

*As of September 17, 2021, NC DPS is not actively pursuing expressions of interest for this project. If you have questions, please contact partnerships@osbm.nc.gov.

Research Partnership Opportunities
North Carolina Department of Public Safety
July 2021 (revised August 2021)

Purpose: The North Carolina Department of Public Safety (DPS) is seeking assistance with the development of two school safety dashboards, one for DPS's State School Safety Activity Report (SSSAR) and a second for the State Action Plan for School Safety (SAPSS). In 2019, DPS began collecting information for the State School Safety Activity Report (SSSAR) from most of the state agencies that are working on school safety. In August, North Carolina introduced the State Action Plan for School Safety (SAPSS). It is a five-year plan and is already being used as a tool by the [Task Force for Safer Schools](#) as the Task Force's subcommittees have been realigned with the goals of the SAPSS. DPS managed the creation of the SAPSS and used DPS's quarterly SSSAR as a starting point for the SAPSS. Neither the SSSAR nor the SAPSS have dashboards tracking progress and impact. DPS desires to have such dashboards developed so that they can assist both state agencies' efforts as well as the Task Force subcommittees with monitoring, adjusting, and ultimately evaluating their school safety efforts.

DPS aims to take information that is largely qualitative and translate it into quantitative information by developing key performance indicators (KPIs) that, at a minimum, offer quick assessments of status for decision makers to use and, at a more detailed level, track processes, outcomes, and impacts. It desires to implement these dashboards as interactive online management tools that are easy to use by both state agencies who need to input information and those who will use them for assessment and decision making.

Prior to the initiation of dashboard development, DPS will identify possible KPIs for both dashboards. By August 2021, with the completion of the SAPSS, information regarding possible data sources and suggested data measures will exist for most of its initiatives. Similar information will exist for the SSSAR. **This will set up the following two phases for the project which DPS envisions:**

Phase 1: Finalize the KPIs and develop the Activity Report Dashboard for implementation by the first quarter of 2022. Translating the current SSSAR spreadsheet to a functioning version that is a user-friendly dashboard for pilot use during the fourth quarter of 2021 would allow for any needed adjustments and completion for full implementation by the first quarter of 2022.

Phase 2: Develop the State Action Plan for School Safety Dashboard for full implementation in the third quarter of 2022. The Activity Report Dashboard will be a critical path tool for the SAPSS Dashboard's development. This timeline allows for completion of Phase 1 above as well as for revisions that are likely to occur from the SAPSS's baseline year to year two in 2022-2023. Implementation of the SAPSS Dashboard would align with school year 2022-2023.

The two dashboards will help DPS, the Task Force for Safer Schools, and other school safety stakeholders measure progress toward realizing the Vision of the SAPSS:

Through a [Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child \(WSCC\)](#) approach, every school in North Carolina will be a safe school where all students can learn, all teachers can teach, and all school staff can do their work without any concerns for their well-being.

Additionally, the two dashboards will help achieve the Purpose of the SAPSS:

To coordinate North Carolina school safety efforts across state government and with communities and schools so that efforts are efficient and effective and undertaken with accountability and shared responsibility.

For the most recent versions of the SSSAR and/or the SAPSS, email partnerships@osbm.nc.gov.

Expertise Needed May Include: User-centered (or UX) design; data cleaning, analytics, and visualization; front and back-end engineering.

Commitment Needed and Timeline: Given the phased approach of this project, the commitment needed requires initiation in the third quarter of 2021 with completion by the beginning of the third quarter of 2022.

Funding: Some of the above may require funding. This will depend on the scope, level of expertise needed, and other factors. Research partners, agency officials, and the Office of Strategic Partnerships can discuss funding details, including needs and potential sources, on a case-by-case basis.

Publication Policy: We are committed to open science best practices, including sharing results and distributing of materials needed to replicate. This includes academic and practitioner publishing and may also include interactive online materials.

Context: The Department of Public Safety (DPS) is a Cabinet agency in North Carolina state government which serves over 10 million residents across policy and programmatic domains. It has been involved in school safety efforts via many of its divisions over many years. The NC Office of Strategic Partnerships is organizationally part of the NC Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM), which includes data-driven and evidence-based decision making among its priorities.

How to Express Your Interest: Email partnerships@osbm.nc.gov, including your CV/resume, a brief statement of how your skills and expertise align with this project, and a description of or links for any prior work of relevance. **Expressions of interest received by Friday, August 13, 2021, will receive full consideration.** Depending on current needs and other considerations, it is possible that not all individuals who express interest will receive a reply.