

The Lebanon Police Department and Lebanon City Schools are implementing a plan to highlight their commitment to school safety and increase the opportunities for police officers to be present at various city schools. This plan includes establishing offices designated exclusively for use by police officers in school buildings. These offices can be used by the police officers throughout the day to complete reports, make telephone calls, work from their computers, or to speak with students, parents and school staff. These "operating locations" enhance the operational effectiveness of the police officers as well as provide a significant increase in police presence at school buildings. The first three operating locations will be located in the high school, junior high, and Bowman Primary School. The PD is also reviewing the school district's crisis management plan and will conduct a workshop for school admin. to provide an overview of their role in responding to school related emergency situations.



**Emilie Moore** Well done Lebanon. Using one of our greatest resources and protecting our children at the same time! Thank you!! Proud to be Warrior!

January 23 at 8:11am via mobile · [Like](#) · 4



**Bill Kilgallon** I have noticed the high profile parking of police cars outside the high school when I have dropped kids off. Sounds like an economical and effective plan, nice work, and thank you!

January 23 at 8:17am · [Like](#) · 1



**Lisa Laudenslager** Smart thinking and all it takes is an office to work from. Just hope it isn't abused.

January 23 at 8:34am via mobile · [Like](#)



**Heather Walter Elcook** Love this. Having kids in four different district buildings, I can't wait until we have officers in all buildings, but very happy with this plan! Thank you for thinking of our Warriors!

January 23 at 8:34am via mobile · [Like](#) · 1



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[Lynnette Ewing Halm](#) Thanks, LPD!!!!

[January 23 at 1:31pm](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)



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[Wendy Helms Smith](#) That's awesome. Sounds like a win win.

[January 23 at 1:38pm](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)



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[Wendy Helms Smith](#) \*like

[January 23 at 1:39pm](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)



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[Lydia Jackson Long](#) See there is a way to protect our kids without having to arm our teachers. Nice work Lebanon!

[January 23 at 7:05pm](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#) · 2



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[Erik M Block](#) We are so blessed to live in a practical town that doesn't hide from the issues and comes up with cost effective ideas. You've got my vote!

[January 23 at 10:00pm](#) · [Like](#)



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[Lynda Poe](#) Great plan,

[January 24 at 7:51pm](#) via [mobile](#) · [Like](#)



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[Barbara Irons](#) great idea!

[January 25 at 2:12am](#) · [Like](#)



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[Tasha Huddleson](#) Thank you City of Lebanon!!

January 23 at 10:12am via mobile · [Like](#)



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[Beverly Sawyer-Valentine](#) Sad that it has come to this in our country but this is a wonderful plan.

January 23 at 10:31am · [Like](#)



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[Jessica Dye McIntosh](#) Great idea!

January 23 at 10:36am via mobile · [Like](#)



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[Kathy Henderson](#) Really good idea!!!

January 23 at 11:55am via mobile · [Like](#)



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[Lisa Kettlehake](#) Love this idea! Makes me feel much better about my son's safety at the high school!

January 23 at 11:57am · [Like](#)



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[Charlene Sexton Chilton](#) I wish my grand daughter was growing into this school system. I always felt Lebanon Schools were top notch. This just seals it.

January 23 at 12:00pm via mobile · [Like](#) · 1



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[Jenna Leopold](#) Great job Lebanon schools and PD! Thank you!

January 23 at 12:31pm via mobile · [Like](#)



# Schools boost security after shootings

Increased police presence is part of many district plans.

**By Margo Rutledge Kissell**  
Staff Writer

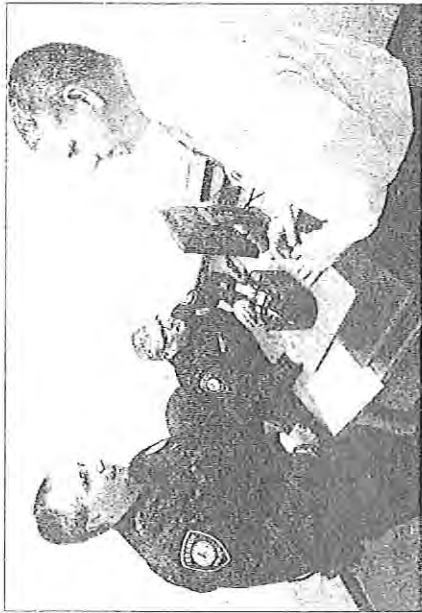
Area school districts have been busy making a number of security updates at their schools since the shooting massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary three months ago.

Some districts have beefed up police presence in their buildings, while others are updating entrances to make them more secure by adding buzz-in access systems, video cameras or security card readers for staff members to scan.

One district has changed the way it greets visitors and now looks for verbal and visual behavior cues before letting someone into the building — including parents.

Another local district received a state-approved “waiver” day to offer day-long security training to staff on April 8.

The Ohio Attorney General’s Office reports



Officers Chris Brock (left) and Jon Oehler (seated) talk with Lebanon High School Principal Scott Butler in the new office space that has opened for the Lebanon Police Department at the school. Officers use the space to write reports while increasing their presence at the school. LISA POWELL / STAFF

that all schools throughout the region now have safety plans on file.

Only three schools in the state — all private schools that are outside of this area — are not compliant, according to a list provided by that office.

The attorney general reminded schools of the importance of having them on file in the wake of the deadly shooting of three high school students in Chardon last

year, and again after Dec. 14, when 20 children and six staff members were fatally shot at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

Locally, enhanced security in some cases comes with increased school and police cooperation and little or no additional expense. Other updates can cost tens of thousands of dollars, but officials believe they’re worth the investment.

Lebanon City Schools Superintendent Mark North said that while the district already had in place a safety plan and lock-down drills for all grade levels, the Sandy Hook tragedy refocused his attention on the early grades.

“I think most had the mindset that this is something that happens at the secondary level,” he said.

North and Lebanon Police Chief Jeffrey Mitchell implemented a plan to have Lebanon police officers regularly coming in and out of three schools without costing the police department or school system a dime beyond the expense of a few small signs.

The police department also created “annex” offices inside the high school, junior high and Bowman Primary School.

“Instead of working out of their cruisers, the officers are working out of the schools,” North said. “There is no cost to them and no cost to us.”

Anytime they have reports to complete or phone calls to make,

they can pop into one of those schools. Mitchell said the offices have taken away any discomfort an officer might have felt to just show up at the school for no specific reason. “This office gives us the reason why,” he said. “There’s almost an incentive for the officer to go there.”

Three other Lebanon schools are not part of the plan because of their close proximity to the police and sheriff’s departments, North said.

Springboro school officials are considering whether to allow staff members with concealed carry permits to bring weapons onto school grounds.

The school board referred the issue in January to a policy committee to evaluate.

Most area school leaders queried about security said they routinely review their procedures to see if further updates are needed.

Several of them said they don’t publicly share some of those security details, however, out of safety concerns.

# Lebanon opens first police post in school

Program to expand  
to two other schools

**By Michael D. Clark**

mclark@enquirer.com

LEBANON — For the first time, city police have offices in Lebanon schools.

One of the police work stations was unveiled Friday at Lebanon High School in Warren County by Lebanon Police Chief Jeffrey Mitchell.

It's the latest experiment by a Greater Cincinnati school system to bolster building security in the wake of the shooting massacre last month at Sandy Hook Elementary. It comes a day after Butler County's sheriff grabbed statewide attention by announcing a proposal to put armed, retired police officers in county schools working as substitute teachers.

"Sandy Hook didn't start this idea, but Sandy Hook amplified it and brought the idea to the forefront," said Mitchell of Lebanon's new school security.

See SCHOOLS, Page C7



Attendance secretary Danielle Collins talks with police Sgt. Bob Buchanan at Lebanon High School. THE ENQUIRER/TONY JONES



# Schools

Continued from Page C1

Initially, two of Lebanon's five other schools – Bowman Primary and Lebanon Junior High – will also feature the work stations. Lebanon's other three schools are adjacent or only seconds away from nearby city and county police stations.

Lebanon freshman Anthony Lang said his classmates are aware of many schools' vulnerabilities in the aftermath of the Newtown, Conn., school shooting that left 20 students and six adults dead. "This gives everyone a better sense of security to have somebody who is in the school building and who is experienced and armed," Lang said.

Danielle Collins is a Lebanon High School parent with two children in the school, where she also works as attendance secretary.

"It's what we need as a school district and as a community," she said. "It's another way to protect our own here in Lebanon."

The policing spaces are tiny, windowless offices in the schools previously used for storage or by non-teaching staff. There is no cost to the schools.

## Other area districts weigh new measures

Unlike Butler County's proposal, which requires the approval of local school boards, Lebanon's plan is part of the district's existing partnership with local police.

Ohio school facilities are gun-free campuses by law, with some exceptions – including police assigned to schools as resource officers. The Ohio Revised Code, however, includes a provision giving school boards the authority to allow individuals to bring guns on school property.



Sgt. Bob Buchanan, left, and Lebanon Chief of Police Jeffrey Mitchell walk out of Lebanon High School, where the city police opened its first office in local schools. THE ENQUIRER/TONY JONES

Lebanon joins a growing list of area schools ramping up building security. Enos Pennington, spokesman for New Richmond Schools in Clermont County, said administrators are studying ways to make schools safer.

"Hiring off-duty police from New Richmond, Pierce Township and Clermont County Sheriff as part-time security officers has been discussed," Pennington said. "Some board members feel that the public knowledge of having armed police at school would be a deterrent for anyone planning violence."

Officials at Three Rivers

Schools in Hamilton County say they're discussing a greater police presence as part of an ongoing school safety discussion. Mason High School has added near-immediate background checks on school visitors.

In Northern Kentucky, many schools also use armed school resource officers during part or all of the class day.

The topic of school security is also buzzing among communities across Ohio.

Last week, the Montpelier school board in northwest Ohio adopted a policy allowing certain staff members who have received training to car-

## SCHOOL RESTRICTS PARENTS' ACCESS

Among the security changes at area schools is a restriction of parental access at a Lakota school in Liberty Township.

Officials at the Wyandot Early Childhood Center, which features kindergarten and first grade, this week sent a notice to parents alerting them that they would no longer be allowed to escort their children to their classrooms without first signing in at the school's main entrance.

"Families, I wanted to follow-up from questions and suggestions that we heard following the events at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut," wrote the school's principal Mary Brophy.

"We have been spending time reviewing our procedures and school environment. There are a few changes we have already made in regards to door access. Beginning Tuesday, January 22, families will not be able to escort their student to the classroom. We will ask that all visitors remain in the lobby, unless they are signed in and have a stated purpose for their visit. We feel that this step will allow families to gather in the lobby, but will allow our educational wings to remain focused on students and staff. Please know that your child's safety continues at the forefront of the work that we do each day."

ry concealed firearms on campus.

This week, school board members in Poland, Ohio, near Youngstown in Mahoning County, approved an \$80,000 district-wide upgrade that will allow police officers into buildings during the school day.

Staff writer Denise Smith-Amos and the Associated Press contributed.





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Developing Relationships with Police, Fire Chiefs & Sheriff

- Chief Jeffrey Mitchell, Lebanon Division of Police
- Chief Michael Hannigan, Lebanon Division of Fire
- Sheriff Larry Simms, Warren County Sheriff's Office

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Practice Plan with Police and Fire

Kindergarten Center – October 18

Bowman Primary – October 17

Donovan Elementary – October 10

Berry Intermediate – September 27

Lebanon Junior High – October 23

Lebanon High School – September 26

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- Safety Plan – Facility Review
- Review and evaluate any structural or environmental changes for all campuses.
  - Review and assess input from School Safety and Security Committee.
  - Review and response adjustment recommendations from combined safety forces.
  - Provide preliminary School Safety Plan adjustments to School Safety and Security Committee.
  - Complete on site evaluations for each campus.
  - Report findings and conclusions to School Safety Committee.
  - Update School Safety Plan and related documents if necessary.

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Safety Plan – School Board In - Service

- Presentation part of Executive Session of school board meeting.
- Provide and discuss elements of school shooter events;
  - Key Findings
  - Motives
  - Statistics
  - Protective Measures
  - Police response overview
  - Operational Response
  - Police equipment and capabilities
  - Active shooter response plans and training
- Police operating policy and training protocols
- Police equipment and response demonstration

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Safety Plan – Police Operating Locations in Schools

It's not an office or a substation – it is an "Operating Location"

- There are no specific hours
- There is no specific officer assigned
- There is unlimited and unrestricted access
- Equipped for officers to conduct most aspects of their duties to include complete reports and conduct interviews.

**Lebanon Division of Police**  
Operating Location – Warrior 3  
25 West Silver Street  
Lebanon, Ohio 45036  
**IF THIS LOCATION IS CLOSED**  
Contact the Communications Center  
**513-932-2010**  
FOR EMERGENCY **911**  
[www.lebanonohio.gov](http://www.lebanonohio.gov)

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**Safety Plan – Police Operating Locations in Schools**

There is support for traditional School Resource Officer program by school district and municipal government. Program funding sources, cost sharing, and personnel have been discussed and conceptually agreed upon.

There are five school campuses within the school district;

- One campus consists of five separate buildings and three portable classrooms. This campus is adjacent to the county sheriff's central office complex and close proximity to city police facility.
- One campus is located within one quarter mile of city police facility.
- Three campuses are located on the extreme edges (west, north, and northeast) of the jurisdictional boundaries within an estimated response time of 3 to 6 minutes. The northeast campus (high school) is annexed into the city but outside the city limits, and is the furthest from either the city or county safety forces.

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**Safety Plan – Police Operating Locations in Schools**

**Evolution of School Safety Plan and Warrior Operating Locations:**

- Response to active shooter events, especially those involving schools, requires school district, public safety forces, local government, and community partnerships.
- Planning for an active shooter event and practicing for an active shooter event are not mutually exclusive components of the School Safety Plan.
- Coordinated planning, practicing, and operational focus is essential to effective preparedness.
- Campus based police presence outcomes may include:
  - Deterrent to active shooter targeting
  - Increased interaction between police, students, parents, faculty, and staff
  - Increased safety and security awareness
  - Increased or immediate response time

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**Safety Plan – Police Operating Locations in Schools**

**Continued;**

- Police calls for service at two (junior high and high school) of the three perimeter campuses exceed all other campus locations (campus demographic).
- Increased response time of safety forces to perimeter campuses can be a factor in active shooter determining their target.
- "Creating a Presence"
- School district identifies space in each of the three perimeter campuses for use by police.
- Police department creates "Operating Locations"
- No additional costs to school district or police department.

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**Safety Plan – Police Operating Locations in Schools**

**Outcomes (so far):**

- A "community specific" approach to a global problem.
- An "Integrated Partnership" of ideas, operational systems, and community.
- Community has embraced the concept and implementation.
- Our operating locations are a part of the overall campus community and our police officers have a familiar presence.
- Operating locations are available to the police officers 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, and enhance the overall operational effectiveness of the police department.

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**Safety Plan – Faculty and Staff In- Service**

Faculty and Staff in-service training conducted by police department on each campus.

Crisis management and active shooter training topics included;

- ✓ Lebanon City Schools Crisis Management Plan
- ✓ Lebanon Police preparation and response
- ✓ Observation, engagement, and preparation
- ✓ Systems integration
- ✓ Shared responsibilities
- ✓ Commitment to succeed

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