



JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

LAMAR A. DAVIS, COLONEL
DEPUTY SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Public Safety Services

March 8, 2021

First and foremost, we owe a great deal of gratitude to our education community for your leadership and the work you do each and every day on behalf of Louisiana's children. These efforts have been even more evident during the current pandemic. As we face unprecedented challenges in education, the one aspect that will never change is our commitment to the safety of our students, teachers, and staff. We must continue to remain focused on ensuring that we provide a safe environment and a capable reporting tool for our schools. It is in this spirit that we reintroduce you to no-cost technology solutions available to your schools.

In early 2018, in the wake of a deadly shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, Governor John Bel Edwards formed the Blue Ribbon Commission on School Safety to be co-chaired by the Louisiana State Superintendent of Education and the Superintendent of the Louisiana State Police. Soon after the Commission was formed, the Louisiana State Police was tasked with coordinating and executing safety and security assessments for all schools throughout Louisiana. This was the first assessment of its type and scope in Louisiana, with over 1,600 schools being physically evaluated by commissioned law enforcement officers and public safety partners. After analyzing data from the evaluations, in addition to reviewing successful emergency management plans, guides, and technology from other federal, state, and local organizations, recommendations and best practices were presented.

The Louisiana State Police subsequently applied for, and was awarded, two grants: the COPS School Violence Prevention Program Grant and the BJA STOP Grant. One grant is to improve law enforcement's response to an active threat through technology, and the second one is to create a single anonymous reporting system statewide. After an extensive search, we found that the RAVE Panic Button App and the Crimestoppers Safe Schools Louisiana App were the statewide solutions to meet our needs.

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The RAVE Panic Button App is used to expedite notification to first responders during an active event. The app is intended for teachers, faculty, and staff in all public, private, and charter K-12 schools. Rave Panic Button clearly communicates an emergency to 9-1-1, on site personnel, and first responders in seconds. Rave Panic Button shortens response times, reduces confusion, and improves safety for all those in the immediate area by providing immediate information during the first seconds of an event. The app has active assailant, police, fire, medical, and other emergency buttons for day-to-day and large scale emergencies. The app also notifies first responders via text, email, and push notifications at the same time. For more information, please contact LSP Grant Coordinator Janice Ihaza at 225-241-2810, or email at Janice.Ihaza2@la.gov.

The Crimestoppers Safe Schools Louisiana App is for all students in public, private, and charter schools, grades 6 through 12. The Crimestoppers Safe Schools Louisiana App is aimed at preventing an event from occurring through anonymous reporting. The app allows students to share what they know with people who can prevent the preventable. For more information, please contact LSP Grant Coordinator Paul Toups at 225-229-8845, or email at Paul.Toups@la.gov.

The Louisiana State Police stands ready to work with systems, gather more information, and assist with implementation of the no-cost safety options. As we continue to move forward, please know that the State of Louisiana, the Department of Education, and the Louisiana State Police remain committed to school safety by working with all stakeholders to ensure that we are doing everything possible to make our schools safer for Louisiana's communities.

Thank you,



Colonel Lamar A. Davis, State Police Superintendent



Dr. Cade Brumley, LDOE Superintendent

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