed)
- School personnel



# Media Coverage



officers in both

## Some Hunterdon schools see increased police presence after Newtown



By Warren Cooper/NJN Publishing  
on February 20, 2013 at 4:16 PM, updated February 20, 2013 at 4:45 PM



In the wake of the shootings at Sandy Hook in Newtown, Conn. on Dec. 14, some schools are seeing increased police coverage.

At least one police department has been seen with an officer at its local school all day every day.



▶ NORTHJERSEY.COM : NEWS

## Police chief wants Woodland Park school board to hire armed cops



# Media Coverage

Lodi may  
hire ex-co  
to protect

SECTION L

The Record  
Local



Englewood Cliffs Council hesitant to provide  
unarmed guards, liability issues cited

## Former sheriff gets school job

By KIM LUEDEKE  
STAFF WRITER

Hired after security guard was fired for gun

GARFIELD — The Bergen/Passaic Arts and Science Charter Schools have retained a former county sheriff to handle security at its three campuses, after a guard at the Garfield school was charged last week with having a gun on its school

who attended a Wednesday meeting to discuss the incident and security measures taken in its wake. One of those measures was to hire former Bergen County Sheriff Leo McGuire as director of safety and se-

ported to police that he had had a gun on him while working at the school. Police said he had claimed to be a retired police officer authorized to carry the firearm. An investigation disclosed that Ro-

Rodriguez was charged with impersonating a police officer, possession of a weapon without a permit to carry and possession of a weapon in an educational institution.

seen Rodriguez carrying a gun last year. Rodriguez has been employed with the school since September 2011. He was fired last week and is prohibited from coming onto the premises of the school, Guvercin said. The Bergen/Passaic Arts and Science Charter Schools have campuses in Garfield, Hackensack and Passaic.



# Media Coverage



# Media Coverage



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## New Jersey Schools: Surprise Inspections to Check Security Procedures

MONDAY, 21 JANUARY 2013 12:11

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BY BOB HOLT

NEWJERSEYNEWSROOM.COM

The debate may still be ongoing regarding gun control, but New Jersey plans on keeping security policies going on at its schools.

The New Jersey Board of Education said surprise inspections will start in late January

on February 13, 2013 at 12:30 PM, updated February 13, 2013 at 12:40 PM

**DENVILLE** — Violence and shootings in schools and other public places have become so common lately that teachers



# Practice Drills



- Announced
- Unannounced
- Participants



# School Stability Factors

- Healthy organizational culture
- Controlled access to premises
- Access to mental health services



# Media Coverage



- About 30 states have reduced mental health spending since 2008



# School Safety Audit

**NJ Dept. of Education:**  
[www.nj.gov/schools/security](http://www.nj.gov/schools/security)

## SCHOOL SECURITY AUDITS



**School Security Drill Law N.J.S.A. 18A:41-1 and Drill Audits**

[School Security Drill Guide](#)

[School Security Drill Law FAQ](#)

[Commissioner's Memo on School Security Drill Law Guidance](#)

[School Security Drill Checklist](#)



# Threat Assessment Team

- Administrator
- SRO
- Mental Health Professional
- School Legal Representative
- Teachers



# The “STAR” Program



- Identification of the “over-looked”
- Mentoring/Inclusion




# Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools


- [REMS.ed.gov](https://REMS.ed.gov)
- Provides School and Campus Emergency Management Information and Resources






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## Opinion: Today's children are fascinated by guns, exposed to violence

 By [Times of Trenton guest opinion column](#)  
on January 18, 2013 at 6:30 AM, updated January 18, 2013 at 6:35 AM  [Print](#)

**By Rob Fiorello**

For the past 18 years, I've worked with Mercer County teenagers and served as co-chairman of the Mercer County Gang Task Force from 2007 to the present.

During this time, 34 young men I have known, most of them former students, have been murdered by gunfire in the City



Firearms seized in a criminal case are shown in a file photo.



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## 5,500 attend Connecticut gun control rally

By SUSAN HAIGH | Associated Press – Thu, Feb 14, 2013

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Associated Press/Jessica Hill - Abigail Garrett of Hampden holds a sign during a rally at the Capitol in Hartford, Conn., Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013. Thousands of people turned out to call on lawmakers to toughen ...[more](#)



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[NORTHJERSEY.COM](#) : [NEWS](#)

### Midland Park police discuss school lockdown procedures

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2013  
BY LYNN BRUGGEMANN  
CORRESPONDENT  
MIDLAND PARK SUBURBAN NEWS

PAGES: [1](#) [2](#) > [DISPLAY ON ONE PAGE](#) | [PRINT](#) | [E-MAIL](#)

**MIDLAND PARK** – Members of the police department discussed school lockdown procedures at the Jan. 22 Board of Education meeting.

The presentation was given in response to concerns of parents about security procedures in the wake of the Newtown, Conn. shootings in December as well as a lockdown at the high school in September following reports of an armed man being seen in the area. Parents had criticized the lack of information during the lockdown at past meetings.

Lt. Bernard A. Vandenberg and Sgt. Gregory V. Kasbarian explained the department's emergency procedures and why information about emergency situations at the schools may be delayed.



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## Hunterdon Prosecutor details elements of county-wide school safety plan



By [Warren Cooper/NJN Publishing](#)  
on January 07, 2013 at 6:10 PM

 [Print](#)



[Enlarge Hunterdon County Law Enforcement and Schools Conference gallery \(23 photos\)](#)  
Warren Cooper/NJN Publishing



Prosecutor Anthony P. Kearns III wants to assign a detective in his office to oversee school safety efforts throughout the county. That detective would oversee school safety plans, serve as liaison to officers assigned to schools and coordinate the efforts of municipal and county SWAT officers as part of a multi-pronged effort to keep Hunterdon County school children safe.

The Prosecutor's Office has been working to improve school safety for several years, Kearns said on Jan. 4.



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