

The Ohio Board of Regents

Task Force on Ohio College Campus Safety & Security

The Charge

In the aftermath of the recent tragedy at Virginia Tech University, Governor Ted Strickland directed the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents to form a Task Force on Ohio College Campus Safety and Security. The task force is to review the current state of campus safety and security in Ohio and to advise the governor on ways to ensure that all Ohio college campuses are as safe and secure as possible. In particular, the governor has asked the task force to review the best practices regarding campus safety and security and to consider how the state can assist the individual institutions that have the primary responsibility for campus safety.

Timeline and Organization

The Chancellor will produce a report for the Governor by mid-August containing the task force conclusions, actions taken, and recommendations for future actions. To meet this timeline, the chancellor will form four working groups to consider various aspects of the charge. The four working groups will cover the following topics:

1. Prevention, including issues related to mental health, personal privacy, campus safety awareness and other precautions;
2. Response, including relationships between law enforcement and campus security, and assistance from state law enforcement agencies;
3. Communications, including both awareness of prevention measures and timely response to incidents; and
4. Resources, including the identification of available public and private resources to assist in implementing best practices at Ohio campuses.

The full task force will meet three times, including the initial convening on April 30th, an interim meeting to consider progress being made and hear interim reports from the working groups, and a final meeting to review the proposed recommendations and advise the chancellor on the contents of the final report. Dates and times of the meetings will be made available as soon as possible. The meetings will be conducted by video teleconference with sites available at locations throughout the state.

The working groups will each conduct two, full day meetings. These meetings will be held in Columbus at the Board of Regents offices. Dates and times will be announced shortly. The first meeting will discuss actions that can be taken immediately to enhance the safety and security of Ohio campuses. The second meeting will discuss action steps that are important but will take longer to implement.

Membership

The chancellor requested each public university and college to appoint a member to the task force. In addition, each private college and university in Ohio was invited to appoint a member. The chancellor has added additional members to the task force based upon their interest and areas of expertise. Additional members may be added to either the task force or the working groups as the process unfolds.