

BUREAU OF SCHOOL SECURITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

This proposal provides information and recommendations on the establishment of a security and federal law enforcement entity under the U.S. Department of Education to focus on investigations of threats to schools, intelligence assessments, assessing risk, standardizing physical security policy, upgrading physical security and more. A framework for this type of entity has already exists within the U.S. and is currently operational; the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, U.S. Department of State.

Securing America's
Schools

To: [REDACTED]

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Synopsis: Since the founding of the United States of America countless federal law enforcement agencies have been established to counter threats within the homeland. In 1789 the U.S. Marshals Service was created to protect government witnesses. In 1790 the Federal Protective Service was created to protect U.S. government facilities. In 1865 the United States Secret Service (USSS) was created to stamp out counterfeit currency and later to protect U.S. presidents. In 1919 the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Criminal Investigative Division was created to investigate tax related fraud, currency violations and money laundering. In 1973 President Nixon executed an Executive Order establishing the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to enforce federal drug laws. Finally, in 2002 President Bush created the Department of Homeland Security in response to the 9/11 terror attacks. In 2022, after nearly eight years of consistent rise in violent gun crime in schools there is *still* no coordinated effort nor consolidated entity that leads an effort to keep our ***children*** within our public schools safe.

As highlighted in this report, a potential solution to begin mitigating violent acts in schools is the establishment of a federal law enforcement entity to coordinate security and investigative activities of public schools. A framework for this proposal already exists within another branch of government ***not*** dedicated to law enforcement, the U.S. Department of State (DOS). The DOS – while a foreign policy department – employs over 2,000 federal law enforcement agents worldwide at U.S. diplomatic facilities. The Bureau has a command center, analysts, technical personnel and more. Similarly, the Department of Education also is not dedicated to law enforcement. An entity whose sole focus is securing America's schools, its teachers and staff could contribute to a safer and more secure public school system in America.

Details:

The United States currently faces hundreds of thousands of threats and actual accounts of violent crime - shootings, stabbings, and threats of both - in U.S. schools each year. The injuries and deaths of our most vulnerable and most precious, our children, has increased and continues to increase year after year yet this threat has failed to be addressed.

The United States has nearly 98,800 public schools spanning across the nation. Many of these schools have a limited budget, inadequate resources, and lack skilled and appropriately trained personnel to keep our schools secure and children safe. In addition, many of the local law enforcement entities in these districts also lack adequate training, tools, and budget to respond accordingly.

The information below and attached deck is a recommendation for the U.S. government to consider the establishment of a Bureau of School Security (BSS) under the Department of Education. The BSS

would be led by an Under Secretary for School Security with a professional background in law enforcement and physical security.

Additionally, the BSS would focus on the following:

1. Developing standardized policies and procedures for all public schools nationwide
2. Provide initial and annual risk assessments of all schools based on identified metrics
3. Implementation of physical and technical security measures based on developed standards
4. Training of school personnel and local law enforcement
5. Conduct investigations and pursue prosecution of threats and actual accounts of violence at each school
6. Provide intelligence, analysis and investigations support of threats and actual accounts of violence within Regional Field Offices and through a National Command Center (NCC)
7. Collaborate with BSS Office of Medical Services to identify at risk individuals and take appropriate action
8. Liaison with local, state, and federal government officials, law enforcement officials, fire and emergency medical services, congress and others

In order for the federal government to enforce federal law appropriate statutes must be developed. An initial proposal for congress to pursue the creation of federal statutes that encompass both violent threats and violent crimes in school should be considered.

As most federal law enforcement entities operate under law enforcement and security departments (Dept of Justice and Department of Homeland Security) it is imperative to consider the success of other federal law enforcement agencies operating under non-law enforcement and non-security Departments such as the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) of the U.S. Department of State. The DSS under the leadership of the U.S. Department of State, a department dedicated for foreign policy, can be considered as a framework for the BSS operating under the leadership under the Department of Education.

The DSS operates at over 285 overseas posts in 170 countries. A FY21 budget indicates a budget of approximately 5.38 billion primarily focused on protective services, embassy security, construction and maintenance. This includes but is not limited to extremely expensive items such as armored vehicles, electronic counter measures, hardline and bullet resistant windows and doors, other advanced protective equipment, and thousands of highly paid, experienced security personnel worldwide.

U.S. schools, although operating at a much higher number, are rarely, if ever, the top target on a terrorist or criminals target list. What this means is that the amount of security personnel at each school and types of expensive protective equipment would minimize the overall cost. I propose that a BSS could potentially operate under a 7-billion dollar budget in the initial years, reducing costs incrementally as each year passes.

A *draft* organization of the BSS and responsibilities could be considered as indicated below:

Bureau of School Security (BSS) - Department of Education

BSS/Office of the Under Secretary for School Security

BSS/Field Division - Investigations

- Regional Offices - (locations TBD)-

Team Members:

- SAC, ASAC, Supervisory Special Agent, Special Agents
- Intelligence Specialist
- Investigations Support Specialist
- Security Specialist Supervisor
 - Security Specialists
 - Security Engineer
 - Security Technical Specialists
- Mobile Training Team
- Mental Health Counselor(s)

BSS/Threat Intelligence and Analysis (TIA)

- Command Center
 - Leadership
 - Intelligence Analysts
 - Investigations Support Specialist
- Office of Threat and Risk Assessment
 - Physical Security Specialists
 - Security Analysts

BSS/Office of Training and Standards

- Training Special Agents on Statutes (All Agents must attend the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center - FLETC)
 - Training for Security Specialists
 - Training for Security Technical Specialists
- Mobile Training Teams
- School Personnel Training

- Law Enforcement Response Training

BSS/Office of Physical Security

- Risk assessments, physical security policy development, implementation and oversight
- Security technology installation, maintenance, and/or vendor management
 - ❖ Could be outsourced with oversight from a Physical Security Specialist

BSS/Office of Mental Health

- Mental Health Counselors/Psychiatrists - policy example: counselor meets with each student 2x per year for a 15 minute "check-in" - should an issue be identified student will be recommended for further evaluation by a PsyD.

BSS/Office of Government and Law Enforcement Liaison

- Local, State and Federal Liaison LE Liaison
- Local, State, and Federal Exec Liaison
- Congressional Liaison

BSS/Office of Professional Responsibility - internal investigations

- Misconduct within the BSS

BSS/Office of Administration -

- Office of General Counsel
- Communications
- Legislative Affairs
- Human Resources
 - Employee Relations/HRBP
 - Talent Acquisition
 - Candidate Experience
- Finance
- Operations

Conclusion: Violent crimes in America's schools continues to increase. The United States currently has no coordinated effort or consolidated entity dedicated to monitoring and investigating threats and securing its public schools. This proposal supports the need to establish a Bureau of School Security under the Department of Education. The federal government has previously created multiple federal law enforcement entities to investigate taxes and tax fraud, protect federal government buildings, and counterfeit currency. I propose that the need to protect our children safe at school supersedes the need to investigate taxes, protect government buildings, and combat counterfeit currency.