

Evidence-Based Summary Analysis of U.S. Secret Service, National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) Findings on Targeted School Violence & Additional Perspective from 360 Security Services

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What the Research Shows

The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) has studied school violence and prevention across the country.

Key Findings:

- School attacks are extremely rare
- They are not random—they are planned in advance
- In every prevented attack, there were warning signs beforehand
- Students and community members often knew and reported concerns

Most important takeaway:

School violence is preventable when warning signs are recognized and addressed early

How Likely Is This to Happen?

- There are over 130,000 schools in the United States
- On average, there are only a few targeted school attacks per year nationwide

This means:

The likelihood of any individual school being targeted is extremely low

For faith-based K–8 schools, the risk is even lower due to:

- Younger student population
- Strong relationships and community connection
- Higher visibility of student behavior

What Actually Prevents School Violence

Research is clear: prevention is not primarily about physical security—it is about people and awareness.

The Most Effective Safety Measures:

- Strong Relationships: Students feel known, supported, and connected
- “See Something, Say Something” Culture: Students and parents feel comfortable reporting concerns
- Early Intervention: Addressing issues before they escalate

- Monitoring Behavior, Not Just Threats: Paying attention to changes, stress, or isolation

What About School Resource Officers (SROs)?

This is an important and understandable question.

What the research tells us:

- SROs can play a supporting role
- But they are not the primary way attacks are prevented
- Many attacks have been prevented without an SRO being involved

The most important factor is not:

“Do we have an SRO?”

It is:

“Are we identifying and responding to concerning behavior early?”

Our Current Safety Assessment

At this time, our school is assessed as:

LOW RISK

Because:

- No known threats
- No concerning behaviors identified
- No indicators of targeting
- Layered security
- Awareness

We continue to monitor, assess, and adjust as needed.

Our Ongoing Safety Approach

Safety is not a one-time decision—it is an ongoing process.

We are committed to:

- Continuous awareness and monitoring
- Maintaining strong relationships with students, staff, parishioners & external partnerships (*community, law enforcement, etc.*)
- Encouraging open communication
- Responding quickly if concerns arise

If risk changes, *our* response *will* change.

A Faith-Based Perspective

As a faith community, we are called to:

- Care for one another
- Support those who may be struggling
- Speak up when something is not right

Safety is not just about protection—it is about community, compassion, and connection.

How Parents, Staff, Parishioners and Others Can Help

You play a critical role in keeping our school and church community safe.

Please:

- Encourage your child or others to speak up if something feels wrong
- Report concerns to the school—even if you’re unsure
- Stay engaged and connected with our community

Most prevented incidents happen because someone said something

Final Takeaway

“The best available research shows that school violence is rare and preventable. The most effective way to keep our children safe is through awareness, relationships, and early intervention—not fear-based reactions.”

Questions or Concerns?

- We welcome your questions and partnership.
- Please reach out to school leadership at any time.
- Report anything of concern via the “CHIRP-360 Security” page on the Saint Ambrose website: <https://saintambrosecatholic.org/chirp-360/>

Together, we remain vigilant, informed, and committed to the safety of every child, employee, parishioner, and visitor to the Saint Ambrose Community.