Abridgment:

Program:

The Comprehensive School Safety Program (CSSP) oversees Omnibus School Safety Act compliance. The goal of the Act is to enhance public safety in all of Delaware’s public and charter schools by utilizing comprehensive, site-specific, National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant safety and emergency preparedness plans, and requiring each public and charter school to hold one tabletop exercise and two lockdown/intruder drills per academic school year. This Act is intended to promote a cohesive and coordinated approach between emergency responders, education professionals and other supporting agencies during a critical incident within a school setting.

Team:

The Comprehensive School Safety Program has been managed since March 2019 by two extensively trained individuals with over 50 years combined experience in law enforcement, school safety, and mental health. This team oversees over 226 Public and Charter Schools. Such oversight in addition to the Omnibus requirements consists of training on Active Threat situations, mental health topics, prevention strategies, mitigation strategies, conducting in depth school assessments, and assisting with lock downs and tabletop exercises. Their commitment to school safety is impeccable as they have accomplished several goals in a short facet of time and have set many more vital goals for the future. They have also been dedicated to creating partnerships statewide with all stake holders to facilitate the bridging of gaps.

Accomplishments:

The team has accomplished numerous missions and goals despite the short time span of only twelve months prior to COVID-19.

Trained and/or assisted with the following:

- Emergency Response Information Portal: 149 Individuals trained
- ALICE Active Assailant Training: 602 Individuals trained
- Assessments: 5 conducted
- Table-Tops:58 Individuals trained/assist
- Functional Exercise: 1 assist
- Reunification Training: 120 Individuals trained
- Audits: 2 Conducted
• Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design: 17 Certified
• Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines/Behavioral Threat Assessment (Cancelled due to COVID)
• Youth Mental Health First Aid (Cancelled due to COVID)

Implemented/Established:

• Newsletter/Informational Materials
• Guidelines and standards created to assist with compliance with Omnibus Safety Act requirements
• After Action Reports
• Facility Infrastructure Assessments
• Creation of plug and play table-top templates

Goals:

The team will continue to work on many initiatives, especially those that promote proactive/preventative measures such as adding additional requirements to run concurrent with The Omnibus Safety Act to include:

• Required annual infrastructure facility assessments
• Required training for all school employees to include NIMS, de-escalation, and mental health topics
• Anonymous mobile reporting application for staff and students to be able to report suspicious and concerning behaviors as well as address individual mental health needs
• Statewide Behavioral Threat Assessment structure, forms, policies, procedures, and housing platform to standardize all behavioral threat assessments conducted on school children across Delaware
• Interactive Floor Plans for all schools that will work across all electronic platforms to include patrol vehicles, dispatch centers and command posts for both security and daily use purposes
• Provide outreach to include educational and informational opportunities for students and care givers regarding safety and self-care
• Collaboration and partnership with The Department of Education to work seamlessly on all facets of school safety to include funding, resources, and training.