



National School Shield

Safeguarding our children



NRA™

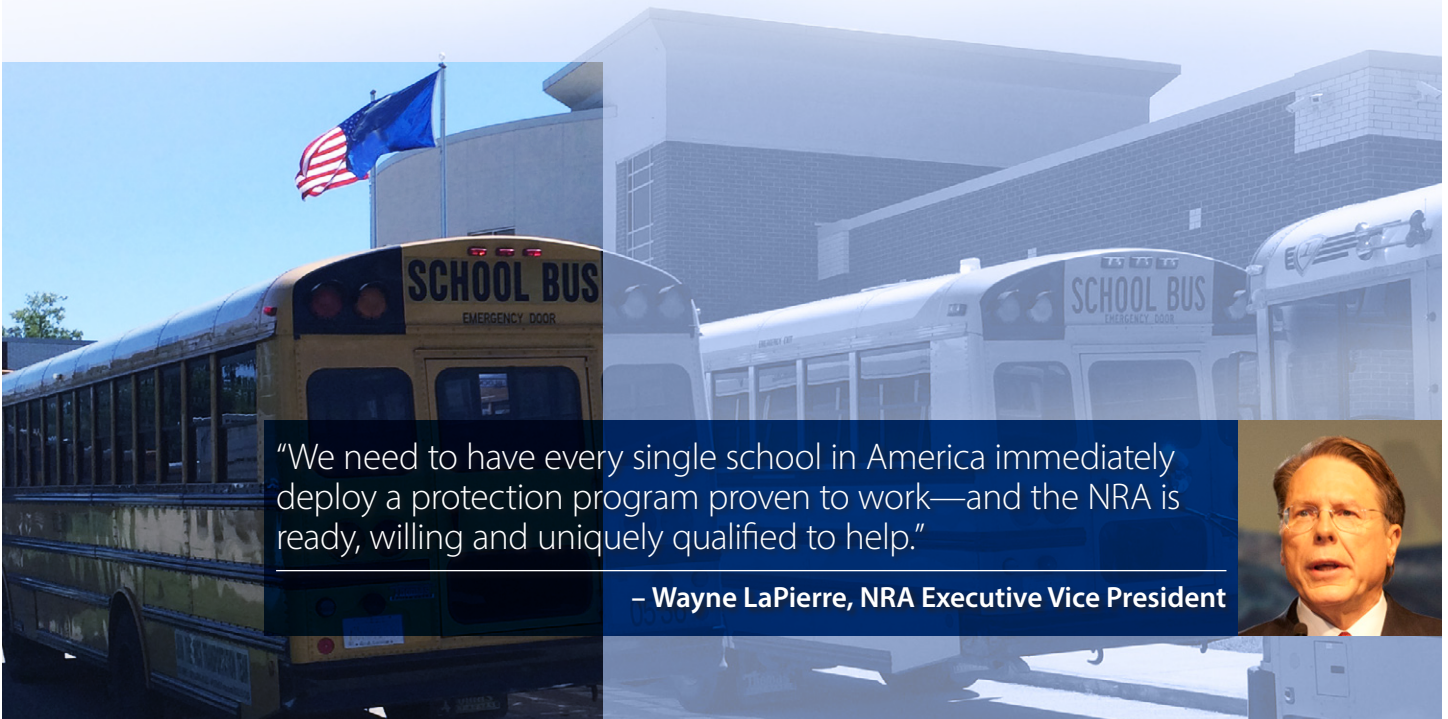


Background

In December 2012, the National Rifle Association of America introduced a new initiative focused on improving school security in an effort to help prevent national tragedies at educational institutions in America. The National School Shield (NSS) Task Force—led by former congressman and assistant secretary for homeland security Asa Hutchinson—assembled a team of security experts and, four months later, the group issued an official report documenting a clear need to address school violence and offering recommendations on best practices in school security.

The NSS Task Force found there has been insufficient attention paid to school security needs in our nation. While there are numerous government agencies and programs that provide valuable school safety resources, there is a lack of coordination between the agencies resulting in gaps, duplication and inefficiencies. Furthermore, for schools that want to comprehensively address security matters, persistent funding challenges often prevent districts from implementing necessary changes and can even lead to the elimination of once-successful school security programs.

School security is a complex issue. The NSS is committed to addressing the many facets of school security, including best practices in security infrastructure, technology, personnel, training, and policy. Through this multidimensional effort, the NSS seeks to engage communities and empower leaders to help make our schools more secure.



“We need to have every single school in America immediately deploy a protection program proven to work—and the NRA is ready, willing and uniquely qualified to help.”

– Wayne LaPierre, NRA Executive Vice President





Mission and Objectives

The National School Shield program has ONE singular mission: to protect our children.

Recognizing that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to school security, the NSS program seeks to facilitate a continuum of assessment and improvement for all schools to integrate as their needs demand. Based on the findings and recommendations of the NSS Task Force, the NSS established four main goal areas to support our mission:

- Awareness: Make available best practices in school security to help guide schools in the development of school security policies.
- Education: Provide expert guidance on an ideal training curriculum for school security and offer training opportunities in subject matters as appropriate.
- Advocacy: Serve as an advocate for matters of school security, encouraging all communities to strive for fundamental measures of protection.
- Grant Funding: Fund projects and training opportunities for school districts in need through The NRA Foundation Inc.

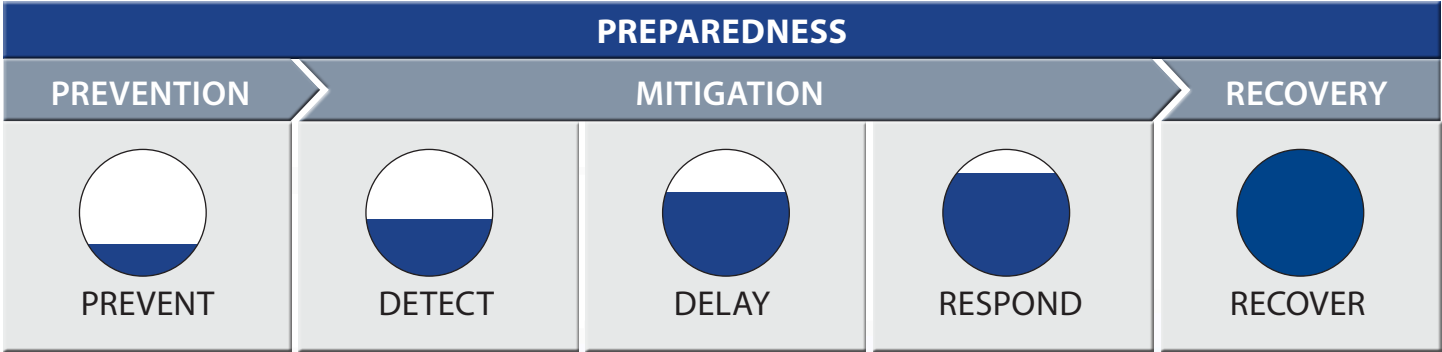
The NSS program deliverables strategically fall along a continuum of assessment and improvement:





Approach

The National School Shield program has adopted a 360-degree approach to preparedness in school security. In referencing the SANDIA Risk Assessment Methodology (RAM) for Physical Security coupled with the findings as presented in the 2013 NSS Report, NSS believes an effective school security plan includes measures of Prevention, Mitigation, and Recovery. Using best practice efforts, schools can position themselves to prevent, or limit, violent acts from occurring. However, should a threat materialize, schools should have systems in place to be able to detect a threat early and delay the threat long enough for an appropriate response. Effective security system functions (detection, delay, and response) must be integrated to ensure maximum protection. During recovery, a proper after-action review should occur to allow for the security process to come full circle and locate any areas for improvement to maximize security system functions for overall preparedness in the future.





Resources

The National School Shield program offers a variety of tools to make schools more secure. These include:



Dedicated Website/Resource Center

Populated with comprehensive content designed to inform, educate, and guide visitors on best practices in school security. Materials will focus on overall preparedness with specific focus on prevention, mitigation, and recovery featuring guidance on topics including but not limited to threat assessment, pre-incident indicators, physical security, emergency plans and training exercises.



Online School Security Self-Assessment

Free web-based self-assessment tool for every public, private and parochial schools. Assists schools in identifying strengths as well as areas for further review and potential improvement using industry performance guidelines centered on preparedness, prevention, mitigation and recovery.



School Security Assessor Training

An extension of the School Security Self-Assessment, participants will be trained to assist schools in the identification of common vulnerabilities and security risks based on a live assessment of the school. Using methodology centered on the principles of preparedness, prevention, mitigation, and recovery, attendees will learn how to assess school security based on industry standards and best practices.



Grant Funding

The National School Shield is committed to generating the funding necessary to sustain a consistent and accessible source of financial support made available to schools across America through grants from The NRA Foundation. These funds will be available for schools to request in order to complete projects and activities focused on improving school security nationwide. Individual grants will be awarded subject to funding availability and NRA Foundation Board approval.



Call to Action

With an online resource center featuring best practices in school security, a self-assessment tool identifying areas for review, comprehensive assessor training for on-site assessments, and a grant program to help fund school security projects and activities, NSS can directly support schools looking to make vital security improvements. The NRA, our members and supporters wholeheartedly believe there is nothing more critical to our nation's well-being than our children's safety, and the National School Shield is our commitment to that effort.

We encourage all interested to share this information with their local schools and let them know we have resources that may be helpful as they seek to secure their buildings and protect our children.

We are all stakeholders in making our schools more secure and the National School Shield is ready and willing to help.



"There is nothing more critical to our nation's well-being than our children's safety. They are this country's future and her most precious resource. Assurance of school safety must be restored with a sense of urgency."

– Asa Hutchinson, founding director of the National School Shield