

# WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY REPORT

2023-2024



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION



**West Virginia Board of Education  
2024-2025**

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# West Virginia School Safety Conference

October 16-17, 2024



The 2024 West Virginia School Safety Conference was held in collaboration between the Mountain State Education Services Cooperative, the West Virginia Department of Education, and the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security. Keynote and session speakers discussed safety topics such as human trafficking, digital safety, school shooting incidents, emergency management, crisis response, strategic safety planning, and more.



Photos courtesy of Mountain State Educational Services Cooperative

# Introduction

In compliance with the provisions of W. Va. Code §18-5-48, the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) conducts an annual survey to obtain information from the county boards of education, the multi-county vocational centers, public charter schools, and the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (WVSDB) regarding the safety and security measures implemented to secure its school facilities. It is important to note that all safety and security measures implemented in the state’s public schools are a result of local commitment and investment. For the purpose of this report, the data obtained through the survey and included herein has been organized and prioritized to provide a comprehensive view of not only the school safety and security measures that were implemented for SY 2023-2024, but also the Local Education Agencies’ (LEA) funding requests for additional measures necessary to provide a more secure learning environment for West Virginia’s students.

<b>Number of West Virginia Public Schools 2023-2024</b>	
Primary Schools	29
Elementary Schools	334
Middle Schools	149
Secondary Schools	115
County Career Technical Centers	21
County Alternative Schools	17
Multi-County Technical Centers	7
West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind	1
Public Charter Schools	6
<b>Total Number of West Virginia Public Schools</b>	<b>679</b>

# Definitions

**Access Controls:** Systems used to control entry into or within a facility. (Examples: Card Readers, Key Fobs, and Biometric Systems)

**Communication and Coordination:** Systems used to translate critical information between safety and security stakeholders or to align and organize responses. (Examples: Radios, Intercoms, Panic Buttons, Mobile Notification Applications, and Rapid Information Access)

**FTE:** Unit of measure defining a full-time employment position as a whole or in partial equivalents. (Example: a single full-time (1.0) and two half-time (0.5) positions would be equivalent to 2.0 full-time equivalent positions)

**Physical Security Upgrades:** The construction or installation of enhancements that physically alter or add to a facility. (Examples: Safe School Entries, Fencing, Barriers, Windows, Doors, Door Hardware, Window Security Film, and Classroom Door Barricades)

**PRO:** A Prevention Resource Officer is a cooperative effort between schools and law enforcement to improve students' attitudes and knowledge of criminal justice and law enforcement; prevent kids from committing crimes; mentor youth with law enforcement officers to provide a safer school environment; and combine safety and child advocacy, thereby ensuring a better school experience for all West Virginia students. A PRO is a sworn law enforcement officer. (As defined by the West Virginia Division of Administrative Services)

**Safety and Security Measures:** Action taken by a county board of education, a public charter school, or multicounty vocational center that improves the security of a school facility and the safety of the students within such facility, including, but not limited to, hiring a school resource officer, installing weapon detection systems and/or upgrading facility doors or windows. (*W. Va. Code §18-5-48(b)*)

**Safe School Entries (mantrap):** A system of doors and barriers that physically control access to a facility and interactions with visitors, staff, and students. A safe school entry provides a single point of entry and exit that is monitored and limits multiple points of entry vulnerability.

**Security Officers:** Any staff member employed by law enforcement or the county to provide safety and security services. (Examples: PRO/SRO, Security Guards, and County Safety Directors)

**SRO:** School Resource Officers are sworn law enforcement officers who are a part of a local law enforcement agency but are assigned to a school district to provide protective services. These officers become integral to the school environments they serve and build meaningful relationships with school employees and students.

**Surveillance and Monitoring:** Systems used to visually observe a school facility or bus which may include the capacity to recognize and make alerts based on facial recognition capabilities. (Examples: Cameras, Facial Recognition, and Alarm Systems)

**Training and Preparedness:** Systems put in place that train staff and students on current emergency response practices, identify vulnerabilities, and maximize resource accessibility. (Examples: Emergency Drills, Training, and Planning)

**Weapon Detection Systems:** Systems used to physically or intelligently detect weapons as people approach or enter a facility. (Examples: Metal Detectors and Artificial Intelligence Weapon Detection)

# Prioritized Breakdown for School Safety and Security Measures

## Priority One – Safe School Entries (Pursuant to W. Va. Code §18-5-48(c))

Total number of schools with safe school entries (mantraps):	389
Total number of schools with safe school entries (mantraps) still needed:	272
<b>Total amount requested for safe school entries (mantraps):</b>	<b>\$86,738,336</b>

## Priority Two – Prevention and Resource Officers

School Resource Officer (SRO) | Prevention Resource Officer (PRO) | Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)

Total number of schools with a full-time SRO in 2023-2024:	94
Total number of schools with a part-time SRO in 2023-2024:	85
Total number of SROs needed, including part-time services (Reported as FTE):	200
Total amount requested for the needed SROs based on an average cost of \$92,000	\$18,400,000
Total number of schools with a full-time PRO in 2023-2024:	74
Total number of schools with a part-time PRO in 2023-2024:	84
Total number of PROs needed, including part-time services (Reported as FTE):	129
Total amount requested for the needed PROs based on an average cost of \$92,000	\$11,822,000
<b>Total amount requested for SROs and PROs:</b>	<b>\$30,222,000</b> <i>(Annual Recurring Cost)</i>

## Priority Three – Window and Door Security Upgrades

Total number of schools needing window and door security upgrades (Does not include main secure entries):	151
<b>Total amount requested for window and door security upgrades:</b>	<b>\$32,485,037</b>

## Priority Four – Weapon Detection Systems

Total number of schools with a weapon detection system:	131
Total number of schools needing weapon detection systems:	155
Total amount requested for physical weapon detection systems:	\$9,700,000
Total amount requested for technology-based weapon detection systems:	\$14,974,579
<b>Total amount requested for weapon detection systems:</b>	<b>\$24,674,579</b>

## Priority Five – Security Lighting

Total number of schools needing additional security lighting:	84
<b>Total amount requested for security lighting:</b>	<b>\$4,084,850</b>

# Prioritized Breakdown for School Safety and Security Measures continued

## Priority Six – Security Barriers

Total number of schools needing additional security bollards, checks, or fencing:	176
<b>Total amount requested for security barriers:</b>	<b>\$7,623,000</b>

## Priority Seven – Security Cameras

Total number of cameras needed to provide video coverage in classrooms, corridors, gyms, dining areas, auditoriums, entries, outdoor areas, and other uncovered spaces:	17,821
<b>Total amount requested for additional security cameras:</b>	<b>\$31,961,178</b>

## Priority Eight – “Other” Security Needs

Other safety and security needs include county security directors, access controls, communication systems, event security, signage, improved access roads, and other miscellaneous needs:	
<b>Total amount requested for “other” security needs:</b>	<b>\$39,829,350</b>

## Requested Information – Road Access

Number of schools needing additional vehicular and emergency access roads:	177
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## Local Expenditures and Requested State Funds for Safety and Security Measures

	Categories of Newly Implemented Measures in SY 2023-2024							2023-2024 <b>Local Expenditures</b> <small>Total local funds spent and specifically tagged in WVEIS under the safety and security codes includes the cost of existing and new measures.</small>	2024-2025 <b>Total Request for Safety and Security Measures from State Funds</b>
	Physical Security Upgrades	Surveillance and Monitoring	Access Controls	Communication and Coordination	Training and Preparedness	Weapon Detection Systems	Security Officers and Staff		
<b>County Boards of Education</b>									
Barbour County	X			X				\$10,692	\$1,763,092
Berkeley County	X	X		X				\$1,732,090	\$12,308,350
Boone County			X	X			X	\$144,700	\$2,165,000
Braxton County				X			X	\$1,000,000	\$5,704,700
Brooke County	X	X	X	X			X	\$232,330	\$1,581,000
Cabell County		X		X			X	\$1,033,905	\$29,930,000
Calhoun County	X							\$1,217,559	\$806,000
Clay County	X						X	\$19,470	\$2,615,427
Doddridge County	X	X		X		X		\$201,495	\$200,000
Fayette County	X		X	X		X	X	\$225,594	\$1,770,000
Gilmer County	X	X		X				\$72,950	\$408,000
Grant County	X	X	X			X	X	\$210,932	\$3,706,000
Greenbrier County			X					\$452,612	\$750,000
Hampshire County	X		X					\$35,972	\$2,844,476
Hancock County							X	-	\$480,000
Hardy County	X		X	X				\$148,139	\$1,511,220
Harrison County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	\$1,700,000	\$4,698,000
Jackson County				X			X	\$445,898	\$8,909,000
Jefferson County	X	X	X					\$525,580	\$3,026,000
Kanawha County	X	X	X	X	X		X	\$1,462,194	\$16,394,000
Lewis County	X		X		X			\$633,695	\$493,200
Lincoln County	X		X				X	\$11,000	\$858,000
Logan County	X			X	X			\$309,734	\$2,318,000
Marion County		X		X	X			\$624,190	\$7,623,000
Marshall County		X	X	X	X			\$724,068	\$986,000

Categories of Newly Implemented Measures in SY 2023-2024								2023-2024 Total Local Expenditures	2024-2025 Total Request for State Funds
Physical Security	Surveillance	Access Controls	Communication	Training & Prep	Weapon Detection	Officers & Staff	No New Systems		

**County Boards of Education Continued**

Mason County	X	X		X				\$412,682	\$7,312,000
McDowell County	X			X				\$1,700,000	\$3,476,000
Mercer County		X						\$343,505	\$12,973,006
Mineral County	X	X	X		X			\$500,000	\$4,236,000
Mingo County	X	X		X				\$580,000	\$5,454,000
Monongalia County	X	X				X		\$380,134	\$8,113,650
Monroe County	X	X				X		\$343,534	\$253,712
Morgan County					X			\$12,883	\$4,076,000
Nicholas County							X	\$200,954	\$4,855,000
Ohio County	X			X	X		X	\$972,199	\$5,530,000
Pendleton County		X	X	X				\$451,630	\$450,000
Pleasants County	X	X						\$16,877	\$406,000
Pocahontas County		X						\$112,000	\$10,094,000
Preston County				X				\$618,590	\$3,997,000
Putnam County				X		X		\$764,913	\$3,424,000
Raleigh County	X							\$514,691	\$8,238,600
Randolph County	X			X				\$154,836	\$4,081,597
Ritchie County			X	X	X			\$128,490	\$2,356,000
Roane County		X						\$54,369	\$4,487,300
Summers County	X	X	X	X				\$36,934	\$6,934,000
Taylor County		X	X	X		X		\$18,837	\$2,268,000
Tucker County	X	X						\$13,880	\$1,092,000
Tyler County			X	X	X		X	\$467,467	\$92,000
Upshur County	X	X		X	X		X	\$283,191	\$1,772,000
Wayne County	X	X						\$188,010	\$12,111,000
Webster County	X	X	X					\$2,566	\$10,912,000
Wetzel County	X			X	X			\$243,347	\$2,200,000
Wirt County	X	X						\$4,040	\$3,670,000
Wood County		X			X		X	\$283,242	\$3,050,000
Wyoming County	X							\$39,534	\$900,000

Categories of Newly Implemented Measures in SY 2023-2024								2023-2024 Total Local Expenditures	2024-2025 Total Request for State Funds
Physical Security	Surveillance	Access Controls	Communication	Training and Prep	Weapon Detection	Officers and Staff	No New Systems		
<b>Multicounty Vocational Centers and West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind</b>									
Calhoun-Gilmer Career Center							X	-	\$200,000
Fred W. Eberle Technical Center							X	-	\$359,000
James Rumsey Technical Institute			X	X				\$36,500	\$150,000
Mid-Ohio Technical Institute	X			X				-	-
Roane Jackson Technical Center				X				-	\$196,000
South Branch Career and Technical Center		X						\$20,000	\$659,000
United Technical Center	X							\$303,999	\$634,000
WVSDB	X	X	X					\$125,000	\$2,375,000
<b>Public Charter Schools</b>									
Eastern Panhandle Preparatory Academy							X	\$694	\$340,000
Virtual Preparatory Academy	No Information Provided								
West Virginia Academy	No Information Provided								
West Virginia Virtual Academy							X	-	-
WIN Academy			X					\$3,375	-
Clarksburg Classical Academy	X	X						\$37,456	\$42,000
								<b>Total Local Expenditures For SY 2023-2024</b>	<b>Total Request for State Funds for SY 2024-2025</b>
								<b>\$23,545,158</b>	<b>\$257,618,330</b>





Michele L. Blatt  
West Virginia Superintendent of Schools