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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

August 6, 2024



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### SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE MEETING — JULY 25, 2024

**Meeting.** The School Safety Task Force established by [House File 2652](#) (School Safety Plans and Improvements Act), met for a regular meeting on July 25, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Safety's headquarters in Des Moines.

**Safe and Sound.** Joe Willoughby with the Governor's School Safety Bureau provided information to the Task Force on [Safe and Sound](#), a free, anonymous school threat reporting tool for students, teachers, and parents. Willoughby reported that the program receives approximately 30 tips a month and that in the 2023-2024 academic year, eight arrests were made because of tips made through the system. Tips can be made for any school district in the State, and the program has at least one staff contact in over 800 buildings in the State.

**School Vulnerability Assessments.** The Task Force received a report on school vulnerability assessments and the [School Safety Improvement Fund](#) from the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Since the Fund's inception, \$5.0 million has been spent from the Fund, and schools that complete a vulnerability assessment can apply for up to \$50,000 per school building to "implement recommended safety measure capital improvements identified through the vulnerability assessment." The most needed improvements include the following:

- Vehicle barriers.
- Bullet-resistant glass.
- Emergency radios.
- Door hardware.
- Video surveillance.

**Target Hardening.** The Task Force received a report on "target hardening" schools. The report covered various safety infrastructure options to stop, slow, or deter a shooter.

**Next Meeting.** The School Safety Task Force's next meeting is August 9, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Safety Headquarters in Des Moines.

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