Connecticut School Safety Infrastructure Council (SSIC) Report Overview
Introduction

- Multiple work related shootings by an employee
  - 1998 – CT Lottery
  - 2010 - Hartford Distributors

- Limited Connecticut School Shooting History
  - 1900 - Danbury
  - 1985 - Portland
  - 2009 - Wesleyan University

- Response by Connecticut’s state legislature to the tragic events that took place December 14, 2012 at Sandy Hook School Elementary School.

- Lack of uniform security infrastructure standards existed in CT.

- CT major source funding for public school building projects.
  - $645 million average per year

- Determination that schools are vulnerable facilities subject to the threat of violence.
Legislative Authorization

• Public Act 13-3, An Act Concerning Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety:
  – Secs. 80-83, established the School Security Infrastructure Council (SSIC).
    – Three Commissioners from CT State Agencies
    – Six Members appointed by CT's Legislative Leaders
  – Under P.A. 13-3 the SSIC is charged with developing “…school safety infrastructure standards for school building projects and projects receiving reimbursement as part of the school security infrastructure competitive grant program.”
  – Required to meet once a year to review established standards.
  – SSIC Report was completed on January 1, 2014
  – Standards effective July 1, 2014
Legislative Authorization Cont’d

• School Security and Safety Plan Standards Committee
  – Established by Sec. 86 of Public Act 13-3

• School Security Competitive Grant Program
  – Available to all Connecticut public schools
  – $21 million awarded to schools for improvements to security infrastructure

• Sandy Hook Advisory Commission
  – 16 member panel of experts created by Governor Malloy
  – Not Legislative
Connecticut’s current school building program has no specific security requirements.
  – Security infrastructure features are eligible, but no uniform standards exist.
  – Security features vary widely among schools.

Uniform comprehensive threat assessment process and corresponding school security infrastructure standards
  – Connecticut’s School Facilities Grant program (CH. 173) will be modified to require compliance in order for schools to receive funding.

School security infrastructure planning must take an “All Hazards” approach.
  – Testimony from state, regional and federal experts.
Protective infrastructure design features in all levels or layers of school facility construction including:

- Site development and preparation
- Perimeter boundaries and access points
- Secondary perimeters up to the building exterior
- The interior building itself

Key point made by professionals in the field

- Local uniform assessments must be an inclusive process
  - Fire, Police, medical, school and other officials
  - Important to assessment process, but also important for the design and construction phases to ensure redundancy and collaboration.
Four major goals of the assessment process and subsequent compliance measure

- Deterrence
- Detection
- Delay
- Response
SSIC Findings & Guiding Principles continued

• Themes
  – Balance uniform school security infrastructure standards with the needs of local communities.
  – Preservation of an open and inviting educational environment for children and staff.
  – Establishment of a uniform school security infrastructure assessment procedure.
  – School building planning process is inclusive of all local decision makers.
  – Establishment of a cooperative and constructive compliance system that facilitates attainment of the new standards.
SSIC Meetings and Process

• Public Input and Information Gathering
  – Conducted four informational sessions, three were open for public comment
    – Presenters included experts from multiple fields
      – State and Regional Experts
      – Design and Architectural Professionals
      – Educational Professionals
      – Public Officials, First Responders and General Public
• Analysis and Report Writing
  – Multiple working sessions conducted from October through December
    – Sessions included active participation of Council members, staff and invited participants
    – Wealth of information provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology (S&T) Division
      – Federal process of identifying the vulnerabilities of a building through the Integrated Rapid Visual Screening (IRVS) tool. IRVS is in the process of being adapted for use in school design and assessments.
    – Progress other states have made with regard to school security infrastructure standards
      – Colorado
      – Florida
      – North Carolina
    – In November, SSIC members and staff traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with DHS Science & Technology Divisions officials to discuss the IRVS development for schools.
Selection and Development of a Uniform School Security Assessment Tool

• “All Hazards” approach to school design and security standards
  – Includes both manmade and natural threats and hazards
  – Uniform standards require the adoption of an “all hazards” design and assessment tool
  – Identification of vulnerabilities
  – Prepare schools for multiple threats and hazards

• Risk Assessment Major Components
  – Threat Assessment
  – Consequences or Severity
  – Vulnerabilities
  – Compliance
National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities (NCEF) Check List

- NCEF Checklist
  - Currently recommended by the SSIC until IRVS for Schools is ready
  - Required by CT's School Security Competitive Grant Program
    - School’s must complete entire check list before its security infrastructure cost may be eligible for reimbursement
  - Includes 405 questions
  - Does not include an “all hazards” approach
Integrated Rapid Visual Screening (IRVS) for Schools

- IRVS for Schools
  - SSIC's preferred design and assessment tool
  - Meets CT's requirements
    - Establishment of a baseline of minimum safety requirements
  - Includes an “all hazards” approach
  - NCEF Check list components included and expanded upon
  - Working with DHS S&T and others on the development of an assessment tool for schools
    - Collaborative effort at all levels
      - Local
      - State
      - Federal
    - IRVS Committee Standing Partnership
      - U.S. DHS S&T
      - U.S. Department of Education
      - SSIC
      - Katy Independent School District of Texas
      - State of Michigan
Development and Application of Standards

• Standards (Appendix A)
  – Major Components
    – Mandatory Compliance Areas
    – Critical Compliance Areas
    – Other Areas Subject to School Security Infrastructure Guidelines
      – Appendix E – Technical Compliance Guidelines
Development and Application of Standards

- Critical Compliance Standards
  - Identified 9 primary areas of school infrastructure design where minimum standards must be met.
    - School Site Perimeter
    - Parking Areas & Vehicular and Pedestrian Routes
    - Recreational Areas
    - Communication Systems
    - School Building Exterior
    - School Building Interior
    - Roofs
    - Critical Assets/Utilities
    - Other Areas
Development and Application of Standards

- Technical Compliance Guidelines Overview
  - Work in progress
  - Will eventually be used alongside Appendix A
  - Includes weighted references from DHS S&T documents (BIPS 07, 12), NCEF Checklist and other state documents
  - Resistance Value Chart
  - Comparison Chart
    - BIPS 07, BIPS 12, NCEF Checklist and SSIC Standards
SSIC Final Report – Next Steps

- SSIC Standards were due January 1, 2014
- Effective date of July 1, 2014
  - All CT School Construction Projects must comply with standards after effective date
- Legislative Process
  - Meetings and Public Hearings
- Outreach
  - Schedule multiple meetings with design and architectural professionals and education officials
- Required to meet annually to review and update standards
Conclusion

• School Safety Infrastructure Council Report
  – www.das.state.ct.us/ssic/

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