
SCHOOL SAFETY

KEY ISSUES

School safety is a top priority at the local, state and national levels as the number of school shootings on campuses across the United States has increased. Schools are grappling with the topic of school safety from a number of different angles, including increasing school mental health personnel and services, increasing school resource officers on campuses, or addressing the issue of guns on school property.

The 2018 Federal Commission on School Safety chaired by the U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos was created to recommend policy and funding proposals for school violence prevention. NC's Center for Safer Schools was codified in state statute in 2018 and is housed in the Department of Public Instruction. The General Assembly's House Select Committee on School Safety conducted a series of in-depth committee meetings studying the wide-ranging needs for school safety measures during the 2018 legislative short session. NC's Center for Emergency Management and its School Risk & Response Management System continue to improve statewide technical efforts to maintain the physical safety of school buildings and coordinate safety efforts across state agencies.

INTRODUCTION

Ensuring schools are safe places to learn is the responsibility of parents, administrators, teachers, and policymakers. School personnel regularly address behavior issues that disrupt classrooms and decide on how to discipline students to discourage the behavior and restore the school to safety and a focused learning environment. In recent years the numbers of expulsions and suspensions have decreased in North Carolina, but the effort to maintain positive school cultures with minimal behavioral problems is an ongoing battle in schools. Increasing media accounts of acts of violent crime across the U.S. have heightened public fears of school violence. School violence and crime have been proven to have adverse effects on the health and well-being of students and educational goals.¹ Studies show that incidences of victimization at schools can increase teacher turnover rates, lead students to change schools, incentivize early retirement for teachers and principals, impede the learning process, and foster greater student fear of violence at school.²

QUICK FACTS ON SCHOOL VIOLENCE

- During the 2015-16 school year, 79 percent of public schools across the U.S. recorded that one or more incidents of violence had taken place, amounting to an estimated 1.4 million crimes³
- In 2016, there were about 749,400 nonfatal victimizations at schools nationally⁴
- In North Carolina the number of reportable crimes in grades K-13 decreased by 1.9% during the last year, from 10,020 acts in 2015-16 to 9,834 acts in 2016-17⁵

¹ Fredland, N.M. (2008). "Nurturing Hostile Environments: The Problem of School Violence." *Family & Community Health*, 31 (1): S32-S41. Available at https://journals.lww.com/familyandcommunityhealth/fulltext/2008/01001/Nurturing_Hostile_Environments_The_Problem_of.7.aspx.

² Crews, K., Crews, J., and Turner, F. (2008). "School Violence Is Not Going Away So Proactive Steps Are Needed." *College Teaching Methods & Styles Journal*, 4 (1): 25-28. Available at <https://clutejournals.com/index.php/CTMS/article/download/5045/5136>.

³ National Center for Education Statistics, Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2017. Available at <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2018/2018036.pdf>

⁴ National Center for Education Statistics, Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2017.

It is clear that school violence has severe effects on students, teachers, and the learning process. Improving school safety is necessary for ensuring optimal student performance and creating a safe and stable learning environment.

VIOLENCE IN NORTH CAROLINA’S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In North Carolina, there were 9,834 reported crimes in public schools in 2016-17. The table below shows the total acts of violence and rates for the last nine years.

Reporting Year	Total Acts	Acts Per 1000 Students
2016-17	9,834	6.5
2015-16	10,020	6.6
2014-15	10,347	6.9
2013-14	10,132	6.8
2012-13	10,630	7.2
2011-12	11,161	7.6
2010-11	11,657	8.0
2009-10	11,608	8.0
2008-09	11,116	7.6
2007-08	11,276	7.9
2006-07	11,013	7.8

Source: NC DPI, Consolidated Data Report 2016-17

The table below shows the number of reportable crimes in 2015-16 and in 2016-17. North Carolina public schools are using a number of strategies to reduce crime, including surveillance and the presence of school resource officers.

Acts	Number of Acts 2015-16	Number of Acts 2016-17
Possession of a Controlled Substance in Violation of Law	4,639	4,289
Possession of a Weapon	2,746	2,745
Assault of School Personnel	1,329	1,431
Possession of Alcoholic Beverage	934	882
Sexual Assault not including Rape or Sexual Offense	82	107
Possession of a Firearm or Powerful Explosive	118	105
Bomb Threat	69	89
Assault Involving Use of a Weapon	39	48
Assault Resulting in Serious Injury	29	65
Sexual Offense	16	47
Burning of a School Building	8	15
Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon	9	8
Rape	1	2
Kidnapping	0	0
Taking Indecent Liberties with a Minor	0	1
Death by Other Than Natural Causes	1	0
TOTAL	10,132	10,347

Source: NC DPI, Consolidated Data Report 2016-17

⁵ NC DPI, Consolidated Data Report 2016-17. Available at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/research/discipline/reports/consolidated/2016-17/consolidated-report.pdf>.

According to the NC DPI Consolidated Data Report, the number of reportable crimes by high school students increased by 4%, from 5,774 in 2015-16 to 5,543 in 2016-17. The rate of crimes reported decreased to 12.75 acts per 1000 students in 2015-16 compared to 12.12 acts per 1000 students in 2016-17. The next table lists the number of reportable crimes for high school grades only during the 2016-17 school year.

TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTABLE CRIMES IN GRADES 9-13 BY SCHOOL DISTRICT IN 2016-17

School District	Reportable Crimes	ADM Grades 9-13	Reportable Crime Rate (per 1000 students)
Alamance-Burlington	86	7,030	12.23
Alexander County	32	1,454	22.01
Alleghany County	0	438	0.00
Anson County	9	1,016	8.86
Ashe County	10	919	10.88
Avery County	17	606	28.05
Beaufort County	30	2,156	13.91
Bertie County	7	772	9.07
Bladen County	11	1,395	7.89
Brunswick County	21	4,022	5.22
Buncombe County	108	7,825	13.80
Asheville City	9	1,316	6.84
Burke County	76	3,925	19.36
Cabarrus County	76	10,133	7.50
Kannapolis City	14	1,526	9.17
Caldwell County	37	3,814	9.70
Camden County	2	594	3.37
Carteret County	37	2,646	13.98
Caswell County	11	812	13.55
Catawba County	59	5,352	11.02
Hickory City	4	1,216	3.29
Newton Conover City	19	992	19.15
Chatham County	44	2,626	16.76
Cherokee County	2	1,100	1.82
Edenton/Chowan	8	599	13.36
Clay County	2	380	5.26
Cleveland County	103	4,612	22.33
Columbus County	17	1,937	8.78
Whiteville City	5	723	6.92
Craven County	33	4,041	8.17
Cumberland County	246	15,314	16.06
Currituck County	19	1,280	14.84
Dare County	16	1,446	11.07
Davidson County	61	6,113	9.98
Lexington City	3	767	3.91
Thomasville City	11	649	16.95
Davie County	12	1,883	6.37
Duplin County	26	2,818	9.23
Durham Public	259	10,451	24.78

Edgecombe County	14	1,842	7.60
Forsyth County	152	16,536	9.19
Franklin County	29	2,654	10.93
Gaston County	91	9,820	9.27
Gates County	9	508	17.72
Graham County	0	367	0.00
Granville County	38	2,485	15.29
Greene County	15	956	15.69
Guilford County	335	23,249	14.41
Halifax County	13	724	17.96
Roanoke Rapids City	5	957	5.22
Weldon City	1	342	2.92
Harnett County	44	6,018	7.31
Haywood County	56	2,309	24.25
Henderson County	26	4,134	6.29
Hertford County	11	837	13.14
Hoke County	11	2,367	4.65
Hyde County	0	172	0.00
Iredell-Statesville	106	7,017	15.11
Mooreville City	33	1,852	17.82
Jackson County	6	1,193	5.03
Johnston County	35	10,588	3.31
Jones County	0	320	0.00
Lee County	60	2,951	20.33
Lenoir County	31	2,610	11.88
Lincoln County	57	3,546	16.07
Macon County	14	1,307	10.71
Madison County	17	784	21.68
Martin County	8	804	9.95
McDowell County	45	1,925	23.38
Charlotte-Mecklenburg	584	42,658	13.69
Mitchell County	2	624	3.21
Montgomery County	23	1,176	19.56
Moore County	60	4,026	14.90
Nash-Rocky Mount	33	4,742	6.96
New Hanover County	168	8,123	20.68
Northampton County	8	463	17.28
Onslow County	79	7,133	11.08
Orange County	24	2,410	9.96
Chapel Hill-Carrboro	30	3,708	8.09
Pamlico County	2	410	4.88
Pasquotank County	4	1,582	2.53
Pender County	30	2,903	10.33
Perquimans County	12	481	24.95
Person County	12	1,330	9.02
Pitt County	50	7,166	6.98
Polk County	9	697	12.91
Randolph County	78	5,352	14.57
Asheboro City	13	1,347	9.65
Richmond County	19	2,205	8.62

Robeson County	110	6,652	16.54
Rockingham County	43	3,957	10.87
Rowan-Salisbury	67	5,885	11.38
Rutherford County	38	2,538	14.97
Sampson County	31	2,603	11.91
Clinton City	1	871	1.15
Scotland County	10	1,665	6.01
Stanly County	25	2,514	9.94
Stokes County	25	1,996	12.53
Surry County	27	2,599	10.39
Elkin City	7	368	19.02
Mount Airy City	4	502	7.97
Swain County	20	571	35.03
Transylvania County	14	1,116	12.54
Tyrrell County	2	171	11.70
Union County	182	13,667	13.32
Vance County	22	1,744	12.61
Wake County	628	47,641	13.18
Warren County	6	653	9.19
Washington County	6	406	14.78
Watauga County	18	1,343	13.40
Wayne County	54	5,588	9.66
Wilkes County	50	3,009	16.62
Wilson County	37	3,729	9.92
Yadkin County	12	1,683	7.13

Source: NC DPI, Consolidated Data Report 2016-17, Table C4

SUSPENSIONS IN NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In North Carolina, principals have discretion to use several different types of disciplinary measures that remove students from the classroom for varying periods of time:

1. **Short term in-school suspensions or short-term out-of-school suspensions:** suspension lasting up to 10 days for lesser offenses committed by students.
2. **Long-term out-of-school suspensions:** suspension for a serious offense lasting anywhere from 11 days to the remainder of the academic year. For a very serious offense, a student can be suspended for an entire calendar year (365-day suspension). School Superintendents and/or local schools boards often assist the principal in making decisions about long-term suspensions.
3. **Expulsion:** student is permanently removed from the school and cannot return to the home school or another school in the district.

Approximately one out of thirteen North Carolina students received at least one out-of-school short-term suspension in 2016-17. Short-term out-of-school suspensions and expulsions decreased in 2016-17 compared with the previous year; long-term suspensions also decreased from the previous year.⁶

School Suspensions and Expulsions, Trends 2015-16 to 2016-17

Category	2015-16	2016-17	Change
Short-term suspensions	216,895	208,539	Decreased 3.9%

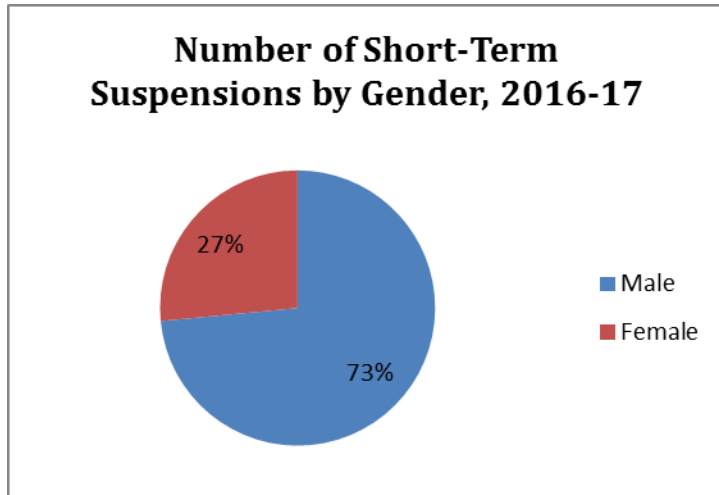
⁶ NC DPI, Consolidated Data Report 2016-17.

Long-term suspensions	1,036	695	Decreased 32.9%
Expulsions	27	18	Decreased 33.3%

Source: NC DPI, Consolidated Data Report 2016-17

DISPROPORTIONATE DISCIPLINE IN NORTH CAROLINA’S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

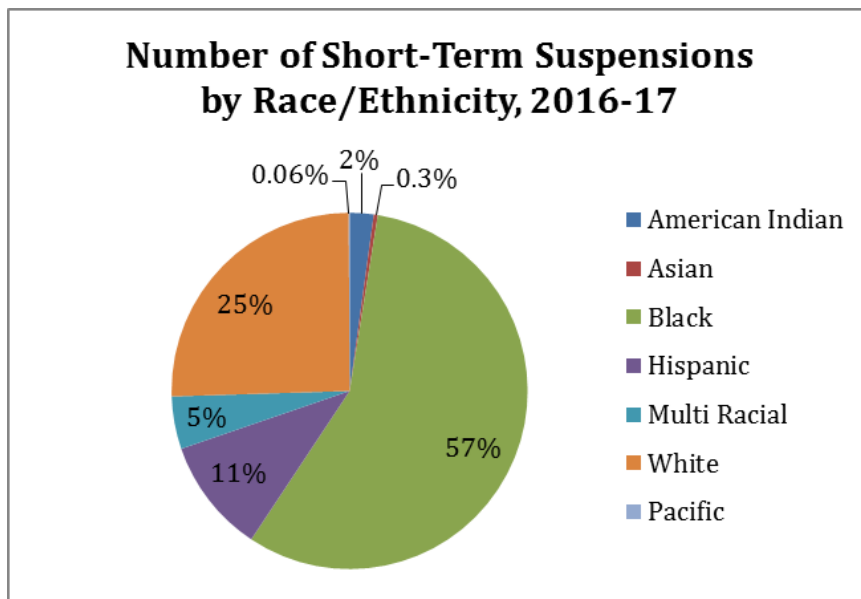
In 2016-17, male students, black students, ninth graders, and students receiving special education services were disproportionately represented among suspended students. For example, the number of short-term suspensions for male students in 2016-17 was 2.77 times higher than for females.⁷ The graphs below represent disproportionalities among suspended and expelled students in North Carolina.



Gender in North Carolina’s schools is close to 50% male, 50% female. When it comes to suspensions and expulsions, 73% of disciplinary action is directed toward males.

Number of Short-Term Suspensions By Gender, 2016-17	
Male	153,228
Female	55,295

Source: NC DPI, Consolidated Data Report 2016-17



Number of Short-Term Suspensions by Race/Ethnicity, 2016-17	
American Indian	4,524
Asian	776
Black	118,398
Hispanic	21,716
Multi Racial	9,958
White	52,985
Pacific	166

Source: NC DPI, Consolidated Data Report 2016-17

⁷ NC DPI, Consolidated Data Report 2016-17.

In 2016-17 the number of short-term suspensions decreased for black, Hispanic, and white students. The number of short-term suspensions increased for multiracial students. As in previous years, black students had the highest rate of short-term suspension in 2016-17, followed by Hispanic students.⁸

MENTAL HEALTH IN NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In addition to physical safety in North Carolina’s public schools, mental health has also been at the forefront of the school safety discussion. School counselors, schools nurses, and school psychologists work with students in a variety of capacities to strengthen mental health services in public schools.

As of 2017, only 45 of 115 school districts across North Carolina meet the school nurse-to-student ratio of 1:750 that is recommended by the State Board of Education, according to a report released by the Program Evaluation Division of the NC General Assembly. Achieving either the 1:750 ratio or providing one nurse in every school (the current recommended standard of the National Association of School Nurses) would cost between \$45 million and \$79 million annually.⁹

List of 45 LEA’s that meet recommended Nurse: Student ratio

Alleghany County	Gates County	Pamlico County
Anson County	Graham County	Perquimans County
Avery County	Greene County	Person County
Bertie County	Halifax County	Polk County
Bladen County	Hertford County	Richmond County
Camden County	Hyde County	Roanoke Rapids City
Caswell County	Jones County	Scotland County
Chapel Hill-Carrboro	Kannapolis City	Swain County
Clay County	Madison County	Thomasville City
Columbus County	Martin County	Tyrell County
Craven County	McDowell County	Vance County
Currituck County	Mitchell County	Warren County
Dare County	Nash-Rocky Mount	Washington County
Duplin County	Northampton County	Weldon City
Edenton/Chowan	Orange County	Whiteville City

Source: Final Report to Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee, November 2017

There is also a shortage of school psychologists, whereby the recommended ratio of school psychologists to students is 1 to 700—but in North Carolina, the actual ratio is one psychologist for every 2,100 students.¹⁰ And for school counselors, the ratio is one counselor for every 386 students, higher than the recommended ratio of 1 to 250.¹¹

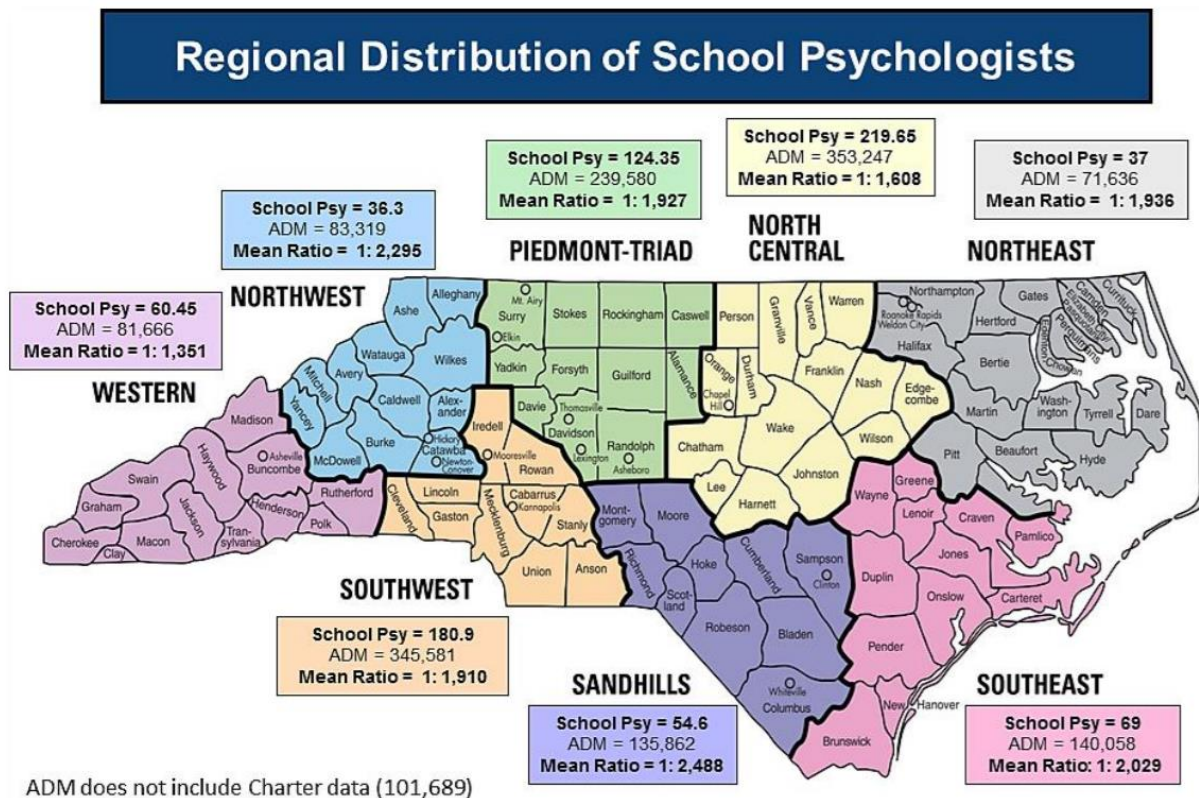
⁸ NC DPI, Consolidated Data Report 2016-17.

⁹ Report Number 2017-04, General Assembly Program Evaluation Division. Available at https://www.ncleg.net/PED/Reports/documents/SchoolNurses/School_Nurses_Report.pdf.

¹⁰ NC School Psychologists 2017-18 Fact Sheet. Available at <http://www.ncspaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Fact-Sheet.NC-School-Psych.2017.pdf>.

¹¹ House Select Committee on School Safety, Student Health Working Group. Available at <https://www.ncleg.net/documents/sites/committees/House2017-190/Student%20Health%20Working%20Group/4-9-18%20Meeting/NCSCA%20Presentation%20to%20NCGA%20-%204.9.18.pdf>.

During the 2018 legislative session, lawmakers introduced a number of proposals aimed at improving school safety, and embedded in some of those plans included language to increase support for school health professionals. However, none of those proposals advanced in the General Assembly in the 2018 short session.



Source: NC DPI 2017-18 North Carolina School Psychology Workforce Report. Available at http://ncdpschoolpsychology.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/file/view/WorkforceReport_SchoolPsychology_2017-2018.pdf/629872131/WorkforceReport_SchoolPsychology_2017-2018.pdf.

NATIONAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT CRIME & VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS

In the past decade, numerous school violence incidents have escalated national concern over school safety. The Office of Safe and Healthy Schools (OSHS) was created after the 2001 passage of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) within the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education in United States Department of Education to address school safety issues across the nation. In December 2015, following the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Office of Safe and Healthy Schools was renamed the Office of Safe and Healthy Students. Since then, Congress has eliminated several programs administered by the OSHS. The Office of Safe and Healthy Students is currently responsible for providing States and localities with monitoring support and technical assistance on the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) program which was newly authorized under subpart 1 of *Title IV*, Part A.

The program helps to support State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), schools, and communities in their efforts to:

- Provide all students with access to a well-rounded education,
- Improve school conditions for student learning, and

- Improve the use of technology in order to improve academic achievement and digital literacy.

OSHS work, programs and resources are organized under the following program units:

- Well-Rounded Educational Opportunities
- Safe and Healthy Students
- Education Technology
- Education for Homeless Children and Youth
- Neglected and Delinquent Youth

Well-Rounded Educational Opportunities

The Well-Rounded Educational Opportunities Unit provides program support and technical assistance on the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) program. Some examples of content support include: college and career guidance and counseling programs, music and arts programs, STEM subjects, accelerated learning programs, history, foreign language, environmental education, promoting volunteerism, and other activities that support a well-rounded education.

Safe and Healthy Students

The Safe and Healthy Students Unit provides program support and technical assistance on the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) program. Some examples of content support include but are not limited to: drug and violence prevention, school-based mental health services, supporting a healthy, active lifestyle, preventing bullying and harassment, mentoring and school counseling, school dropout and reentry programs, and schoolwide positive behavioral interventions and supports.

The Safe and Healthy Students Unit administers the School Climate Transformation, Project Prevent, and Promoting Student Resilience grant programs and a number of interagency agreements: Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant Program (Formula Grants); School Climate Transformation Grant—State Educational Agency Grants Program (Discretionary Grants); School Climate Transformation Grant—Local Educational Agency Grants Program (Discretionary Grants); Project Prevent Grant Program (Discretionary Grants); and Promoting Student Resilience Grant Program (Discretionary Grants).

Another focus of the Safe and Healthy Students Unit is emergency management and school preparedness. This includes programs and technical assistance to improve the ability of schools to prepare for and respond to crises and disasters (natural and man-made). Examples of these programs include: Project SERV (School Emergency Response to Violence), Readiness Emergency Management for Schools grants, Emergency Management for Higher Education grants, homeland security activities; and disaster response coordinated with FEMA and DHS. Additionally, the unit is in close contact with school security police chiefs, school resource officers, and emergency first responders: School Emergency Response to Violence (Project SERV) (Discretionary Grants), Educational Facilities Clearinghouse, and Grants to States for School Emergency Management Grant Program.

Education Technology

The Education Technology Unit provides program support and technical assistance on the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) program. Some examples of content support include but are not limited to: providing school personnel with professional learning tools, building technological capacity and infrastructure, innovative strategies for delivering specialized or rigorous academic courses through the use of technology, blended learning projects, professional development in the use of technology in STEM subjects

(including computer science) and providing students in rural, remote and underserved areas with resources to take advantage of high-quality learning experiences. The Office of Education Technology provides support to States and LEAs.

Education for Homeless Children and Youth

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth Unit provides resources, program support and technical assistance aimed at eliminating enrollment barriers and providing school access and support for academic success for students experiencing homelessness.

Neglected and Delinquent Youth

The Neglected and Delinquent Youth Unit helps to provide education continuity for children in state-run institutions and adult correctional institutions so these children can make successful transitions to school or employment once they are released.

This unit administers the following program: Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youths Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At Risk

Other Associated Program Work

The OSHS also implements other provisions as amended in NCLB. These provisions included the Gun-Free Schools Act, Transfer for Disciplinary Records, Pro-Children Act, and Unsafe School Choice Option.¹²

GUN-FREE SCHOOLS ACT

In order to reestablish the perception of schools as safe havens for learning, nearly all states have developed some sort of crime-free, weapon-free, or safe-school zone statute. Over the past decade, every state has adopted a “zero tolerance” law on weapons at school in compliance with the 1994 federal gun-free schools law. The Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994 required states to pass laws ordering school districts to expel for one year any student who brings a firearm to school. The law, however, does allow districts to modify the expulsions in individual cases.¹³

UNSAFE SCHOOL CHOICE OPTION

NCLB also required all states to implement the Unsafe School Choice Option to ensure that all students that find themselves in dangerous or victimizing situations on public school grounds may be allowed to transfer to another local education agency, including a public charter school.¹⁴

NORTH CAROLINA’S EFFORTS TO MAKE SCHOOLS SAFER

In North Carolina, two historical school safety policies have been implemented in the state during the past few decades. These policies are the Safe Schools Act of 1993 and the School Violence Prevention Act of 2009.

SAFE SCHOOLS ACT OF 1993

In 1993, The North Carolina General Assembly passed the Safe Schools Act. The Act requires LEAs to report certain acts of crime and violence to the State Board of Education. The Act charges all school personnel to

¹² Office of Safe and Healthy Students. Available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/osh/oshprograms.html>.

¹³ Gun-Free Schools Act. Available at <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg54.html#sec4141>.

¹⁴ Unsafe School Choice Option. Available at <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg112.html#sec9532>.

report all unsafe activities to their immediate supervisor and to assist in maintaining a safe, secure and orderly school environment. General Statute 115C-228(g) explains that it is the school principal's responsibility to report certain violent acts to law enforcement.

To evaluate school safety in North Carolina, the State Board of Education must publish an annual report on acts of violence in public schools. The State Board defined 16 criminal acts to be included in its annual report. Nine out of the 16 acts are considered dangerous and violent.

The nine dangerous and violent acts are homicide, assault resulting in serious bodily injury, assault involving the use of a weapon, rape, sexual offense, sexual assault, kidnapping, robbery with a dangerous weapon, and taking indecent liberties with a minor.

The other seven acts included in the State Board of Education's report on acts of violence in public schools include assault on school personnel, bomb threat, burning of a school building, possession of alcoholic beverage, possession of controlled substance in violation of law, possession of a firearm or powerful explosive, and possession of a weapon.

Schools may be labeled "Persistently Dangerous Schools" if a school reports at least two violent criminal offenses and at least five or more of such offenses were committed per thousand students in two consecutive years.¹⁵

SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT OF 2009

Through a bipartisan effort to eliminate bullying and harassment in North Carolina's schools, the North Carolina General Assembly passed the School Violence and Prevention Act in 2009. The Act defines bullying and harassing behavior as any pattern of gestures or written, electronic, or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, that takes place on school property at place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus, and that:

- Places a student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property; or
- Creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits." For purposes of this section, "hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior" (General Statute 115C-407.15a)

Also, the School Violence Prevention Act:

- Requires all schools to adopt policies that clearly define and prohibit bullying and harassment, and to create a clear system of reporting and responding to incidents
- Enumerates specific categories to identify and protect those children statistically shown to be most vulnerable to bullying and harassment
- Protects all students, teachers and staff from violence in schools, and does not assign special rights, special protection or preferred status to any groups or types of students¹⁶

¹⁵ Session Law 1993, Senate Bill 429. Available at <https://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/1993/Bills/Senate/PDF/S429v1.pdf>.

¹⁶ Session Law 2009, Senate Bill 526. Available at <https://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2009/Bills/Senate/HTML/S526v5.html>.

2013 - 2018 LEGISLATION ON SCHOOL SAFETY IN NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina has passed several pieces of legislation related to school safety in the last several years. Below is a brief summary of the key components of recent legislation.

- 1. School Psychologists, School Counselors, and School Social Workers and New Grants:**
 - Directs school counselors to develop a school counseling program with at least 80% of their time dedicated to direct services to students.
 - In 2018-19, \$10 million for grants to public school units to employ additional school mental health support personnel.
 - Legislative intent to appropriate \$10 million for same purpose in 2019-20.
- 2. Grants for School Resource Officers in Elementary and Middle Schools:**
 - Provides grants to local school administrative units, regional schools, and charter schools for hiring or training of resource officers.
 - For every \$1 of local funds dedicated, the state will provide \$2 to supplement funds for school resource officers.
 - \$12 million in grants appropriated for 2018-19.
- 3. Grants for Students in Crisis**
 - \$2 million for community partners engaged in crisis services for targeted, intensive therapies for 2018-19.
- 4. Panic Alarm Systems & Grants for School Safety Equipment:**
 - Requires local boards of education to adopt emergency response plans relating to incidents of school violence.
 - Requires every school to have a panic alarm system that connects with the nearest local law enforcement agency by July 1, 2015.
 - For every \$1 of local funds dedicated for panic alarm systems in local school administrative units, regional schools, and charter schools, the state will provide \$1 of matching funds.
 - In 2018-19, \$3 million in grants for school safety equipment generally.
- 5. School Safety Exercises:**
 - Encourages all local school administrative units to hold a system-wide school safety and school lockdown exercise every two years.
 - In addition, schools are encouraged to hold an independent school-wide lockdown exercise at least once a year.
- 6. Schematic Diagrams of School Facilities:**
 - Requires each LEA to provide a schematic diagram of school facilities to local law enforcement agencies.
 - If an LEA does not have a schematic diagram, it is required to develop diagrams prior to the 2014-2015 school year to share with local law enforcement agencies.
- 7. Statewide Anonymous Safety Tip Line Application:**
 - Encourages local school administrative units to operate an anonymous tip line to relay information on risks to school facilities and school-related activities.
- 8. School Safety Component of School Improvement Plans:**
 - Restructures the statute governing school improvement plans to implement the following changes:
 - i. Deliberations on school safety components must be held in closed session.
 - ii. All other aspects of the school improvement plan besides safety provisions must be public record and published on school's website.

- iii. Requires the superintendent to review and make recommendations on the safety components of the plan to the local board of education.

9. Crisis Kits:

- Provides that NC DPI, in conjunction with the NC Department of Public Safety, may develop and adopt policies on the content and placement of crisis kits in schools.
- Kits should contain first-aid supplies, communications devices, and other items recommended by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

10. School Safety for Charter Schools and Regional Schools:

- Encourages charter schools and regional schools to adopt emergency response plans in coordination with local law enforcement agencies.
- Encourages charter schools and regional schools to provide schematic diagrams to local law enforcement agencies and hold school-wide safety and lockdown exercises annually.

11. Emergency, Crisis & School Safety Training:

- Encourages the Departments of Public Safety, Justice, and Public Instruction to develop school emergency and crisis training modules for school employees.
- \$3 million for School Safety training to help students respond to trauma and stress.

12. School Risk and Response Management System

- Acquisition and incorporation of site specific school facility data into state database.
- Digital School Risk Management Planning Tool - School Emergency Response Application.
- Digital Panic Alarm Application.
- Training, exercises and drills.

13. Volunteer School Safety Resource Officer Program:

- Allows non-salaried special deputies to serve as volunteer school safety resource officers (volunteer SROs) with the power of arrest in public schools.
- Volunteer SROs must:
 - i. Have at least 2 years of prior experience as a law enforcement officer.
 - ii. Be trained on the social and cognitive development of students.
 - iii. Work under the guidance of the sheriff or chief of police.
 - iv. Gain certification by NC Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission.
 - v. Pass a standard medical examination.