



Kentucky Association of School Resource Officers August/September 2020

Welcome back!

What a year 2020 has been. In-person education stopped for many of us in March and if you are like me, my kids will not be back until late September, I hope. While our kids may not be in the classroom, our work still continues. As your new president I'm excited to get to work moving the association forward and continuing the good work of our past president, Chris Barrier. Chris has left the association in good shape so I will do my best to lead us into a somewhat unknown future.

KYASRO has played a huge part in the shaping of the safe school laws in our state. As we move forward, I will do my best to keep our association front and center of any new legislation. Our voices will be heard and we will help shape the future of school safety in Kentucky.

As a graduate of the Criminal Justice Executive Development Academy (CJED 13) and former president of my local FOP Lodge, (#10) as well as the Campbell County Boys and Girls Club, I have some experience in leading an association. My leadership philosophy is simple, I give all the credit for our success to the members and executive board. Any failures of the association are mine and mine alone. I encourage and value different points of view and ideas different from mine. I will rely heavily on Lee Ann, Wanda, Lucy, Chris and other trusted advisors and mentors to keep us on track. As KYASRO's appointed representative to the KCSS Board I will be your voice as the state moves forward in creating safer schools and supporting our students.

I am honored to be your new president and I look forward to working with each one of you as we continue to provide a safe environment, offer our knowledge in the classroom and be another trusted person on campus to our students. If I can be of service to you, please reach out. I may not have all the answers, but I know where to find them. Not sure what else 2020 can throw at us but I know we will survive and continue to serve with honor.

James "Jimmie" Poynter

BOARD MEMBERS:

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2. BECKY FRANKLIN

3. VACANT

4. TIM GIVIDEN

5. VACANT

6. TYLER BRUMMETT

SLEO REP- TRACY DAY



KYASRO NEWS

August/September 2020



Frankfort, Ky. – Chris Barrier, Director of Law Enforcement for Montgomery County Schools, was awarded the Telescopic Star Award during the Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA) annual leadership institute in Louisville.

The award honors a visionary education leader who brings significant and meaningful change to sustain the profession while ensuring a safe, caring learning environment for all public school students.

The award recognizes Barrier’s work as Montgomery County Schools Director of Law Enforcement, president of the Kentucky Association of School Resource Officers (KYASRO), and as a liaison to the Kentucky Center for School Safety and the Kentucky Association of School Administrators. Barrier was instrumental in developing a safety strand as a component of KASA’s annual leadership institute. The added safety strand engages school-based leadership teams to work side-by-side to ensure safety is the number one priority in their schools.

“Because of Chris’ work, principals, assistant principals, counselors and school law enforcement officers attend KASA’s annual leadership institute as a team,” said KASA’s executive director Dr. Rhonda Caldwell. “His goal is always focused on the development of caring relationships with students while ensuring a safe learning environment for everyone.”

Barrier speaks on safety issues and effective strategies for SROs in trainings and to school leaders statewide. As the KYASRO president, he is a consistent advocate for SROs and guides many school districts across the state as they create safety programs.

The Kentucky Association of School Administrators is the largest school administrators’ group in Kentucky, representing more than 3,100 education leaders from across the commonwealth. Formed in 1969, KASA connects education leaders to policymakers, legislators, and other interest groups, and provides numerous benefits and services to Kentucky’s school administrators.



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BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL DURING THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES



KYASRO NEWS

August/September 2020

BACK TO SCHOOL?

As this newsletter is being written, many schools are delaying the start of the year due to Governor Beshear's recommendation. When we do open, uncertainty remains about the health and safety for all involved in the school community. The guidelines listed below are the most recent ones released by the CDC. SRO'S need to assist administrators in enacting these guidelines.

Engage and encourage everyone in the school and the community to practice preventive behaviors. These are the most important actions that will support schools' safe reopening and will help them stay open.

Implement multiple SARS-CoV-2 mitigation strategies (e.g., social distancing, cloth face coverings, hand hygiene, and use of cohorting).

Communicate, educate, and reinforce appropriate hygiene and social distancing practices in ways that are developmentally appropriate for students, teachers, and staff.

Integrate SARS-CoV-2 mitigation strategies into co-curricular and extracurricular activities (e.g., limiting or cancelling participation in activities where social distancing is not feasible).

Maintain healthy environments (e.g., cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces).

Make decisions that take into account the level of community transmission.

Repurpose unused or underutilized school (or community) spaces to increase classroom space and facilitate social distancing, including outside spaces, where feasible.

Develop a proactive plan for when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.

Develop a plan with state and local health department to conduct case tracing in the event of a positive case.

Educate parents and caregivers on the importance of monitoring for and responding to the symptoms of COVID-19 at home.

Develop ongoing channels of communication with state and local health departments to stay updated on COVID-19 transmission and response in your local area.

The guidance described in this document is based on the best available evidence at this time. This guidance is meant to supplement—not replace—any state, local, territorial, or tribal health and safety laws, rules, and regulations with which schools must comply.





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SCHOLARSHIP/AWARD WINNERS

KYASRO is pleased to announce that the following students received the Sticklin/Shipp scholarships:

1. Tommy Brandon, Montgomery County
2. Marisa Fiends, Metcalfe County
3. Kolton Grider, Russell County
4. Madalyn Welch, Anderson County

KYASRO is also pleased to announce the following award winners:

1. SRO of the Year – James Poynter, Kenton County Schools/Taylor Mill PD
2. Rookie of the Year – To be announced.
3. Administrator of the Year – Mark Willhoite, Carroll County
4. President's Award – Boone County Sheriff's Department
5. School Safety Award of Merit – Lee County Schools and SRO John Marshall
6. Lifetime Achievement Award – Ashland Police Department, in memory of Danny Mooney.



Drill Guidance from KCSS during COVID 19

With the uncertainty of reopening schools due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS) and the State School Security Marshal's office are receiving questions regarding conducting state mandated emergency response drills. The following is an **advisory for your consideration**:

1. State law requires all public schools to conduct (4) emergency response drills during the first (30) days of school when in regular session with students present. These drills are: Fire, Severe Weather, Lockdown and Earthquake. (KRS158.162(5))
2. Simply put, once a school begins "in-person instruction" (defined as students being present inside a school building) the state law takes effect immediately and school officials are required to conduct the (4) abovementioned drills within 30 school (instructional) days.
3. The following suggestions are being provided for school officials **to consider** when returning to any modified "in-person instruction" format during the pandemic.
 - a. **Fire drills** – Practice a "blocked" format where each classroom performs this evacuation separately. Students should exit the classroom (as shown on the evacuation map in each classroom) and, spacing 6-feet apart during the drill, proceed to the designated safe zone outside of the school building. After reaching the safe zone, students would return to the building, again staying 6 feet apart. If an actual fire event occurs, the social distancing standard during evacuation may not be possible. But, even then, after all classes have relocated to their safe zone, maintain social distancing if possible.
 - If this format is used, the principal must ensure that the drill is conducted during the same period of the day until all classes have practiced it. In addition, in an effort to speed up the process, the principal should consider conducting several classroom evacuations simultaneously provided they are located in different areas of the building and will not cross paths with any other class. This will take significant planning and coordination, but it can be

accomplished. The principal should accurately record the dates and times that these drills were conducted.

- b. Severe weather drills – Practice in a “blocked” format where each individual classroom performs this evacuation separately. Students should exit the classroom (as shown on the evacuation map in each classroom) and, spacing 6-feet apart, proceed to the designated safe zone inside the building. After reaching the safe zone, the students will assume the safe positions on the floor (6-feet apart for the drill). After the drill has been completed, the students should return to their classroom, keeping 6-feet apart while walking.
 - If this format is used, the principal must ensure that it is conducted during the same period of the day until all classes have practiced it. In addition, in an effort to speed up the process, the principal should consider conducting several classroom evacuations simultaneously provided they are located in different areas and will not cross paths with any other class. This will take significant planning and coordination, but it can be accomplished. The principal should accurately record the dates and times that these drills were conducted.
 - c. Lockdown Drills are normally conducted inside the classroom. Following normal lockdown procedures, the students would be moved to a safe location inside the classroom. If possible, maintain the 6-foot social distancing standard during the drill. In an actual active shooting event, the 6-foot standard would not be followed.
 - d. Earthquake Drills are normally conducted in the classroom. Following normal drop, cover and hold earthquake emergency response protocol, school officials should consider having students to do this in different locations inside the classroom, while maintaining the 6-foot social distancing standard. In the event of an actual earthquake event, social distancing may not be possible.
4. The School Safety and Resiliency Act requires that the principal shall discuss the emergency plan with all school staff prior to the first instructional day of each school year and shall document the time and date of any discussion 158.162(2)(d). Emergency plan information should be provided to existing staff with highlights of any updates or changes to the plan. New school staff should be provided more comprehensive training on the emergency plan. This training could be provided through a virtual training/meeting format.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Marshal Ben Wilcox at the State School Security Marshal’s office at 833-591-0214 or Jon Akers, Executive Director for the Kentucky Center for School Safety at 877-805-4277.



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MEMBERSHIP

Do you value your membership in KYASRO? Do you want to be able to nominate your students for scholarships? Do you want the latest guidance/information for SRO's? Usually membership is part of your registration to the Safe Schools Conference – but since that was cancelled this year, now is the time to renew your membership.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP --- \$30.00 (Make checks payable to KYASRO)
(Return to: KYASRO • Attn: Wanda Absher • 925 North Main Street • Somerset, KY 42503)

Applicant _____

Agency _____ School District _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ E-Mail _____

CHECK ONE:

Police Officer School Personnel Other (specify) _____