



iWatch Texas: The School Safety Network



iWatch Texas, TxSARNet, and the School Safety Network

The Texas Suspicious Activity Reporting Network (TxSARNet) began as a statewide suspicious activity reporting network that creates a holistic view of terrorism or crime-related suspicious activity in Texas.

- facilitates comprehensive collection, analysis, and response to terrorism and crime-related activity
- assists Federal, State, Tribal and local law enforcement agencies in their efforts to detect, deter, and disrupt criminal activities

Expanded in 2018 to include a school safety component.

iWatch Texas is the portal through which reports enter TxSARNet and the School Safety Network.



What is Suspicious Activity Reporting?

- **Suspicious Activity Report (SAR):** Official documentation of observed behavior reasonably indicative of pre-operational planning associated with terrorism or other criminal activity.
- **Reasonably Indicative:** When an observed behavior creates in the mind of a reasonable observer, including a law enforcement officer, an articulable concern that the observed item may indicate preoperational planning associated with terrorism or other criminal activity.

Remember that the iWatch Texas program is about behaviors and activities, NOT individuals. What they are doing matters; not their ethnic or religious background.



TxSARNet – Unified Reporting

www.iwatchtx.org



TxSARNet Phone Line 1-844-643-2251

(Monitored by analysts 24/7)

iWatch TX app



iWatchTX Android App



iWatchTX iOS App

Can report anonymously using any of these three options

4:34 LTE

iWatchTexas
COMMUNITY REPORTING SYSTEM

Welcome to the Texas Suspicious Activity Reporting Network iWatchTexas app, where you can report suspicious activities or behaviors that may indicate criminal, terroristic or school safety-related threats.

This app is not designed to report emergencies. **If this is an emergency, call 911.**

Although not required, providing your contact information will allow follow up questions, and if you prefer to report by telephone, please contact [844-643-2251](tel:844-643-2251).

Is the Incident School Safety Related?

YES, it is School Safety Related

NO, it is not School Safety Related



Who Receives the Report?

- Once submitted the report enters the applicable holding bucket associated with the location information provided
- Licensed users for that bucket will receive an email notification instantly upon the report's submission
- Activity occurring in a regional fusion center's established areas of responsibility (AOR), goes to that fusion center for vetting and research. If the location of activity does not fall into one of the regional fusion center AORs, the report comes to Texas Fusion Center for handling.
- A trained analyst vets the information to ensure it meets SAR threshold or qualifies as a school safety report.
- The analyst then processes the report and enters into system or archives the item if it does not meet criteria.



Texas Fusion Centers Primary Areas of Responsibility

Category 1 – Primary Fusion Center

- Texas Fusion Center (Austin)

Category 2 – Secondary Fusion Centers

- Austin Regional Intelligence Center
- Dallas Fusion Center
- El Paso Fusion Center (MATRIX)
- Fort Worth Intelligence Exchange (INTEX)
- Houston Regional Intelligence Service Center
- North Texas Fusion Center
- Southwest Texas Fusion Center





TxSARNet Reporting Results

Pulling the Signal from the Noise....

The technology used by TxSARNet allows the fusion centers to make matches and detect patterns across time and geography.

TxSARNet allows for threat pattern identification through multiple sites on a network, from multiple sources of information, across geography and across time. However, any closed system will NOT match the TxSARNet data collection.

- **Match** - When a person or vehicle appears in more than one report, the system links those reports together
- **Pattern** - A collection of at least two reports that have been matched



Texas School Safety Network





As a result of the Santa Fe mass school shooting, Governor Abbott released the following action plan:

School and Firearm Safety Action Plan – May 30, 2018

Preventing Threats in Advance

The iWatchTexas is a statewide system that enables citizens and police officers to report pre incident threat indicators and other suspicious activity through a mobile application, over the internet, or by telephone confidentially or anonymously. Using a single, state-wide reporting system, as opposed to a school-specific system, ensures that tips from various parts of the community are all integrated, providing a more holistic picture.



Texas Office of the Governor Action - 2022

Following the mass school shooting in Uvalde, Texas in 2022, Governor Abbot has built upon the previous Safety Action Plan

Governor Abbott Letter to TEA, THECB, and DPS – June 7, 2022

- Accelerate efforts to build a network of schools that are well-versed in suspicious activity reporting;
- Enhance and expedite efforts to make widely known and easily accessible the ability to report suspicious activity known to students, staff, and families into iWatch;
- Work with the state's eight fusion centers and with all school districts to teach students, staff, and families about Texas's suspicious activity reporting program, known as iWatchTexas;



School Safety Report Process

- When a reporter accesses iWatch Texas the first question that answer is “Is the Incident School Safety Related?”
- Upon selecting yes, the reporter goes to the school safety reporting page

Is the Incident School Safety Related?

YES, it is School Safety Related

NO, it is not School Safety Related



School Safety Report Process

- On the school safety page, the reporter will select the applicable school name
- If the school is not available on the drop down list select “Other School”
- Can also email iWatchTexas_Schools@dps.texas.gov

iWatchTexas School Safety

Are you a student, teacher or parent and have a specific concern about school safety?

Report it here

New school sites are being added to iWatchTexas School Safety daily. If your school is not on this list, choose **Other School** to continue filing a report and include the missing school's name and address in your report's narrative.

texas


- Adventist Christian Academy of Texas, Conroe
- BLOCKER MIDDLE, TEXAS CITY
- CALVIN VINCENT PRE-K HEAD START, TEXAS CITY
- Central Texas Christian School, Temple
- Central Texas College Online High School, Killeen
- Central Texas College, Killeen
- College of the Mainland Community College District, Texas City

All school safety reports will be reviewed by local law enforcement




School Safety Report vs SAR

- Some school safety activities available for reporting may not meet SAR criteria, but are critically important for protecting students
- The School Safety Network allows individuals to report these concerns, without having the meet SAR criteria

 iWatchTexas **School Safety** For emergencies dial 911

Activity



Please select one or more activities involved in the incident you are reporting.

* Please Select at least one activity.

<input type="checkbox"/> Anger Issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Drug Distribution	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-Harm
<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Cruelty	<input type="checkbox"/> Drug Usage	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexting
<input type="checkbox"/> Arson/Fire Starting	<input type="checkbox"/> Eating Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Assault
<input type="checkbox"/> Assault	<input type="checkbox"/> Explosives	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Misconduct
<input type="checkbox"/> Bullying	<input type="checkbox"/> Fighting	<input type="checkbox"/> Substance Abuse
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Abuse	<input type="checkbox"/> Gangs	<input type="checkbox"/> Suicide Threats
<input type="checkbox"/> Cyber-Bullying	<input type="checkbox"/> Harassment	<input type="checkbox"/> Theft
<input type="checkbox"/> Dating Violence	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazing	<input type="checkbox"/> Threats
<input type="checkbox"/> Depression	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism
<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence	<input type="checkbox"/> Planned School Attack	<input type="checkbox"/> Weapons

Previous Next



Licenses and Training

- DPS currently has a number of licenses available specifically for authorized representatives of schools, ISDs, and law enforcement agencies
- Currently no cost for school safety personnel to obtain one of the existing licenses. However, there are a finite number of available licenses.

Questions? Interested in a license?

iWatchTexas_Schools@dps.texas.gov

