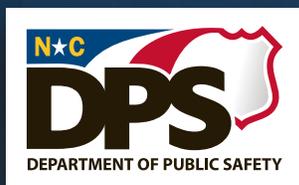
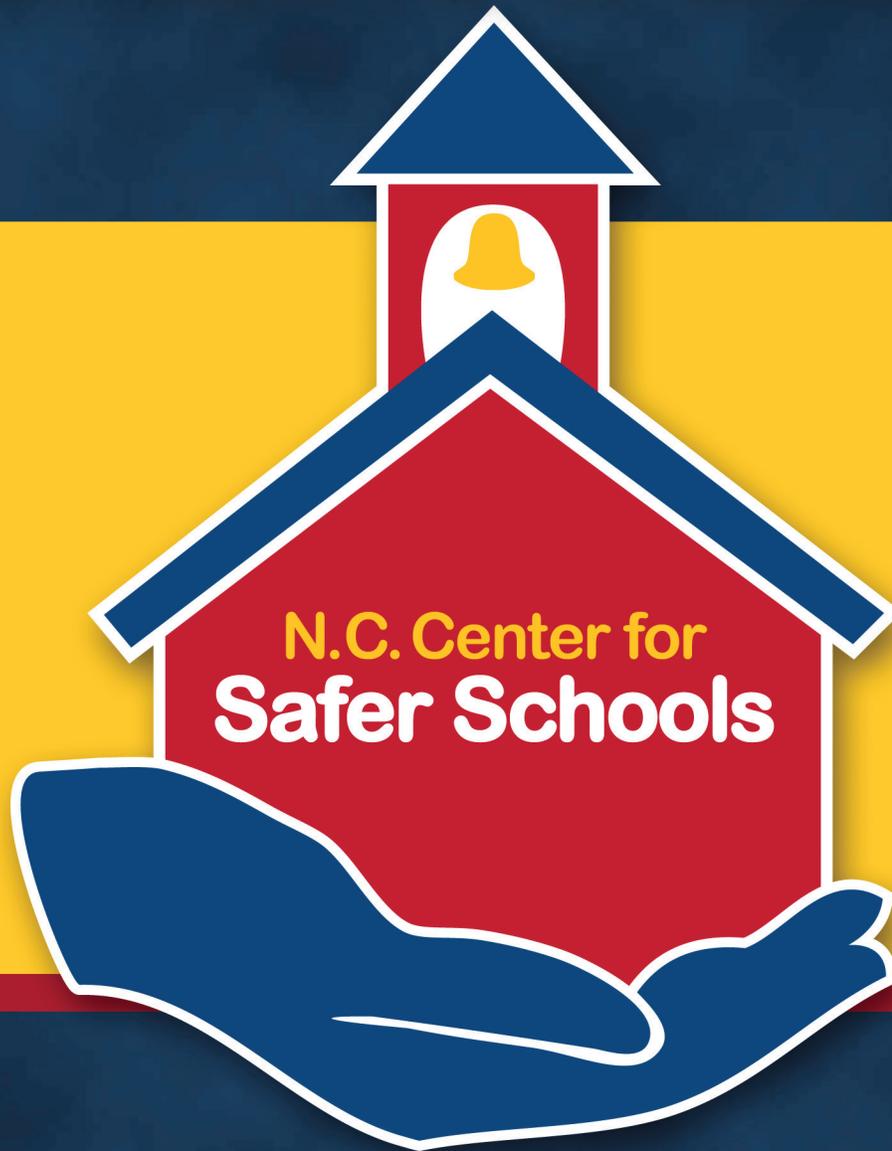


N.C. Center for Safer Schools 2014 Report to the Governor



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
PREVENT. PROTECT. PREPARE



N.C. Center for Safer Schools

Mission Statement

Serve as a customer-focused information center for research, training and technical assistance related to school safety, crisis prevention and response to work effectively and efficiently with federal, state, local and community-based organizations with the ultimate goal of safer schools in North Carolina.

Vision Statement

All schools in the state are safe, secure and offer an environment conducive to learning.

Executive Summary

Gov. Pat McCrory established the North Carolina Center for Safer Schools on March 19, 2013. By Executive Order No. 25, the Governor provided for the Task Force on Safer Schools. The Center plays an important role as a convener and collaborator for state and local agencies that are stakeholders and service providers in school safety efforts. The



Center is administratively located in the N.C. Department of Public Safety, and it worked cooperatively with leaders at the departments of Health and Human Services, Justice, and Public Instruction to publicly open the Center and conduct School Safety forums. The Center stands as Gov. McCrory's initiative to bring state agencies together where their missions intersect with that of other agencies to provide for the safe and healthy learning needs of the young citizens of North Carolina. The Center for Safer Schools provides leadership by facilitating these collaborations, filling gaps in research, training and information-sharing among students, teachers, school administrators, parents and all state, local and community-based groups. The Center seeks to build bridges among all

state level partners and provide technical assistance to improve the quality of information for our customers.

This report focuses on accomplishments of the Center for Safer Schools and its partners as follow-up to the 78 actionable items found in the Center's initial 2013 Report to the Governor. Much has been accomplished in this first year toward bringing agencies together to provide a more holistic understanding of what it takes to provide safe and healthy learning environments. A few of these accomplishments are:

- The Center for Safer Schools, at the request of the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, coordinated the development of a new critical incident response video to help standardize and educate school faculty and staff on how to best respond in a lockdown and other school emergencies. The Department of Public Instruction has coordinated the Center's training on this topic statewide.
- N.C. Emergency Management within the Department of Public Safety is developing a two-part web-based portal for schools and first responders. For schools, this provides a standardized method for identifying elements of their safe schools plan. For first responders, many items – from floor plans of the school to the GPS locations of key elements such as exits, utility shut-offs and relocation points – are provided on a secure web page that will provide more rapid access to this information in the event of a critical incident. A pilot project in Forsyth County is nearing completion, and Phase 1, which includes several metropolitan areas, will begin implementation in September.
- The Department of Health and Human Services facilitated training that provided many new trainers of Mental Health First-Aid for Youth to help parents, teachers and those in both the juvenile and adult justice systems become more aware of the role mental health challenges play in the behavior patterns of youth in our schools.
- The N.C. Justice Academy prioritized training for school resource officers (SROs) in 2014, scheduling 31 course



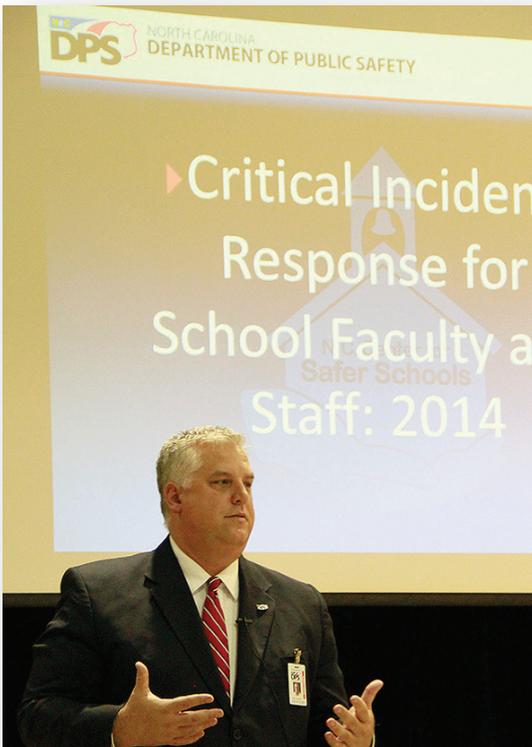
deliveries geared toward SROs. These classes range from one-five days in length. Out of these 31 course deliveries in 2014, 19 classes were scheduled during the summer months.

- The Department of Public Instruction developed an online module for teachers and other school support staff to assist them in more effectively utilizing the expertise/services of SROs within their schools.

Based on the actionable items provided to the Governor in the 2013 report, much has been completed or is ongoing, several new activities are in progress, and other items remain to be completed. The Center for Safer Schools and the Governor’s Task Force on Safer Schools have both completed strategic planning sessions to help better understand how to build on successes, learn from mistakes and promote the mission and vision of the Center.

Center and Task Force Backgrounds

Gov. McCrory opened the North Carolina Center for Safer Schools in March 2013. The Governor’s initiatives for the Center include ensuring mental health concerns are incorporated in all school safety initiatives, and conducting a listening tour across the state to discern local school safety concerns. The results of these “School Safety Forums,” coupled with a literature review to bolster the knowledge base, was the 2013 Report to the Governor. The nearly 80 recommendations outlined in the report serve as the basis for the Center’s first year focus and can be broken down into four categories: physical security, mental health, school climate, and emergency management. These recommendations and an update on their status are listed in the chart that follows in this document. This first report is accessible from the Center’s website, www.centerforsaferschools.org, and serves as a foundation and reference point for future reports and school safety efforts.



The Center became fully staffed as of May 2014 with an executive director and deputy director, research analyst/trainer, law enforcement-certified trainer, and a part-time trainer. The Center is uniquely positioned to identify and foster collaboration between many disparate agencies and individuals to promote issues related to school safety.

The **Governor’s Task Force on Safer Schools** was established through Executive Order 25 in September 2013 and was tasked with providing guidance to the N.C. Center for Safer Schools and considering future policy and legislative action needed to improve school safety in North Carolina. Appointments to the Task Force were completed in October with the purpose of creating a multidisciplinary advisory board comprised of stakeholders including parents, students, teachers, school administrators, law enforcement officers, juvenile justice professionals and mental health professionals. The Task Force on Safer Schools supports the Center’s mission through three working subcommittees that draw on the expertise of people with varying subject area knowledge to develop ideas, legislative and policy-related proposals, and promote school safety initiatives within their communities. The subcommittees are led by

task force members with expertise in the subject matter pertinent to the overall mission of the group, and consist of other members of the task force and various subject matter experts from both the community and state perspective.

The three subcommittees of the Task Force are:

- School Climate and Discipline – promotes a healthy coexistence among students, faculty and staff.
- Mental Health and Students with Special Needs – seeks to help identify students whose behavior is the result of a mental health concern and promote proper delivery of services to these students, and determine what special accommodations should be made for students with disabilities.
- Physical Security and Emergency Preparedness – identifies methods to improve the physical security of school property and the preparation of everyone in the event of a critical incident.

These subcommittees began their work at the initial Task Force meeting on Dec. 4, 2013.

- The Physical Security and Emergency Preparedness subcommittee adopted and approved the Critical Response Video for School Faculty and Staff, which Center staff took the lead to develop.
- The School Climate and Discipline subcommittee has helped with the promotion of the Bullying Awareness presentation developed by the Center, and has proposed an amendment to the Bullying/Cyber Bullying Statute that would require that all schools share the Bullying/Cyber bullying policy with staff, students and parents and place them in school handbooks.
- The Mental Health and Students with Special Needs subcommittee has developed a training model on supporting mental health in schools that can be delivered to teachers, SROs and other school support staff.



Through the united efforts of the Center for Safer Schools, the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools and the collaboration with partnering agencies, broader acceptance of school safety measures exists among the Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and their schools.

Center Accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2013-2014

Since presenting the 2013 Report to the Governor, the Center for Safer Schools has been actively seeking to both fulfill its action items as stated in the report and to listen, learn and collaborate with our Task Force and partners to help complete tasks and formulate new ideas. Some of our accomplishments over the past 12 months include:

1. The N.C. Center for Safer Schools 2013 Report to the Governor was prepared and presented to Gov. McCrory on September 6, 2013 at Hoggard High School in Wilmington. The information in the report was gleaned from feedback gathered from the Safer Schools forums and a literature review that Center staff conducted to bolster the knowledge base.
2. The Center worked to advertise a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a technology company to provide a smart device/smartphone application that would be scalable to individual schools so that anonymous tips could be submitted by students. A final recommendation for funding will be made by the bid review team before the end of the year.
3. The Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools was formed and members named. Each member was appointed to one of three subcommittees and additional experts were recruited to each subcommittee. The

subcommittees examine issues in 1) improving school security and incident response, 2) the role of mental health issues in student behaviors, and 3) the role of school climate and interpersonal behaviors and their effects on students. These groups have provided much insight into the dynamics of safe and healthy schools. The Center and the Department of Public Safety provide ongoing administrative and staff support services to the task force.

4. The Center produced a bullying awareness presentation with accompanying resource materials and trained 23 people in a train-the-presenter session on delivering the presentation to state-level and community groups of all types. Current trainers will be provided with updated materials and presentation information on an ongoing basis.
5. The Center conducted the first statewide census of School Resource Officers since 2009. Although there was less response than anticipated, a structure was put in place to expand the census in the 2014-2015 school year. The census results will be shared with agencies that can benefit from communication with SROs. Additionally, the census was used as a means of surveying nearly 1,000 of the 1,400 SROs on demographic descriptors and career needs. This information will be compiled in a report on SRO trends.
6. The Center supported school safety legislation with an emphasis on bullying prevention and emergency preparedness. The anti-bullying measure amended the N.C. School Bullying Law to require that the principal shall provide the local policy prohibiting bullying and harassing behavior, including cyber-bullying, to staff, students and parents as defined in G.S. 115C-390.1(b)(8). The legislation geared toward emergency preparedness amends Article 8C of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes to require that local school administrators provide emergency access to key storage devices such as KNOX boxes for all school buildings to local law enforcement agencies. It also requires that local school administrative units provide emergency response information requested by N.C. Emergency Management to build the web-based school emergency plan.
7. Center staff provided numerous state and local agencies with presentations geared toward raising the awareness of the services provided by the N.C. Center for Safer Schools and the harmful impacts of school violence. Some of these presentations have been provided to the State Board of Education, the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, the N.C. Emergency Management's statewide conference, the N.C. Parent Resource Conference and the N.C. Juvenile Services Association.



The 2013 Report to the Governor laid out 78 action items for the Governor, the General Assembly, the N.C. Center for Safer Schools, the departments of Public Safety, Public Instruction, Justice, Health and Human Services, and Commerce along with schools, communities, teachers, parents and students to push forward safer schools. While the local and community issues (items 51 through 78) are out of the realm of state agencies, the Center and the Governor's Task Force are working to generate some momentum in this area. The table on the following pages seeks to provide updates on all 78 action items with input from the appropriate agencies. The information details the results of an extremely busy year for all of the partners involved in ensuring that our state's schools are healthy and safe learning environments.

North Carolina Center for Safer Schools

Status of Action Items Set Forth in the 2013 Report to the Governor

*Status Key: Complete- one-time project is complete; Ongoing- this type of project is recurring and updated as needed; In Progress- work has begun and is at various phases of completion.

	Action Step	Action Step Update and Progress	Status
	Governor		
1.	Create a State-Level Task Force on School Safety.	Executive Order signed by the Governor to create the Task Force and appointments were made in October 2013. First meeting of the Task Force was held December 2013.	Complete
2.	Require an Annual Report on the Status of School Safety in North Carolina.	First report completed in September 2013. This report fulfills this requirement and is being submitted October 2014.	Complete
3.	Charge Cabinet and Council of State Officials to collaborate and combine the efforts of their agencies to provide school safety resources and initiatives in North Carolina.	Department of Public Instruction, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Justice and the Department of Commerce each contributed to the compilation of the N.C. Center for Safer Schools 2013 Report to the Governor. These agencies and others continue as primary partners of the N.C. Center for Safer Schools.	Complete
4.	Conduct an annual review of policy-making and legislative documents related to the area of school safety.	The year's focus has been on enhancing anti-bullying and school safety legislation.	Ongoing

	Action Step	Action Step Update and Progress	Status
5.	Promote and encourage volunteerism and community support in schools.	<p>Ongoing collaboration with the Governor's Community and Constituent Affairs Office, Task Force members and community partners. The Center produced a bullying awareness presentation and trained several community partners on effective presentation delivery.</p> <p>An initiative with the Office of State Human Resources is being developed where state employees will be encouraged to utilize volunteer, mentor and/or literacy hours in schools. Gov. McCrory will encourage each state agency to promote the initiative.</p>	Ongoing
	General Assembly		
6.	Provide additional resources for hiring student support services professionals, including school resource officers, school social workers, school nurses, school psychologists and school guidance counselors.	The General Assembly provided \$7 million for school resource officers (SROs) to be hired across the state. There were 198 SRO positions created with these funds. Efforts are underway to seek sustainable funding for these positions and expand positions to schools without SROs.	Complete <i>(On-going for second year funding)</i>
7.	Acknowledge the Governor's call for supporting school safety and the Center for Safer Schools.	This was completed by funding the N.C. Center for Safer Schools.	Complete
8.	Allow local flexibility for school safety drills based on a school's unique vulnerabilities and require at least one lockdown drill.	Legislation was passed to encourage individual school lockdowns and safety drills every year and system-wide every two years.	Complete
9.	Require that schools have a safe school plan and group rehearsal that is updated at least every two years.	DPI requires that schools have a school safety plan. Legislation was passed to meet this requirement.	Complete

	Action Step	Action Step Update and Progress	Status
	N.C. Center for Safer Schools		
10.	Produce an Annual Report on School Safety in North Carolina.	The N.C. Center for Safer Schools has provided the second annual Report to the Governor. This report fulfills this requirement.	Complete
11.	Convene and support a state task force on school safety.	Established Oct. 15, 2013, with the first meeting taking place on Dec. 4, 2013. Additional quarterly meetings were held with a March meeting in New Bern and a June meeting in Raleigh and a scheduled September meeting in Raleigh.	Complete <i>(with ongoing quarterly meetings)</i>
12.	Collaborate with the N.C. Justice Academy to update the SRO curriculum.	Updates are coordinated through the Justice Academy, the agency charged with curriculum development. Beginning July 8, a standing working group facilitated by the Center for Safer Schools is convened quarterly with representatives from the Justice Academy, DHHS, DPI, Department of Commerce and the N.C. SRO Association to work collaboratively to facilitate potential updates of the SRO curriculum and other additional training for SROs.	Ongoing
13.	Conduct an Annual Census of School Resource Officers.	Annual census conducted for 2012-2013 school year. Response was lower than expected due to being conducted late in the school year. A plan of action to produce a more complete listing has been developed for the 2014-2015 school year. As a follow-up to the census, a survey was administered to learn more about SRO demographics and training concerns. These two items will be conducted annually and shared with partnering agencies.	Complete
14.	Host School Resource Officer, Juvenile Court Counselor and School Administrator forums.	Symposiums are being planned and will be held in August through September 2015. Three symposiums are scheduled statewide.	Ongoing

	Action Step	Action Step Update and Progress	Status
15.	Continue to educate local schools and school systems regarding the harmful impacts of bullying; seek evidence-based solutions for bullying prevention.	Center continues to research promising, best and evidence-based practices. A web page that is updated quarterly will be posted by fall 2014 . The Center developed a standardized presentation to raise bullying awareness and trained several stakeholders to be able to present this in their communities. The Governor’s Task Force on Safer Schools also proposed that anti- bullying legislation be amended to include that schools shall inform parents about the school policies on bullying and post them in the parent and staff handbook.	Ongoing
16.	Help create a web-based resource center of funding sources available to schools for school safety initiatives.	A list of grant opportunities and philanthropic organizations will be developed and published on the Center’s web pages and updated to remain current.	Ongoing
17.	Serve as a repository for best practices.	The Center for Safer Schools is developing links to these resources to be posted to its web page. Center staff will redefine this task so that it encompasses Task # 19 and looks more to both best practices and lessons learned.	Ongoing
18.	Establish anonymous reporting systems for reporting school safety concerns for schools statewide.	Smartphone application is being developed. A cost analysis is being completed by Center staff.	Ongoing
19.	Encourage information-sharing and the use of best practices to create safer schools.	Combined with Task # 17.	Ongoing
20.	Encourage schools to put in place more effective alternatives to suspension.	More information to follow as the Center staff members are working with the Task Force subcommittee on School Climate and Discipline to identify alternatives to share with schools.	Ongoing
21.	Provide information and technical assistance to schools and the general public.	Center staff members are in an ongoing process of collecting information and a major update is scheduled for fall 2014 to include a training calendar and brochure.	Ongoing

	Action Step	Action Step Update and Progress	Status
	Emergency Management		
22.	Develop a best practice guide on crisis mitigation and response.	The guide has been completed; awaiting online publication of document.	In Progress
23.	Encourage school districts to participate in the All-Hazards Training.	This training has been scheduled for April 2015.	Ongoing
24.	Assist local school districts and local emergency management offices with web-based emergency planning and drills.	The two-part web-based portal for schools and first responders will be piloted in Forsyth County with Phase 1 implementation statewide starting in September 2014.	Ongoing
	Law Enforcement		
25.	Encourage law enforcement officers to maintain high visibility around schools.	The N.C. Highway Patrol routinely stops at schools to complete paperwork, have lunch, conduct appropriate business and offer an effective visual deterrent to criminal activities. There were 3,959 of these school safety stops made by the Patrol in the 2013-2014 school year.	Ongoing
	Juvenile Justice		
26.	Empower local youth violence prevention planning bodies to integrate services through collaboration and to use mixed funding streams.	The Department of Public Safety is working with the Department of Health and Human Services to encourage greater collaboration and blending of state resources through the Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils.	Ongoing
27.	Work to expand training resources for court counselors and community program providers/ staff in areas related to school safety. For court staff, develop specialized training modules on the recognition and reporting of risk behaviors and warning signs that could lead to school violence; actively engage court counselors in student support teams throughout the state.	In June 2014, a class of juvenile court counselors completed a 40-hour class to become trainers in Mental Health First Aid for Youth. These new trainers will offer the 8-hour Mental Health First Aid for Youth training to juvenile court counselors and other juvenile justice-related employees.	Ongoing

	Action Step	Action Step Update and Progress	Status
	N.C. Department of Public Instruction		
28.	Provide technical assistance on how to foster a positive social climate.	This item is being reviewed by the Climate Subcommittee of the Task Force. No recommendations have been finalized at this point.	In Progress
29.	Assist school districts in increasing the physical security of their school buildings through the creation of a standardize school safety assessment tool and encouraging school districts to use the Safe Schools Facilities Planner.	DPI has completed updates of the Safe Schools Planner and communicated this to all 115 Local Education Agencies. DPI continues to work on developing an assessment tool.	Ongoing
30.	Help school districts identify funding to make safety improvements.	DPI is applying for some grants in this arena. If successful and funding made available will make LEAs aware of them. LEAs have been informed of other bond funding sources for school facility safety.	Ongoing
31.	Offer an online module for teachers on how best to collaborate with their SROs.	A new online professional development module has been developed by DPI to assist teachers and school staff to more effectively utilize the expertise/services of SROs. The title of the new professional development tool is: Understanding the Role of the School Resource Officers in our Schools. This module is expected to go live in August 2014.	Complete
32.	Improve school bus safety.	DPI has provided training to new transportation directors dealing with anti-bullying and awareness for protection from potential terrorist activities or other hazards to students on buses. Training was provided for drivers on these issues, as well at the recent State School Bus Rodeo. Training on these points was provided at the State School Bus Transportation Summer meeting.	Ongoing

	Action Step	Action Step Update and Progress	Status
	N.C. Department of Health & Human Services		
33.	As a policy consideration, DHHS leadership strongly recommends and supports intervention at the earliest possible point where risk or problem behaviors are identified.	DHHS with other departments, community partners, stakeholders and foundations is participating in the Essentials for Childhood Task Force to develop an integrated, comprehensive five-year strategic plan to coordinate and prioritize the services, programs and/or policies of a number of state agencies that will build on New Directions for NC. Addressing strengthening families, early education, health, emotional well-being and readiness supported through healthy brain development are areas of focus, through increasing state and community level primary prevention strategies of child maltreatment. Efforts incorporate the four goals of the CDC's Essentials for Childhood and applying a collective impact framework.	Ongoing
34.	Facilitate the presence of more positive adults at every local school.	Joint trainings of Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services' (DMHDDSAS) Juvenile Justice Substance Abuse Mental Health Partnerships (JJSAMHP) & DPS's Reclaiming Futures have focused on the integration of positive adult role models as a vital component of the juvenile's service plan. Additionally, N.C. Treatment Outcomes and Program Performance (NC-TOPPS) collects data about the number of positive adult role models youth have at the onset, during and at discharge of treatment. This information can be used on the local or state level to assess the need for a more concentrated effort in this area.	Ongoing

	Action Step	Action Step Update and Progress	Status
35.	Grow public awareness of, and greater involvement of consumers and advocates in NC Families United and Youth M.O.V.E. chapters across the state (including the development of new chapters).	Youth M.O.V.E hosted a webinar in December 2013 in order to provide more information about the organization and its opportunities. Youth M.O.V.E is represented on several state level planning teams in conjunction with DMHDDSAS such as the System of Care (SOC) Expansion grant and the National Alliance on Mental Illness's (NAMI) annual Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) conference planning committee. Youth M.O.V.E representatives will host a Youth Adult Leadership training of trainers Aug. 25–29, 2014, in Greensboro in partnership with Josh's Hope Inc. The outgrowth of this leadership series will support the development of new chapters.	Ongoing
36.	Work to involve more families and communities in the parent-centered education resources and activities provided by NC Parent Resource Center (www.ncparentresourcecenter.org).	DMHDDSAS partnered with the N.C. Parent Resource Center to hold a statewide conference May 13-14, 2014, with plenary sessions the first day focusing on safer schools, reducing bullying and implementing strategies for positive impact. Billy Lassiter and Kym Martin, DPS Center for Safer Schools, presented the plenary sessions.	Ongoing
37.	Increase resources for Crisis Intervention Team training (CIT).	<p>The Division hosts quarterly CIT Advisory group meetings where information is collected and exchanged including the implementation of CIT specifically for those involved with youth such as school resource officers. DMHDDSAS's Justice Innovations Team is the repository for this information where local communities can request information and assistance in the development of their curricula. DMHDDSAS is also working with NAMI on the 2015 CIT conference. Next year's conference will have a youth focus.</p> <p>Twenty-six percent, or 5,910 of N.C. law enforcement officers were CIT certified by the end of calendar year 2013. 991 officers became CIT certified in 2013, a 19 percent increase from the previous year. An additional 24 law enforcement agencies began participating in a CIT program. 2013 saw an additional 171 telecommunications trained in CIT, a 32 percent increase from the previous year.</p>	Ongoing

	Action Step	Action Step Update and Progress	Status
38.	Pilot and expand use of tele-mental health and substance abuse services, especially in school based settings where feasible.	<p>The Division is exploring ways to further extend the use of tele-mental health services. Currently these services are offered in some emergency departments. The Division is exploring the use of these services, particularly in school-based settings.</p> <p>On Jan. 15, 2014, a full day of in-person training and six online, live sessions in Cognitive Behavior Therapy Skills for School-Based Counselors was sponsored by Behavioral Healthcare Resource Program at UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work as a project of DMHDDSAS. They also produced the N.C. School-Based Mental Health Services Newsletter.</p> <p>A PowerPoint training entitled “Supporting Mental Health in Schools-Why It Matters” was created by Behavioral Healthcare Resource Program & DMHDDSAS in collaboration with the special needs steering committee of the Governor’s Task Force on Safer Schools. This training module addresses issues related to trauma & will be used in eight forums of school personnel to be held across the state later this year.</p>	In Progress

	Action Step	Action Step Update and Progress	Status
39.	<p>Develop and maintain additional resources to ensure access and training to Youth Mental Health First Aid (see http://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/cs/youth-mental-health-first-aid).</p>	<p>DMHDDSAS sponsored the state’s first Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor training in February 2014.</p> <p>Through an application process, 32 people from around the state were identified to attend the training. These instructors are now able to train anyone willing to participate in the training. For the Youth version of Mental Health First Aid, that includes adults who regularly interact with adolescents, such as teachers, coaches, mentors and juvenile justice professionals. The course may also be appropriate for older adolescents (16 and older) who can encourage peer-to-peer interaction.</p> <p>A second Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor training was held June 2-6, 2014, for 31 participants. This training was a collaboration in planning, funding and attendance between DMHDDSAS and the Juvenile Justice Section of the Department of Public Safety.</p> <p>In September 2013 more than 2,000 North Carolinians were trained “Mental Health First Aiders” and we had 43 Certified Instructors.</p> <p>As of May 2014, North Carolina had more than 3,800 people trained as Mental Health First Aiders through the efforts of 138 certified instructors. We’ve almost doubled the number of Mental Health First-Aiders and more than tripled the number of Instructors in eight months.</p> <p>http://news.ncdhhs.gov/post/85821981641/dhhs-highlights-youth-mental-health-first-aid-as-part</p>	Ongoing

	Action Step	Action Step Update and Progress	Status
40.	Help professionals and parents grow their awareness of the role of trauma in the psychological, physical and social growth of children.	<p>DMHDDSAS has worked collaboratively on System of Care and JCPC program planning in which approximately 30 persons were trained regarding the impact of trauma on children and caregivers. The training was conducted by UNC-Greensboro with Family Partners.</p> <p>Eastpointe Human Services and S.T.A.A.R Ministry hosted a Human Trafficking Conference on June 20, 2014, with funds made available in part by DMHDDSAS's JJSAMHP.</p> <p>The Division is partnering with the Child Treatment Program, which focuses on bringing evidence-based trauma treatments to scale in North Carolina. Currently 220 clinicians have been trained in TF-CBT (Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, CPP (Child Parent Psychotherapy), & PCIT (Parent Child Interaction Therapy).</p>	Ongoing

	Action Step	Action Step Update and Progress	Status
41.	Assist state and local mental health administrators, in partnership with educators, in learning and managing effective crisis response strategies, tools, and techniques.	<p>DMHDDSAS launched the Crisis Solutions Initiative http://crisissolutionsnc.org/</p> <p>The Crisis Solutions Coalition hosts public meetings regularly.</p> <p>Client advocates, along with leaders from healthcare, government, law enforcement, magistrates, schools, healthcare providers, paramedics, emergency departments, community health centers, advocacy groups and others will help develop solutions leading to better care. They will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommending and establishing community partnerships to strengthen the continuum of care for mental health and substance abuse services. • Promoting education and awareness of alternative community resources to the use of emergency departments. • Making recommendations related to data sharing to help identify who, when and where people in crisis are served, and the results of those services. • Creating a repository of evidence-based practices and providing technical assistance to Local Management Entities-Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCOs), law enforcement and providers on how to respond to crisis scenarios. • Recommending legislative, policy and funding changes to help break down barriers associated with accessing care. 	Ongoing

	Action Step	Action Step Update and Progress	Status
42.	Foster broader training and implementation of System of Care throughout North Carolina.	<p>The System of Care Expansion Planning grant has been awarded to five local collaboratives. The grant covers the cost of a Family Partner Coordinator and focuses on planning for the implementation phase of the grant in which SOC principles will be taught and integrated systematically for purposes of sustainability following the grant period.</p> <p>A three-day Strategic Planning Conference for the SOC expansion planning grant was hosted in May 2014. Representatives of all five chosen sites were in attendance. Sites include Cardinal-Central Region, CoastalCare, CenterPoint, Eastpointe, MeckCARES. During the conference the following areas were addressed: Mission, vision, & values, environmental scan, SWOT analysis, local & state level strategic plan alliance, goals and outcomes, and action planning.</p> <p>Juvenile Justice Substance Abuse Mental Health Partnerships (JJSAMHP) works jointly with Reclaiming Futures (RF) to increase the use of effective screening at intake across the state, including on diversion youth. This is done through ongoing trainings and technical assistance to assist in implementation and problem-solving issues that arise. Effective screening leads to assessments for youth with an identified substance abuse and/or mental health indicator.</p> <p>Regional trainings were jointly hosted by JJSAMHP & RF in November 2013 to address cross system planning and the use of child and family teams as a mechanism to be driven by youth and families to address all domains of the youth's life.</p> <p>In January 2014 DMHDDSAS's Practice Improvement Collaborative (PIC) hosted evidence-based substance abuse programs for youth including Strengthening Families program, Seven Challenges, Media Detective, Media Ready, Reclaiming Futures and Multi-systemic Therapy. After assessment, youth then need to be engaged in treatment. These evidence-based models have been proven effective.</p>	Ongoing

	Action Step	Action Step Update and Progress	Status
43.	Evaluate and potentially expand the School Based Child and Family Team Initiative.	The Division is in the process of reviewing current school-based Child and Family Team models in an effort to expand its usage across school districts.	In Progress
	N.C. Department of Justice		
44.	Prioritize School Resource Officer training and provide classes in summer months so more officers can attend when school is out of session.	The N.C. Justice Academy has made training for SROs a priority. For 2014, scheduled 31 course deliveries geared toward SROs. These classes range from one-five days in length. Out of these 31 course deliveries in 2014, 19 classes have been scheduled during the summer months.	Ongoing
45.	Update crisis response techniques to reflect best practices.	The N.C. Justice Academy remains committed to conduct training that is relevant and meets the needs of the law enforcement community.	Ongoing
46.	Offer updated rapid deployment training through N.C. Justice Academy.	The N.C. Justice Academy remains committed to conduct training that is relevant and meets the needs of our law enforcement community. As with all classes, the Academy constantly reviews and revises its curriculum based upon best practices, lessons learned and changes in the law.	Ongoing
47.	Institute training for educators and staff on warning signs of prescription drug abuse among students.	<p>The N.C. Department of Justice sponsored the “Stop Rx Abuse” asking students in grades 9-12 in North Carolina to create 30-second public service announcement videos about the dangers of teen prescription drug abuse: http://www.ncdoj.gov/getdoc/72c765ef-36e2-4cc0-9d47-129a9fd5f922/Stop-Rx-Abuse-Winning-Videos.aspx</p> <p>The DOJ also successfully petitioned for better warnings and formulations for opioids, one of the most frequently abused prescription drugs: http://www.ncdoj.gov/News-and-Alerts/News-Releases-and-Advisories/Cooper-calls-for-stronger-prescription-drug-safety.aspx</p>	Ongoing

	Action Step	Action Step Update and Progress	Status
	N.C. Department of Commerce/other Workforce Development Entities		
48.	The N.C. Department of Commerce should consider working with the Center for Safer Schools and other entities to identify funding opportunities and programs available through federal, state or local entities that could be used to grow employment, school-to-work, entrepreneur, apprenticeship and other workforce development alternatives for teen-aged youth.	<p>Apprenticeship & Training was recently transferred to the N.C. Department of Commerce and is currently exploring alternative processes and funding streams for program promotion and registration. One area of progress has been the inclusion of a ‘fee waiver’ as it relates to Registered Apprenticeships in the 2014 Budget Legislation. The N.C. Community College System pledged \$300,000 from its operating budget to cover costs associated with the waiver while alternative funds and permanent revenue streams are explored. Please visit www.NCWorks.Gov</p> <p>An On-the-Job Training Program is administered in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration in order to fill the continuing need for trained workers in the highway construction industry and to provide employment and on-site training opportunities for women and minority workers. The program will launch in September of 2014 at Warren County High School. This program can be expanded to high schools across North Carolina, with an emphasis on those near significant planned highway construction projects that provide considerable demand for these roles. Funding for such programs is available through the NCDOT.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>In Progress</p>

	Action Step	Action Step Update and Progress	Status
53.	Seek opportunities for integrating support services.	Information for items # 51 to 78 will be obtained in a Task Force Retreat to be held in June 2015	In Progress
54.	Collaborate with juvenile justice and mental health agencies to create blended funding streams.	Identify what is working already with blended funding between child-serving agencies and JCPC	In Progress
55.	Invest in effective prevention programs.	Information for items # 51 to 78 will be obtained in a Task Force Retreat to be held in June 2015	In Progress
56.	Follow best practices when designing and retrofitting schools.	Information for items # 51 to 78 will be obtained in a Task Force Retreat to be held in June 2015	In Progress
57.	Hire support service professionals already funded by the state budget and focus professionals' time on their specialty rather than ancillary roles.	Information for items # 51 to 78 will be obtained in a Task Force Retreat to be held in June 2015	In Progress
58.	Create effective alternatives to out of school suspension schools/programs.	Information for items # 51 to 78 will be obtained in a Task Force Retreat to be held in June 2015	In Progress
59.	Expand volunteer programs.	Build and expand volunteer opportunities that expand partnerships between schools and communities. Develop a list of opportunities (during school/after school hours)	Ongoing
	Schools		
60.	Have a safe school planning committee and develop a plan that includes prevention, intervention, crisis response and crisis recovery strategies.	Efforts being made to integrate compassionate climate program, mental health concerns and safety trainings in safe school planning committee. Promoting the Prevention of Escalating Adolescent Crisis Events (PEACE) Protocol to give schools a template for identifying, screening and linking students to care when in crisis.	Ongoing
61.	Increase the capacity of staff to intervene quickly when they notice early warning signs of potentially violent behavior.	Continue to market Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA). Use information from YMHFA to develop a user-friendly list of warning signs and interventions. Encourage use of The Prevention of Escalating Adolescent Crisis Events (PEACE) Protocol to give schools a template for identifying, screening and linking students to care when in crisis.	Ongoing

	Action Step	Action Step Update and Progress	Status
62.	Ensure students and parents have access to 24-hour anonymous reporting systems for reporting school safety concerns.	An RFP was advertised and bids reviewed. While no bid was offered at a dollar amount that was close to the amount allotted by grant funding, the Center continues to seek alternatives to fulfill this action item.	In Progress
63.	Empower students to be part of the solution.	Information for items # 51 to 78 will be obtained in a Task Force Retreat to be held in June 2015	In Progress
64.	Have school resource officers address staff at the beginning of each school year regarding school safety concerns.	Information for items # 51 to 78 will be obtained in a Task Force Retreat to be held in June 2015	In Progress
65.	Implement school social climate initiatives, e.g. restorative/transformational justice, Positive Behavior Support or bullying prevention programs.	Information for items # 51 to 78 will be obtained in a Task Force Retreat to be held in June 2015	In Progress
66.	Conduct annual surveys of the student body to assess school climate.	Information for items # 51 to 78 will be obtained in a Task Force Retreat to be held in June 2015	In Progress
67.	Conduct vulnerability/safety assessment of schools every year with partnering agencies (law enforcement and emergency management).	Information for items # 51 to 78 will be obtained in a Task Force Retreat to be held in June 2015	In Progress
68.	Utilize school support staff in appropriate ways that reflect their expertise.	Information for items # 51 to 78 will be obtained in a Task Force Retreat to be held in June 2015	In Progress
69.	Seek out and grow family/community engagement strategies.	Build alliances between families and school community. Strategies to include: family to family connections through Parents and Teachers as Allies, Family Partners and NAMI Basics Young Family Network, Family Support Network, N.C. Parent Resource Center.	Ongoing
70.	Conduct at least one lockdown drill annually.	Information for items # 51 to 78 will be obtained in a Task Force Retreat to be held in June 2015	In Progress

	Action Step	Action Step Update and Progress	Status
71.	Look for ways to integrate supportive services that involve community partners.	Information for items # 51 to 78 will be obtained in a Task Force Retreat to be held in June 2015	In Progress
	Parents		
72.	Parents should reach out to schools and other professionals to help increase parental knowledge and capacity to recognize and respond to student vulnerability, risk and the early warning signs of struggle.	Recommend schools and communities provide and promote pro-social engagement, compassionate climate and recruit positive peer and adult role models/mentors for students at risk. School personnel and families need to have access to training, information on child's developing brain over time and impact of trauma related to social-emotional competence, state regulation, mental health and substance abuse and school performance.	In Progress
73.	Parents should work with community resource providers, agencies and their schools to learn about services and programs that can prevent or reduce the risk of school problems including the risk of violence.	Recommend schools and communities provide promote pro-social engagement, compassionate climate and recruit positive peer and adult role models/mentors for students at risk. School personnel and families need to have access to training, information on child's developing brain over time and impact of trauma related to social-emotional competence, state regulation, mental health and substance abuse and school performance.	In Progress
74.	Parents should prioritize conversations with their children about school safety on a continuing basis.	Identify other tools and resources that will help parents talk with children about difficult subjects and help equip students with skills to navigate, such as school safety, personal violence, bullying, emotional abuse, substance use, managing emotions.	Ongoing
	Parents and their Employers		
75.	Parents and their employers should explore the possibilities of flexible work/job schedules so that parents may attend school-based activities and/or volunteer in schools whenever possible.	Encourage large employers to remind their employees of the volunteer opportunities at the schools. Local Education Agency and school public relations office can disseminate volunteer opportunities to community employers.	Ongoing

	Action Step	Action Step Update and Progress	Status
	Students		
76.	Students must take ownership of their role in creating positive school climates by promptly reporting warning signs of violence.	Information for items # 51 to 78 will be obtained in a Task Force Retreat to be held in June 2015	In Progress
77.	Students should take the initiative to learn about the support services, programs and other resources within school settings so that when questions or circumstances arise, they know who may be of assistance in a responsive way.	Information for items # 51 to 78 will be obtained in a Task Force Retreat to be held in June 2015	In Progress
78.	Students should participate in programs and services designed to help them recognize problem behaviors, respond appropriately, and foster restorative and transformative practices within schools.	Information for items # 51 to 78 will be obtained in a Task Force Retreat to be held in June 2015	In Progress
78.	Students should participate in programs and services designed to help them recognize problem behaviors, respond appropriately, and foster restorative and transformative practices within schools.	Information for items # 51 to 78 will be obtained in a Task Force Retreat to be held in June 2015	In Progress

Next Steps and Future Projects

The N.C. Center for Safer Schools is actively pursuing many avenues in promoting school safety through information sharing, training and technical assistance. Some of these projects include:

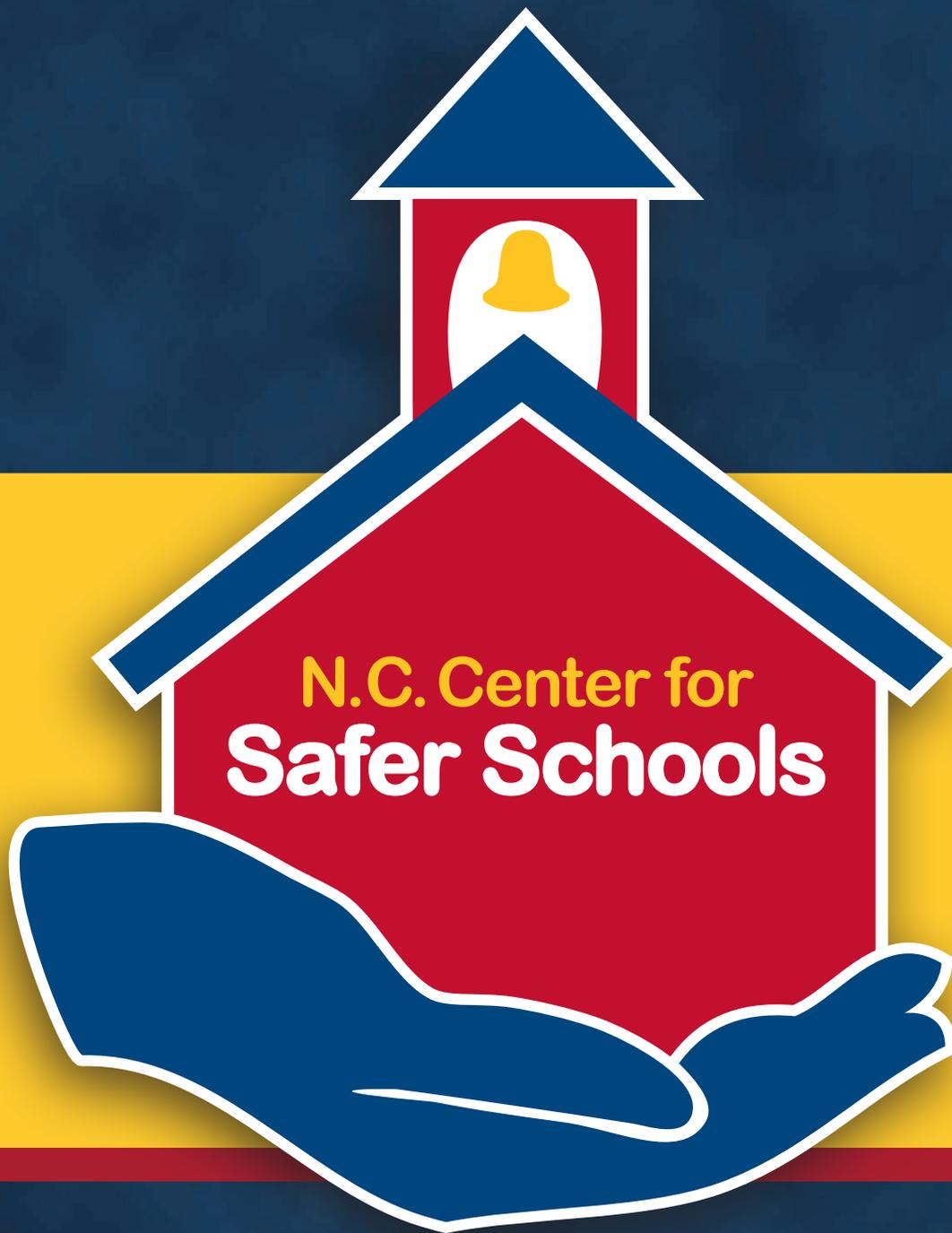
- Becoming trained and certified to teach Mental Health First Aid for Youth by Center staff members. The

- primary target audience will be SROs, teachers and other school support staff.
- Becoming certified trainers for Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) geared toward youth in order for Center staff members to teach these techniques to SROs and other school support staff.
 - Collaborating with the Justice Academy along with partners from the N.C. School Resource Officer Association, Department of Public Instruction and Department of Health and Human Services to help ensure that the basic SRO curriculum is providing current and informative courses that benefit SROs' professional development and ability to be a productive resource on multiple fronts within schools.
 - Collaborating with the Department of Public Instruction and Research Triangle Institute to procure a grant from the National Institute of Justice to research a designed protocol for school safety. This grant would seek to implement a series of designed training and intervention techniques in target schools and compare results to similar schools that did not initiate the protocol. This trial will be conducted in a few selected LEAs and is entitled "Developing Knowledge About What Works to Make Schools Safe."
 - Planning and developing strategies and programming for a statewide conference on safer schools to be held in either 2015 or 2016.
 - Investigating the future of collaborating with the Department of Community Colleges and then with our state's four-year institutions on issues of campus safety and teacher education that would include school mental health issues and information about the harmful impacts of bullying.
 - Working with the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission to develop programs that focus on reducing underage consumption of alcohol and other substance abuse issues among students.
 - Evaluating the impact of current anti-bullying legislation and working with the Task Force on ways to enhance these laws.
 - Continuing to investigate areas to encourage legislative action for school safety issues requiring state level leadership, through both the Center and the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools. Areas to be considered include continued support for SRO funding, new funding for expansion of school psychologists and social workers, and grants for local schools to update their security measures.
 - Working with the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools and the Justice Academy to plan and implement symposia geared toward training in rapid response and recovery, critical incident response for school faculty and staff, and supporting mental health in schools. The audience includes law enforcement, school administrators and teachers, and mental health providers.

Conclusion

The N.C. Center for Safer Schools has worked tirelessly to improve the safety of North Carolina's students, building a professional staff over the past 12 months who bring years of training, research and school safety experience to the table. The Center is well positioned to help guide and foster relationships among all of the agencies and organizations involved in developing various school safety plans and initiatives. Along with the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools, our state level partners – the departments of Public Instruction, Public Safety, Health and Human Services, Justice and Commerce – and all local and individual partners are working together to seek common resolutions to the concern of safety in our schools. The Center is providing leadership in these collaborations and will continue to foster new partnerships to enhance this effort.

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