The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) commissioned personnel throughout the state are working with schools and the local law enforcement community to provide a visible deterrence and increase law enforcement response capability to an attack or other threat. DPS provides its Troopers, Special Agents, and Texas Rangers expert level tactical training so they can quickly act individually or as a team to address the many and varied threats to public safety in Texas, including threats to children.

Currently, 91% of DPS commissioned personnel are trained in active shooter response. Overall, 56% of DPS commissioned personnel have completed Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) training, which has provided skills and equipment utilized to save the lives of no less than 15 people in 2019.

DPS provides citizens with Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training, and in 2019, 112 CRASE courses have been taught by DPS commissioned personnel in private businesses, schools, and state offices across Texas. Citizens can report suspicious activities or behaviors that may indicate criminal, terrorist, or school safety-related threats using the Texas Suspicious Activity Reporting Network iWatchTexas application. Since its inception, there have been 8,879 downloads.

The DPS School Safety Initiative continues to be a success. DPS commissioned personnel promote and maintain positive relationships with students, teachers, and staff statewide through school visits and the establishment of office space within schools. Additionally, they encourage these individuals to be aware of their surroundings and advocate for the download and usage of iWatchTexas application.
Since the last report, DPS North Texas Region, Tom Green Elementary School, Reilly Elementary School, St. Mary's Catholic School and the Texas School for the Deaf. Troopers also participated in career day at interact with Law Enforcement. DWI/Alcohol Awareness programs and “Shattered Dream” programs were presented to local high schools.

routinely conduct security patrols and coordinate with staff to enhance school safety. During this reporting period, Troopers focused on Brooke Elementary School, Bike Patrol Troopers regularly conduct security patrols, which provide additional visual security measures for area schools.

North Texas Region
DPS commissioned personnel continue to patrol school campuses and school zones, as well as attend school functions and sporting events. Troopers in Bowie County attended a graduation ceremony at Dunbar Elementary School. Troopers promoted the use of the iWatchTexas for Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) and spoke about it at various school campuses.

Southeast Texas Region
DPS commissioned personnel continue to conduct routine patrol in school zones, walk through campuses, attend school sporting events, discuss campus security with school officials, and plan future active shooter training at several campuses. Troopers take lunch breaks with students and staff, which continues to be received positively. DPS commissioned personnel conduct education and safety related programs every week at several schools within the Region. DPS commissioned personnel also attended graduation ceremonies and were present during school dismissals.

South Texas Region
DPS commissioned personnel interactions at schools include daily patrols, lunch breaks with students, maintaining a presence at sporting events, and patrolling other school properties. Since the last report, DPS commissioned personnel participated in Cameron County’s 3rd Annual Law Enforcement Field Day named, “You’ve Got a Friend in Me”. The event was held at the Centro Cultural in Cameron County Park specifically for the special needs community as part of Autism Awareness Month. TX DPS Aviation and DPS SWAT hosted students from Dr. Long Elementary in the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District and provided them with information on the duties and responsibilities of a DPS Trooper. THP Troopers from Cotulla teamed up with South Texas Rural Health Services and spoke to students at Frank Newman Middle School about the dangers of drinking and driving and demonstrated Standard Field Sobriety Tests. Students then attempted to perform a team exercise while using goggles to simulate intoxication. DPS commissioned personnel attended several award and graduation ceremonies throughout the Region. Troopers continue to encourage employees to attend CRASE courses and submit Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) using the iWatchTexas application.

West Texas Region
Since the last report, May 17, 2019, trooper safety engagement at schools included daily security patrols of campuses and school zones, maintaining a presence at school crosswalks, and weekly conferences with school staff. Troopers were present during recess, physical education classes, student release, and award ceremonies. Troopers also encouraged the use of the iWatchTexas application for Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) and have spoken about it at school campuses, activity centers, and during traffic stops.

Northwest Texas Region
DPS commissioned personnel in the Northwest Texas Region continue to conduct patrols on school campuses and attend school events. THP Troopers continue to attend ‘Reading with a Trooper’ at local elementary schools. THP Sergeants presented Safety City programs, and Senate Bill 30 classes, which teach students how to interact with Law Enforcement. DWI/Alcohol Awareness programs and “Shattered Dream” programs were presented to local high schools.

Central Texas Region
Troopers closely coordinated with 51 schools in multiple ISDs to maximize deterrence and response capabilities. Troopers attended 24 large school events including graduations, award ceremonies, sports events and other school functions. Troopers assisted with three lockdown drills, responded to two school threats, and helped locate a student who had left school grounds without permission. Lastly, Troopers ensured traffic rules were obeyed during school pick-up and drop-off.

Capitol Region
DPS commissioned personnel continue to maintain a close partnership with the Texas School for the Deaf and seven other local school/childcare centers. Troopers routinely conduct security patrols and coordinate with staff to enhance school safety. During this reporting period, Troopers focused on Brooke Elementary School, Tom Green Elementary School, Reilly Elementary School, St. Mary’s Catholic School and the Texas School for the Deaf. Troopers also participated in career day at Brooke Elementary School. Bike Patrol Troopers regularly conduct security patrols, which provide additional visual security measures for area schools.

Data current as of 6/18/2019 and subject to change. TxMAP data reflects data that has been submitted, vetted by HSOC, and forwarded to TxMAP personnel.
Examples of Preemptive Actions:

September 2018, West Texas Region, El Paso:
While a THP - El Paso Trooper was conducting a school visit at a local high school, female students approached the Trooper about an on-line predator coercing female juveniles for nude photos. The female students stated the on-line predator was also a high school student that possibly attended the same school but the students were unsure. The Trooper alerted the Texas Ranger Division in El Paso about the situation. Texas Rangers conducted their investigation and located a male from another high school in El Paso posing as a student from the high school the female juveniles attended. This is still an on-going investigation.

October 2018, Southeast Texas Region, Center:
At a high school football game, a student was informed by another student of a potential shooting that was to occur that night. The student who received the information made a prompt report to school officials who immediately notified law enforcement. THP, along with Shelby County Sheriff’s Office and the Center Police Department, investigated the threat and arrested a student in the campus parking lot. The student was charged with Terroristic Threat.

October 2018, Northwest Texas Region, Ropesville:
Northwest Texas Region Troopers and Special Agents were presenting to over 200 students on Internet and Social Media Safety, Cyberbullying and Sexting, and Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention. After the presentation concluded, a student self-identified as a victim of bullying to a THP Sergeant. The Sergeant disseminated this information to the School Resource Officer and the school counselor. The victim is currently in counseling.

November 2018, Northwest Texas Region, Snyder:
A School Resource Officer assigned to four campuses requested for a nearby officer to respond to a middle school gym when they could not timely respond. A Texas Ranger, only a few blocks away, responded and found a student physically and verbally assaulting a teacher. The Texas Ranger was able to deescalate the situation and turned the student over to Snyder Police Department without further incident.

November 2018, North Texas Region, Simms:
School officials informed THP of an adult male who was possibly engaging in improper relationships with students. THP relayed this information to CID. Shortly after, another school official informed THP of improper behavior by this subject. THP arranged to meet with the victim and their mother the following day. CID requested a list of additional possible victims from school administrators and arrested the subject for Indecency with a Child. CID conducted a search warrant of the subject’s residence and located a minor who was placed into the custody of the Department of Family and Protective Services. CID interviewed additional children, two of which made allegations of sexual assault by this subject. The investigation ended when the subject was found deceased. One administrator was extremely appreciative with DPS’ investigation, telling CID that in their 30+ years experience, this subject posed more danger to children under his care than anyone else he had encountered.