



NEBRASKA SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY 2026 NEWS



HEARTLAND Safety & Security Summit

Call for Presentation Proposals
are due by May 15th
Summit's Two-Day Agenda at
the Embassy Suites in Lincoln
is available now!

FINISH READING ON PG. 2 - 6

Keynote Presenter
Kevin Hines
Focus on
Prevention,
Early Intervention,
and the
Power of Connection

The Heartland
School Safety & Security Summit
October 6th & 7th
Lincoln, NE

Congrats to the 2026 Graduation Class

Keep the next
journey in life safe &
secure, but
remember to have
fun doing it with
those who bring the
most joy!

**Also, Goooo Beeeeee KIND!
Go Be Kind!**

Recognizing, Responding, and Reporting

Human Trafficking Awareness

This module will take approximately 20 minutes.



New Training Module is Coming Soon in Our NDE Canvas Learning Network

More details on PG 7

Guidance & Support Modules Aid Schools in Building Safer Environments

Read More on PG 8



BE
SAFE
AFTER
THE
TURN
OF
TASSEL!





Keynote Presenter
Kevin Hines
Focus on
Prevention,
Early Intervention,
and the
Power of Connection

Opportunity to Collaborate

With States Safety Personnel

**The Heartland
School Safety & Security Summit
October 6th & 7th
Lincoln, NE**

Mark your calendar for October 6th & 7th to join in on two-days of engaging school safety best practices with 10 of our neighboring states.

[Reserve a hotel room now](#) at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln before registration opens later this summer!

The invitation is out to participate in this multi-state collaboration effort focused on strengthening school safety and security through shared learning, coordinated planning, and cross-disciplinary partnerships.

Breakout Session Proposals are due by May 15th. If you have a safety topic to present, please get the [session proposal submitted](#) ASAP!

This invitation is extended to urban and rural school communities: To include personnel from across the board:

- State school safety directors and managers

- School administrators and district leaders
- Teachers and school safety team members
- Social Workers/Licensed Mental Health Professional, School psychologists & counselors
- First responders (law enforcement, fire/rescue, and emergency managers)
- School and community partners
- Any individual or organization interested in advancing school safety efforts

The purpose of this collaboration is to bring us together to identify common challenges and discuss how schools and states can work together more effectively to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from safety and security incidents affecting schools.

States Invited Include:

Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Nebraska

AGENDA DAY 1

Heartland School Safety & Security Summit

‘Better Recovery Outcomes Start with Prevention’

Tuesday, October 6th, 2026

- **12:00 to 12:30** Check-In/Registration
Embassy Suites by Hilton 1020 P Street Lincoln, Nebraska

Reserve a hotel room now before registration opens this summer!

- **12:30 to 1:00 WELCOMING to the Summit:**
Governor welcomes attendees to the Heartland School Safety & Security Summit

- **1:00 to 3:00 Tabletop Discussion Exercises**

Be prepared to have an active role in the open discussions and collaboration in this exercise of actual situations schools encounter in school safety & security.

‘The Perfect Storm’

Far more than a bad weather day

- The Perfect Storm scenario is designed to demonstrate how multiple, seemingly unrelated incidents can cascade throughout a single school day, overwhelming systems, staff, and decision-makers if preparation and coordination are insufficient.
 - This exercise is not intended to suggest that every school will experience all of these events in one day, but rather to highlight how quickly normal operations can deteriorate when early warning signs are missed, communication breaks down, or resources are stretched thin.
- **3:00 to 4:00 Panel Discussion (Topic & Panel TBD)**
 - **4:00 to 6:00 Social Networking**
 - **6:00 Dinner:** on your own

AGENDA – DAY 2

Wednesday, October 7th, 2026

- **8:00 AM** Check-In/Registration
Embassy Suites by Hilton 1020 P Street Lincoln, Nebraska.
- **8:30 to 9:30 Keynote Speaker:**

Suicide continues to be at the top of Schools Anonymous Call Center Report/Tiplines – Youth Suicide & Mental Health concerns remain on an upward path. It is a #1 concern in schools across the country, so we are pleased to bring a survivor who can address prevention and resilience.

Kevin Hines is an internationally recognized mental health advocate, bestselling author, and one of the nation's most powerful voices on suicide prevention. At just 19 years old, Kevin survived a suicide attempt that became a turning point—not only in his own life, but in the lives of millions he has since reached through his work.

Today, Kevin partners with schools, safety professionals, and communities across the country to focus on prevention, early intervention, and the power of connection. His message is grounded in lived experience and backed by action, offering practical insight into identifying warning signs, reducing stigma, and creating safer environments where every individual knows they are seen, heard, and valued.

- **9:30 AM to a TBD Time:**
The end of the Summit will depend on the number of breakout sessions. [Session presentations proposals](#) are due by May 15th.
- **12:15 to 1:15 Lunch & Learn – Connecting with Today's Youth**

The Power in the Hallways – How We Improve School Culture

Mike Donahue is a renowned national speaker and author who has dedicated his career to helping educators and parents shift how they see kids and understand culture. He knows that schools aren't defined by posters or programs, but by the "silent rules" and unwritten belief systems shaping student behavior. His approach transforms schools from the inside out by empowering students to recognize their value and use their influence for good. What he teaches is not theory, it is real-world experience that works when it's needed most. Discover how to improve school culture.

- **1:15 to 1:30 Nebraska School Safety & Security Award Presentation**
- **1:45 to Adjourn TBD** (*pending breakouts*)

Recognizing, Responding, and Reporting

Human Trafficking Awareness

This module will take approximately 20 minutes.



New Trainings Will Be Available This Summer

Human Trafficking Awareness

The NDE School Safety & Security Team along with ESU #2 have been working hard to build an educational module on Human Trafficking Awareness.

The crime of human trafficking is only second to drug trafficking in the U.S. and Nebraska is not immune from this crime. It impacts school communities. Therefore, the module is being built to help schools understand youth vulnerability and grooming tactics used by traffickers. As well, school staff can learn how to recognize, respond and report human trafficking if it presents itself in our schools. One of the biggest misconceptions is that a child is always taken from their home or community while that can occur, it is not always the case. A student can be right in the classroom with signs of being trafficked, but it may be overlooked or go unnoticed for a variety of reasons.

Bullying/Cyberbullying Lessons

We are also hoping to have an additional topic available on NDE Canvas Learning Network this summer. These lessons will be for adult instructors to utilize to help them either before, during, or after these concerns present themselves. **We are finalizing lessons in bullying and cyberbullying** for teachers and counselors to aid in their learning discussions with students around these topics. These educational lessons will provide ready-made content and activities for instructors to engage in with students. The goal is to get students to initiate the change in these behaviors at school and home. The obvious desired outcome is to change the path of a potential bullying or cyberbullying incident before it happens.



833-980-SAFE (7233)

SAFE2HELPNE.ORG



TRAINING AVAILABLE



Get The Entire School Community Speaking the Same Language When It's Important

Anyone in your school or school district can take the quick Canvas Course on Standard Response Protocol (SRP) and Standard Reunification Method (SRM). Get your entire school community to learn the language of SRP and what to do when a threat, hazard, or incident happens. If we all use the same terminology, we will know how to react to any situation that arises. If all our Nebraska schools are trained in the SRP/SRM Canvas Course and we are at a district event for band, track, or another occasion, it will allow us all to feel more comfortable and safer if a 'SECURE' is announced because we all will know what to do. Sign in and start the [SRP/SRM Canvas Module](#) today!



Submit Emergency Operations Plan's in the Canvas Module

All accredited public and non-public schools falling under **Rule 10** will be asked to submit their EOP in the "Guidance to Prepare an Emergency Operations Plan" Canvas Course in 2026/2027 School year. **If a school safety team has already submitted an EOP in Canvas you will be exempt from needing to do it again in 2026/2027.** So, get a jump and turn it in early.

Accredited schools turned their EOP's in during the 2022/2023 school year for evaluation under a federal grant received by NDE in collaboration with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center.

The main reason for the resubmission is the new Canvas Module allows schools to download their EOP right into the Canvas training platform. With the school EOP in this permanent place new members will know where to access it and/or update their existing EOP. Please get your safety teams enrolled on the [Guidance to Prepare an EOP](#) module and knock this out now!



Please Title Your SAVED EOP with the School Name & the YEAR - ex: 'Kearney Public 2026'
If updated the following year – Re-Save with Name & New Year

SCHOOL SAFETY BADGE STATUS



PLACE
SCHOOL
SAFETY
FIRST



GET YOUR SCHOOL ON
DIAMOND STATUS TODAY!

2026 Nebraska School Safety & Security Award
Nominations are NOW OPEN!



Use the Google Form Link to Put in a Nomination.

Good Luck to this Year's Potential Winner!

Nominations Will Close August 1, 2026