



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



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/Vendors**
 - **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*)

AGENDA – DAY 2

Heartland School Safety & Security Summit

Wednesday, October 7th, 2026

- **8:00 AM** Check-In/Registration and Continental Breakfast – Coffee - Water
Embassy Suites by Hilton 1020 P Street Lincoln, Nebraska.

Reserve a hotel room now before registration opens!

- **8:30 to 9:30 Keynote Speaker:**

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- **9:30 to 10:00 Break/Visit with Vendors**
- **10:00 to 11:00 Session I Breakouts**
 - **Addressing Educator Safety** – Margaret Ochoa – Colorado Office of School Safety
 - **Evaluating Recent Attacks to Strengthen School Safety** – Brian Kempf – Elkhorn Nebraska
 - **Columbine, Lesson Learned from a First Responder** – Don Moseman – North Dakota Safety Council
 - **Swatting Indicators** – Devon Bodenstab – Nebraska - NIAC
- **11:00 AM Break/Vendors**

- **11:15 to 12:15 Session II Breakouts**
 - **Crisis Recovery and Interventions Real Lessons from Two School Tragedies** – Trish Kilpin – Wisconsin Dept of Justice
 - **Beyond the Drill: Navigating Lockdown Response & Recovery** – Kyle Poore -Nebraska - Lincoln Public Schools
 - **Beyond the Binder: Using AI to Build Smarter Tabletop Exercises** – Christopher Villarreal, ED.D and Missy Stolley – Papillion, Nebraska
 - **Tier 1 Preventative Team Approach to Decrease School Threats** – Victory Haines and Rob Brenner – Nebraska - LPS Middle School

- **12:15 to 1:15 Lunch**

- **12:45 – 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. Mike identifies the pressure points of identity and belonging that adults rarely see, focusing on the energy that sits in the hallways long before students enter the classroom. 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. When belief shifts, culture will follow.

- **1:15 to 1:30 Nebraska School Safety & Security Award Presentation**
- **1:30 Break/Vendors**
- **1:45 to 2:45 Session III Breakouts**
 - **Safety & Emergency Debrief the Response: Experiences from a 5 -8 Grade Building** – Katie Rose & Jordan Anderson – Columbus, Nebraska
 - **Dating and Sexual Violence – How to recognize, respond, and prevent it.** – Alex Pecoraro and Rachel West – Nebraska Coalition
 - **Beyond Punishment Restorative Practices as a Foundation for School Safety, Belonging and Accountability** - Andrea Pulskamp – Colorado Department of Education
 - **Helping Students Navigate Social Pressure** – Mike Donahue

- **2:45 to 3:00 Break/Vendors**

- **3:00 to 4:00 Session IV Breakouts**
 - **Finding Digital Engagement to Ensure Youth Well-Being** – Jay Martin – Nebraska Department of Education School Safety Director
 - **How to USE AI for Good: A Gen X Guide to Mastering NotbookLM for School Safety, Compliance, and Transport** – Lee Jacobsen – Grand Island, Nebraska
 - **The Mentoring Effect: How a Caring Adult Supports student well-being and security** – Kristina Syring and Tori Pedersen – Nebraska Teammates
 - **SCIP: Intervention and Prevention** – Tessah Fulk – Nebraska, School Community Intervention & Prevention