

# Averted School Violence — A Fact Sheet for Law Enforcement

## About ASV

The Averted School Violence (ASV) project is an online data collection system and incident report library ([avertedschoolviolence.org](http://avertedschoolviolence.org)) that allows law enforcement officers, school officials, mental health professionals, and others involved in school safety nationwide to share information and lessons learned on averted and completed school violence incidents. Its purpose is to analyze these incidents in order to provide law enforcement and other practitioners with lessons learned and recommendations that can be implemented to improve school safety and ultimately prevent future attacks.

ASV was developed by the [National Police Foundation](http://nationalpolicefoundation.org) with funding support from the U.S. Department of Justice.

## How Law Enforcement Officers Can Use ASV

Law enforcement officers can use the incident-level information in the ASV system ([avertedschoolviolence.org](http://avertedschoolviolence.org)), to help inform investigative strategies and violence prevention efforts.

By reviewing the ASV report library, officers can become aware and learn about:

- Pre-attack planning methods
- Planned attack methods
- Pre-incident indicators
- School security protocols and features relevant to preventing violence
- Methods of intervention used to detect and prevent the attack

By sharing stories of violence prevention in schools at [avertedschoolviolence.org/report](http://avertedschoolviolence.org/report), law enforcement can help educate others on successful strategies to detect and prevent school violence.

## Emerging Recommendations for Law Enforcement Based on Current ASV Data

- Departments should consider making door-breaching equipment more readily available to patrol officers to facilitate entries when necessary.
- Departments should consider training officers in initiating hostage release communications, as some school attacks end up in hostage situations and negotiators are not always immediately available.
- Officers should be able to obtain access to school floor plans and/or imagery and become personally familiar with the buildings by doing walk-throughs regularly.
- Officers should develop rapport and open communication with school staff and administrators to facilitate appropriate communication when safety concerns develop.
- School-based police officers should seek to establish and build positive relationships and trust with students, to promote the open sharing of concerns and threat information.
- Officers should work collaboratively with schools on safety measures such as visitor access, parking and traffic management, and safety procedures for after-school events.



## Additional Resources

NASRO - <https://nasro.org> | Safe and Sound Schools - <https://www.safeandsoundschools.org>

IACLEA - <https://www.iaclea.org> | NASSLEO - <http://nassleo.org>