

**Presentation to Wisconsin Legislative Council
Special Committee on School Safety**

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1. What is Fox Valley Technical College's expertise in this area?

FVTC has long history in providing training and technical assistance in school safety and child protection. A few examples:

- a. Since 1993, recipient of federal and state grants to provide child protection training throughout the nation. Training areas include
 - AMBER alert
 - Internet Crimes Against Children
 - Missing and Exploited Children
 - School Resource Officer
 - Gang and Drug Awareness
- b. In 2007 received state legislative grant to develop the Wisconsin Crime Prevention Resource Center website. It is up and running (see handout) and has a link to school safety resources.
- c. In 2008 completed comprehensive training and site security audit for all 28 schools in the Appleton school district.

2. What would a School Resource Center look like?

A number of other states have School Resource Centers—as yet, Wisconsin does not. Such a School Resource Center could include the following:

- a. Web-based virtual library of school safety resources, including information on
 - Safety and emergency preparedness for school officials and parents
 - Recognizing and addressing signs of gang affiliation, substance abuse, depression and/or potential for suicide

- Establishing school-based programs to reduce bullying and violence and to promote peer counseling and conflict resolution alternatives
 - Developing information-sharing protocols
 - Legal guidelines for teachers and school administrators
- b. “Best practice” resources in various areas, including
- Model safety plans
 - Safety audit procedures/checklists
 - School safety tips for students and parents
 - School resource officer programs
 - Recognizing warning signs of potential violence
 - Crime prevention
 - Policy development and student/parent handbooks
- c. Training and event calendar related to school safety
- d. Resources on developing community partnerships to address issues such as
- Truancy/runaways
 - Depression and suicide prevention
 - Protocols for school-based emergencies
 - Health and wellness and positive lifestyles
- e. Links to providers of training and technical assistance

3. What can Fox Valley Technical College do right now?

- a. Add additional already-developed material to existing Wisconsin Crime Prevention Resource Center web pages.
- b. Host a school safety conference. In fact, planning is already underway to develop and host a school safety and security conference in Appleton in July 2009.
- c. Provide training and technical assistance, including safety and security audits, on a contract basis with individual schools and/or school districts.

4. What more could we do?

Lots—but not without additional resources