

Ohio School Boards Association

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Statewide school safety summit in Columbus draws large crowd

COLUMBUS — Nearly 1,000 people attended the School Security and Safety Solutions Summit Sept. 12 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Attendees included school board members and administrators; teachers; school counselors, psychologists and support staff; mental health professionals; parent leaders; and law enforcement and other first responders.

The summit was organized by the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) and 21 other statewide organizations. The free daylong event featured two general session speakers, and a dozen presentations on school security and safety issues. Organizers developed the summit with the goal of focusing on mental health; safety procedures and training; cooperative relationships between law enforcement and school districts; and parental involvement.

The keynote speakers were Dr. Amy Klinger, co-founder and director of the Educator's School Safety Network, and Alissa Parker, co-founder of Safe and Sound Schools. Klinger is a nationally known expert in school safety and crisis management with nearly 30 years of experience as an educator and administrator. Parker is the mother of Emilie Parker, who was killed in the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. She now works to help school communities improve safety in honor of her daughter and the other 19 children and six teachers who were killed at Sandy Hook.

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School safety summit 2/2/2/2

“Everyone here is well aware of the major challenges schools face in keeping their students safe,” OSBA Chief Executive Officer Richard Lewis said in welcoming attendees to the summit. “That’s why the 22 organizations hosting this event developed the curriculum as a multidisciplinary approach to school safety.

“If, among the nearly 1,000 people here, only one school district comes away with just one idea that keeps just one student from harming himself or someone else, we will have done something meaningful here today.”

The following groups collaborated to develop and host the summit:

- Buckeye Association of School Administrators
- County Commissioners Association of Ohio
- National Alliance on Mental Illness Ohio
- Ohio Association for Career and Technical Education
- Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators
- Ohio Association of Public School Employees
- Ohio Association of School Business Officials
- Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators
- Ohio Department of Education
- Ohio Education Association
- Ohio Educational Service Center Association
- Ohio Federation of Teachers
- Ohio High School Athletic Association
- Ohio Homeland Security
- Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association
- Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Ohio PTA
- Ohio School Boards Association
- Ohio School Counselors Association
- Ohio School Psychologists Association
- Ohio School Public Relations Association
- Ohio School Resource Officers Association

In its 63rd year, OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio’s public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.