

8:00 – 8:50 a.m.

PennSSI Tour and Demonstrations

8:00 – 8:50 a.m.

Check-in/Registration and Light Breakfast

8:50 – 9:00 a.m.

Welcoming and Opening Remarks

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Managing Social Media Threats, Hoaxes & Misinformation in Schools

Presenter: Crawford Gingrich, Director, Pennsylvania School Safety Institute (PennSSI)

This session provides school leaders and safety teams with practical strategies to address the growing challenges posed by social media in educational environments. Explore how threats, hoaxes and misinformation spread rapidly online, creating fear, disrupting operations and straining resources. The session emphasizes understanding student motivations, monitoring digital behavior, and implementing structured response protocols, such as verification, threat assessment frameworks and law enforcement coordination. Additionally, the presentation highlights effective crisis communication principles, prevention through digital literacy, proactive monitoring tools, and long-term strategies like policy updates and dedicated response teams, all aimed at maintaining trust, safety and resilience in school communities.

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Energy Break

10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Enhancing School Safety and Security: Federal Resources to Protect the K-12 Community

Michael Kapuscinski, Domestic Security Strategist - USSS NTAC and Taylor Hartwell, Social Science Research Specialist - USSS NTAC

This session will discuss the latest insights and resources in school safety. The focus will be on how administrators can protect and mitigate against threats of violence, including anonymous threats. The discussion will also include best practices for updating emergency operations plans and aligning behavioral threat assessment and management with a multitiered system of support. Federal representatives are from the United States Secret Service (USSS) National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC).

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Break for Lunch and Networking

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Legally Keeping Schools Safe and Secure

Presenter: Jarrett J. Ferentino, Esq., Principal / Pugliese, Finnegan, Shaffer & Ferentino LLC

With new statutory requirements for school safety and security personnel, administrations, increased threat assessment oversight, committees, reports and continuing national debates over Title IX, school entities face a rapidly shifting legal landscape. This one-hour program will provide a practical compliance guide, statutory authority, highlight critical court decisions, and explain how to balance safety and security against transparency with confidentiality under FERPA and Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law.

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Latest Threats to School Safety

School safety directors, chiefs and administrators from across the state will address questions and discuss the latest issues facing school districts, including current threats, common vulnerabilities, best practices for safer schools and emerging safety technologies.

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Preventing Targeted Violence - Innovative Solutions from Pennsylvania

Presenter: Eric R. Patterson, Special Agent / CATO Program Coordinator / Threat Management Coordinator, FBI Philadelphia Field Office

The presentation will focus on the evolving threats and evolving solutions for preventing targeted violence. Attendees will learn about the following programs being implemented in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: The Community Anti-Threats Officer (CATO) Program, the Community Anti-Threat Team (CATT) Program and the Pennsylvania Threat Assessment Steering Committee (PA-TASC). Attendees will learn about the role of multidisciplinary Threat Assessment Threat Management (TATM) Teams and positive psychology's role in TATM.

3:00 – 3:05 p.m.

Closing Remarks