



# **DISTRICT SAFETY UPDATE**

**Jefferson County Board of Education**

**December 13, 2022**

Total funds allocated to safety in the past 12 months:

**\$ 8,702,800.00**

# Overview of our safety & violence prevention efforts in Jefferson County Public Schools:

**How are we dedicating resources to increased safety in our schools every day?**

- Provide an update on the Safety Administrator (SA) implementation
- Introduce our Violence Prevention Team provide an overview of their work
- Recognize our community collaboration efforts & new grant opportunities
- Share our progress with the implementation of the Audio Enhancement technology
- Update you on the School Safety Officer (SSO) and JCPS Police Department implementation
- Orient you with other safety mechanisms being explored

# SAFETY ADMINISTRATOR (SA) IMPLEMENTATION & PROGRESS

We continue to stay focused on our purpose:

- To foster positive school culture
- To build relationships and trust with students and employees
- To maintain positive relationships with school stakeholders
- To assist with aspects of school safety procedures (i.e., threat assessments, threat monitoring)
- Our Safety Administrators ARE NOT responsible for student discipline

# REMINDERS & STATUS UPDATE

- Safety Administrators (SA) are assigned to all middle and high schools, and 6 total for elementary schools
- SAs are selected by the principal and report directly to the principal
- Culture and Climate provides districtwide support and training to ensure consistency across schools
- Current Vacancies: 0 of 66
  - African American: 43
  - American Indian: 1
  - White: 22



A close-up photograph of wooden letter blocks on a wooden surface. A row of blocks in the foreground spells out 'PROGRESS' in capital letters. The letters are: P (3 points), R (1 point), O (1 point), G (2 points), R (1 point), E (1 point), and S (4 points). Several other blocks are scattered around, including Q (1 point), G (2 points), C (3 points), F (4 points), H (4 points), and D (2 points).

# EARLY POSITIVE OUTCOMES

- Increased student level reporting of potential safety concerns
- SAs are becoming an embedded part of the school's climate and culture
- Increased opportunities for check-ins and relationship building with students
- Assistant Superintendents reported that their building leaders can focus on teaching and learning

# The New JCPS Violence Prevention Team

**Stacie Gamble**, Director Violence Prevention

**Kenneth Martin**, Director Juvenile Court Liaison

**Associates Re-Engagement & Transition:**

Damon Cobble

Erica Day

Aarron Sparrow

- Site & Home Visits
- Safety Planning
- Engage with Students & Families
- Coordinating & Aligning Mental Health Services
- Collaboration with External Partners
- Assist with & Remove Barriers to Community Services

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TO REDUCE INCREASE SAFETY & SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENTS

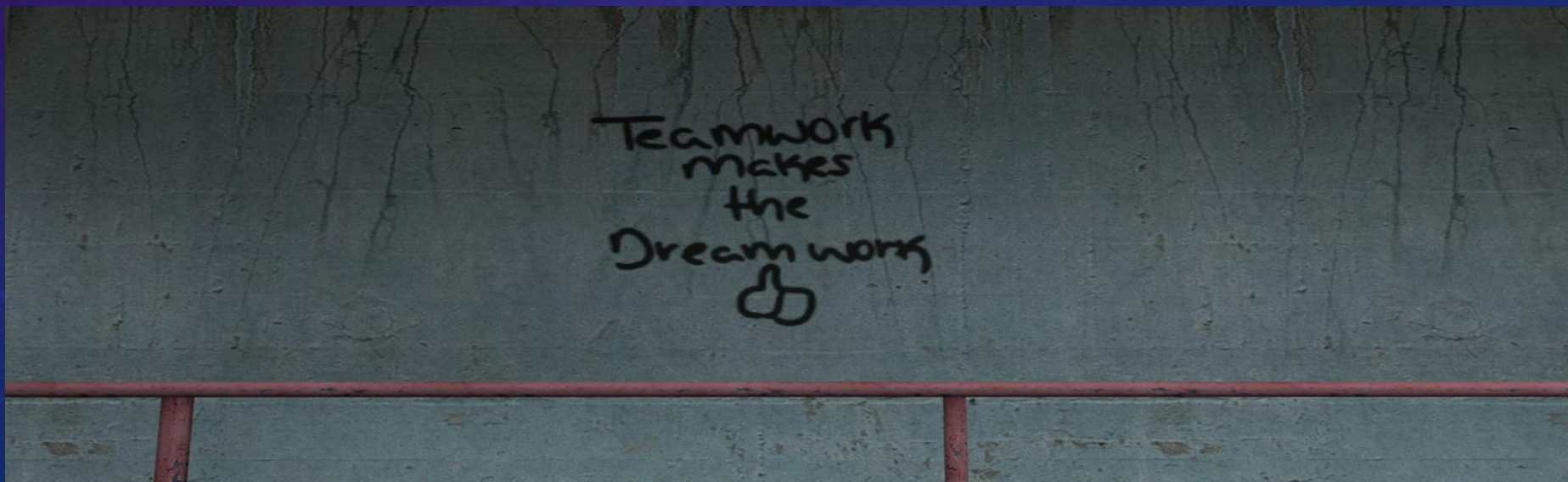
Restorative Justice  
Volunteers of America  
(VOA RJ)

Office of Safe and  
Healthy Neighborhoods

Louisville Gun Violence  
Intervention Team (GVI)

Louisville Metro Police  
Department (LMPD)

Juvenile Court



# HOW CAN WE DO MORE?

## New Grant Opportunities:

- BSCA Stronger Connections Grant Program (Bipartisan Safer Communities Act)
- Project Prevent

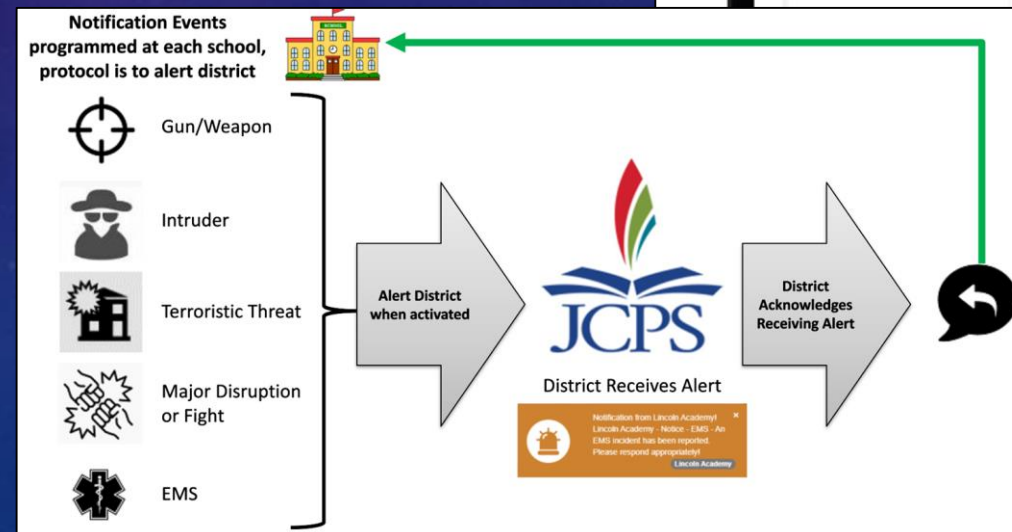
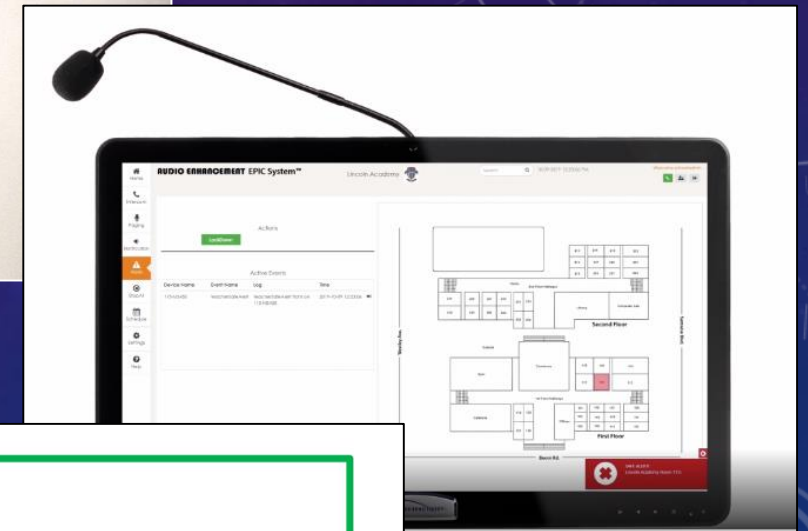
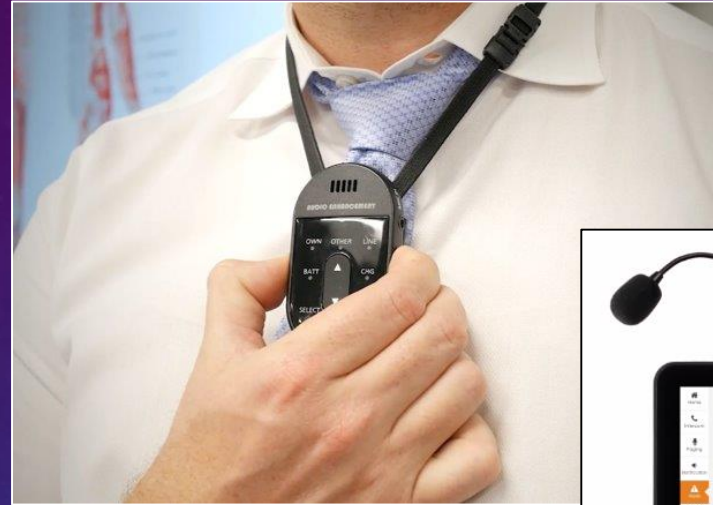
### Key Components:

- Expanding our current pilot with VOA RJ
- Conducting large scale workshops in designated areas for families and the community – providing target translation services
- Building an infrastructure to effectively track school violence prevention trends and safety needs over time to aid in mitigation, prevention, and response to safety events in our school community
- Adding additional professional development opportunities for staff to build efficacy with supporting students and families with trauma

# Audio Enhancement - Safety Component

**SAFE** (Signal Alert For Education) System™ is an alert and notification solution that connects teachers and classrooms to in-school Safety Personnel for quick response and communication.

- Medical Emergencies
- Safety Emergencies
- Other Critically Urgent Situations



## Other Safety Mechanisms Being Explored:

- Weapon Detection Systems
- Key Card Access
- Open Door Signaling/Alarm Systems



# SCHOOL SAFETY OFFICER (SSO) IMPLEMENTATION & PROGRESS

We continue to stay focused on our purpose:

- To support Teaching and Learning in our Schools by minimizing disruption of the education process, fostering and sustaining safe learning environments for our students
- To build community partnerships, increasing our capacity for collaborative problem-solving
- To provide proactive and responsive professional security and law enforcement services

## Structure of the JCPS Police Department:



- Security & Investigations Unit (SIU) is now the JCPS Police and Security Services Department
- Special Law Enforcement Senior Leadership Team (Certified SROs) provide dedicated support to a set of schools
- School Safety Officers and Supervising Security Officers (both Certified SROs) patrol and provide support for 5-8 schools in a geographic zone
- Uniformed District Security Monitors (SSO Trainees) provide support to 5-8 schools each
- Security & Investigations partners with Safety Administrator who reaches out to SIU for support
- Supports District Level Incident Management Team

## Current staffing arrangement & update:



- *130+ Applicants for SSO*
- *80+ Candidates Screened for Interviews*
- *23 Interviews conducted*
- *5 Newly Hired SSOs Hires, & 2 District Security Monitors promoted to SSO (1 promoted to supervise SSOs; 1 hired as Safety Administrator)*
- *10 Leadership Staff: (Sergeants, Lieutenants, Captains, Major, & Executive Administrator) are Armed, Sworn, Law Enforcement Officers, with SRO Certifications*
- *9 Uniformed District Security Monitors serving as SSO Trainees without law enforcement powers (preparations for DOCJT Police Academy)*



## EARLY POSITIVE OUTCOMES

- Building positive relationships with School Administrators, Staff, and STUDENTS
- Building capacity for providing advice and guidance to School Administrators
- Collaborative Preemptive and Investigative work with Local and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
- Improved responsiveness in assessing and managing threats and working with School-level Threat Assessment Teams
- Training both District Administration and School Leadership & Faculty

