

Ohio School Boards Association

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OSBA collaborating with other statewide groups to host school safety summit

COLUMBUS — The Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) is joining 21 other statewide organizations to present the School Security and Safety Solutions Summit. The free daylong series of keynote speakers and seminars is set for Sept. 12 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

The news media are invited to cover the event, which begins at 9 a.m. Journalists seeking to attend are asked to contact Crystal Davis (see contact information, above) or check in at the registration desk when they arrive.

The summit features two general session speakers and a dozen presentations on school security and safety issues. The event is designed for school board members and administrators; teachers; school counselors, psychologists and support staff; mental health professionals; parent leaders; and law enforcement and other first responders. Over 800 people have registered to attend.

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. Discussions will center on a multidisciplinary approach to school safety.

The keynote speakers are 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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“OSBA is collaborating with this influential group of statewide organizations because we’re looking for real and immediate change,” OSBA Chief Executive Officer Richard Lewis said. “From mental health experts, law enforcement and homeland security to school district leaders, teachers and staff, we have a lot of different perspectives. But we all have one thing in common: We’ve had enough of the violence in our schools.”

The following groups have 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.