

# EMERGENCY ITEM: SCHOOL SAFETY

**Working with the Texas Legislature and state agencies, Governor Greg Abbott has taken significant action to increase safety standards and practices on school campuses across Texas, including:**

- Established the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium (TCMHCC) to improve mental health for children and adolescents, including school-based services through the Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (TCHAT) initiative (June 2019)
- Provided over \$1 billion in funding for school safety since 2019 (86R, 87R General Appropriations Act; 86R SB 500; June 2022; October 2022)
- Directed the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to create a new Chief of School Safety and Security to collaborate with state agencies for a safer environment for Texas students and faculty (October 2022)
- Expanded and accelerated the ability to report suspicious activity through the iWatchTexas reporting system (June 2022)
- Directed the Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC) to conduct comprehensive school safety reviews to ensure all Texas public schools follow the appropriate procedures to maximize school safety (June 2022)
- Instructed the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) programs to provide training to all school districts statewide, prioritizing school-based law enforcement (June 2022)

**More must be done to provide Texas communities and school districts with the resources needed to ensure the safety and security of students and faculty. We must also provide more mental health professionals in our schools.**

**We cannot let another school year go by without making our schools safer. This session, the Governor will work with the Texas Legislature to:**

- Provide funding for every school campus to make necessary school safety improvements, including technology upgrades, hardening equipment, and expanded mental health resources
- Expand and enhance the capabilities of iWatchTexas in school districts
- Codify the intruder detection audit process and require facilities use those standards
- Require school campus maps be provided to local law enforcement to ensure they have the necessary resources to respond to a disaster
- Increase funds for TCHAT to ensure more Texas students are connected with the mental health services they need
- Use the newly created Chief of School Safety and Security to ensure compliance with all mandated school safety standards

