



New Jersey School Boards Association

Celebrating 100 years of service

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MEMORANDUM

TO: John Bulina, President
Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D., Executive Director

FROM: Raymond R. Wiss, Immediate Past President
Donald Webster, Jr., Vice President for Finance

SUBJECT: What Makes Schools Safe? – The Final Report of the
NJSBA School Security Task Force

DATE: October 22, 2014

We are pleased to submit to you *What Makes Schools Safe?*—the final report of the New Jersey School Boards Association School Security Task Force. The study group met eight times between March and September 2013 and discussed the multitude of factors involved in making our schools secure learning environments for children.

During its deliberations, the task force heard presentations from eight experts representing law enforcement, school security, emergency planning, school design, and higher education. The final report includes 45 recommendations addressing crisis planning, the use of security personnel, the working relationship between school officials and law enforcement, school climate, architectural enhancement, security equipment, and financing. The recommendations call for action by local school boards and the state and federal governments.

The information provided throughout the report is of equal significance to the task force's findings and recommendations. We hope that the report will serve as a source to guide local boards of education as they make decisions critical to the security of their communities' schools and the safety of their students.

In one respect, the Final Report of the NJSBA School Security Task Force represents the culmination of NJSBA's efforts to inform the discussion of school safety and security that began immediately after the December 2012 tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut. In a broader sense, it should be viewed as a resource to help determine further state and local action to ensure the physical and emotional well-being of our students.

We most appreciate the interest of the task force members, who took on this task in addition to their local board of education service. The breadth and depth of the subject were far greater than many of us anticipated, and the continued participation of a core group of task force members through the extended meeting schedule is deeply appreciated.