
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

October 16, 2024



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE MEETING — OCTOBER 10, 2024

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

Presentations. The following two presentations were given to the Task Force:

- **Law Enforcement Radio Capabilities.** Captain Hove, Iowa State Patrol, discussed the capabilities of law enforcement's and first responders' quad band radios (700/800MHz UHF/VHF) within schools. Captain Hove addressed the in-building coverage concerns of communication quality being either degraded or completely lost between radios. This presents risk for emergency responders when inside highly attended areas. Captain Hove discussed the advantage of Bi-Directional Antenna (BDA) installations in buildings in which this occurs, including the provision for new construction, to support a higher grade of communication.
- **States with New Construction Safety Requirements.** Catherine Lucas with the DPS presented building code changes and requirements implemented or considered by other states to improve school safety. Legislative and administrative actions covered in the presentation include the following:
 - Texas Administrative Code [19 TAC §61.1031](#).
 - Tennessee [House Bill 0322](#).
 - Utah [House Bill 84](#).
 - Missouri [House Bill 1108](#) (Senate Committee recommended the legislation, but it was not passed).
 - Delaware Code [Title 14, Section 2306](#).
 - Alabama [Senate Bill 98](#).

Discussion on Recommendations. The Task Force discussed several topics, including controlled school access, security film on windows and doors, classroom interior door-locking mechanisms, and classroom door barricades. It was decided that recommendation statements will be prepared for the Task Force's next meeting with the intent to vote to refine these recommendations for the December report to the General Assembly.

Next Meeting. The Task Force's next meeting is October 24, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the DPS Headquarters in Des Moines.

LSA Staff Contacts: Nathan Moore (515.725.0155) nathan.moore@legis.iowa.gov
Michael Peters (515.281.6934) michael.peters@legis.iowa.gov

Doc ID 1462821