

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

EO 22-09

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

**EXECUTIVE ORDER TO RECONVENE THE ARKANSAS SCHOOL SAFETY COMMISSION**

WHEREAS: On March 1, 2018, pursuant to EO 18-03, Governor Hutchinson created the Arkansas School Safety Commission (the “Commission”), which advised the Governor and the Department of Education on school safety across Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: The Commission provided a final report on November 30, 2018, which outlined findings and recommendations to improve school safety throughout the state; and

WHEREAS: Schools across Arkansas have implemented many of the recommendations found in the Commission’s Final Report, including but not limited to, conducting school climate and culture assessments, implementing positive climate programs, providing access to training in Youth Mental Health First Aid for personnel, ensuring that school districts have armed personnel present when staff and children are present, employing at least one School Resource Officer, forming District Safety and Security Teams, designating a staff member as a School Safety Coordinator, and many others; and

WHEREAS: Crime and violence remain issues in schools nationwide; and

WHEREAS: On May 24, 2022, an armed intruder entered Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, and murdered over 20 people, including 19 students aged 11 or under and two educators, and injured countless others; and

WHEREAS: It is crucial that the state remain informed of the status of school safety and ensure that school districts are properly equipped to prevent tragic events such as the one that occurred in Uvalde; and

WHEREAS: It is a matter of state importance to provide an updated analysis of best practices regarding school safety to our local school districts; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby order the following:

- (1) There is hereby reconvened the Arkansas School Safety Commission (the “Commission”), which shall advise the Governor and the Department of Education on the status of school safety across Arkansas.
- (2) The Commission shall be composed of members appointed by the Governor and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The chair of the committee shall be designated by the Governor. The Commission shall be composed of:
  - a) A representative of the Office of the Arkansas Attorney General;
  - b) The Director of the Division of Emergency Management within the Arkansas Department of Public Safety, or his or her designee;
  - c) A Public School Superintendent;
  - d) A Public School Teacher;
  - e) A Public School Counselor;
  - f) The Director of the Arkansas Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation within the Arkansas Department of Education;
  - g) An advisor on school security from the Arkansas Department of Education;

- h) A County Sheriff;
- i) A former Federal Law Enforcement Officer;
- j) A Mental Health professional;
- k) The Director of the Criminal Justice Institute;
- l) The Director of the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy, or his or her designee; and
- m) Additional citizens, as the Governor deems necessary, to represent the different geographic regions of Arkansas.

(3) The members of the Commission shall have the following duties:

- a) Review the Commission's Final Report published in November 2018;
- b) Provide an update on the status of school safety across Arkansas;
- c) Update the analysis of the safety of K-12 schools throughout the state, taking into consideration the physical and mental health of students;
- d) Determine which findings and recommendations from the previous report have not been remediated or achieved;
- e) Identify any new recommendations of best practices in school safety that have developed since the Commission's Final Report in November 2018;
- f) Submit an initial report and recommendations will be due to the Governor on August 1, 2022, with subsequent reports being submitted by the Chair of the Commission; and
- g) Submit the final report of the Commission's findings and recommendations to the Governor no later than October 1, 2022, at which time the work of the Commission will conclude.

(4) Upon request, the Department of Education may provide staff and other personnel to support the work of the Commission.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, in the year of our Lord 2022.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

  
John Thurston, Secretary of State