

## School Safety; Local First

Written by Steve Frank  
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SBI agent Eric Tellefsen at the safer schools forum last night in Boone told the gathering that, ultimately, school safety is a local plan. There were ideas back and forth as N.C. Department of Public Safety Secretary Kieran J. Shanahan and leaders from a number of state departments, area agencies, and area county officials shared ideas about how to keep schools safe. The DPS Center for Safer Schools – created last month by Gov. Pat McCrory to serve as the state’s primary point of contact on school safety issues – started its eight forums in communities around North Carolina last week, the gathering at Ross Auditorium at Watauga High saw ideas from technology to arms training. Ideas from all the forum sites will be taken back to Raleigh to formulate guidelines, although Shanahan said that school security is not a 'one size fits all' issue...and local plans need to be put forward that coordinate with what the state does.