



# PROTECT YOUR SCHOOL *with the* LAUNCH OF AN APP

*By Becky Lewis*

*Download School Safe, the new app from the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) that takes you step-by-step through your school to identify and address trouble spots. You can conduct a physical assessment of your campus — inside and out — by walking around and answering a series of simple questions using your hand-held device.*

This free app, available for iPhone and iPad, helps promote awareness and foster prevention using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, and allows school resource officers (SROs), school administrators and other first responders to receive no-cost emergency planning assistance without leaving campus.

“Keeping schools safe is a top priority and everyone in the school community has a part to play,” says Sean Burke, president of the School Safety Advocacy Council and school safety consultant with the NLECTC System. “School Safe helps school resource officers and administrators take a good look at their schools, inside and out. It points out trouble spots and reinforces good practices. School Safe presents the pertinent questions for you to consider as you assess the safety of your campus.”

Divided into 10 sections, School Safe begins by helping users summarize a school’s demographics and assessment history, then examines various internal and external considerations. For example:



Is student access to parking areas restricted to arrival and dismissal times?



Are trailers/portable classrooms connected to the school’s central alarm system?



Is exterior lighting checked on a frequent basis?

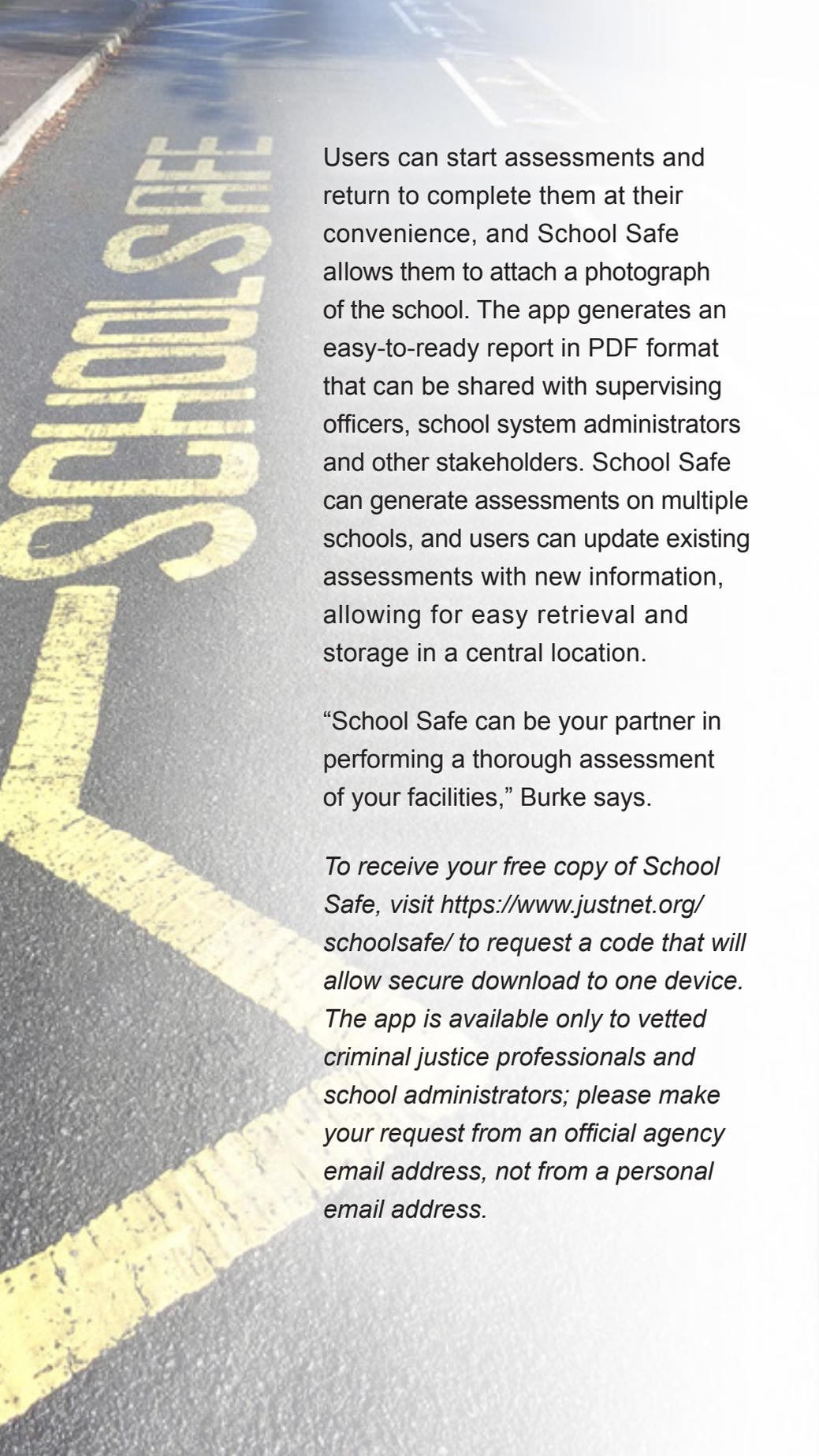


Do visitors present a photo ID to be scanned through a records-checking system before they are issued a visitor badge that must be visibly worn at all times?



Does each classroom have a To-Go Bag?





Users can start assessments and return to complete them at their convenience, and School Safe allows them to attach a photograph of the school. The app generates an easy-to-ready report in PDF format that can be shared with supervising officers, school system administrators and other stakeholders. School Safe can generate assessments on multiple schools, and users can update existing assessments with new information, allowing for easy retrieval and storage in a central location.

“School Safe can be your partner in performing a thorough assessment of your facilities,” Burke says.

*To receive your free copy of School Safe, visit <https://www.justnet.org/schoolsafe/> to request a code that will allow secure download to one device. The app is available only to vetted criminal justice professionals and school administrators; please make your request from an official agency email address, not from a personal email address.*

## An App Beta Tester Says “Thumbs Up”

*By Jon E. Carrier*

As a beta tester and contributor to School Safe, I found the app easy to understand and believe it can be easily used by most practitioners.

One of the great things about School Safe is that there were contributors from all over our country working in the area of school safety who gave feedback and opinions that helped inform the content.

I found that even to an experienced school safety assessor like myself who has conducted many school security surveys, School Safe proved cost-effective, relevant and full of good questions in a format that was easily understandable and user-friendly. The end product easily translates to a printed report for the user.

School Safe takes into consideration Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, and poses relevant questions for assessors. For example, it includes questions about video cameras, signage and visitor check-in systems. In conclusion, if you are a school administrator, school security director, school security officer or a law enforcement officer working in the area of school safety, School Safe is a valuable addition to your professional tools.

*Jon E. Carrier is the current president of the Maryland Association of School Resource Officers (MASRO), a member of the Executive Board of Directors of the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) and a full-time school resource officer with the Anne Arundel County Police Department in Maryland. Anne Arundel County Public Schools are ranked No. 42 on the list of largest school districts in the United States, according to the 2014 American School & University Top 100 (<http://asumag.com/research/2014-asu-100-largest-school-districts-us-enrollment-2012-13>).*