

Performance Evaluation & Research Division (PERD)

January 2026

Performance Review: The Division of Protective Services

Agency Purpose: The primary purpose of the Division of Protective Services (DPS) is to provide for the safety and security of individuals who visit and work at the West Virginia State Capitol Complex and other state facilities.

PERD's Objectives:

To determine if there is a continuing need for DPS.

To determine if how effectively DPS is adhering to its duties in W. Va. Code §15-2D.

To determine how effectively DPS is carrying out the duties prescribed in W. Va. Code in relation to the School Safety Unit (SSU).

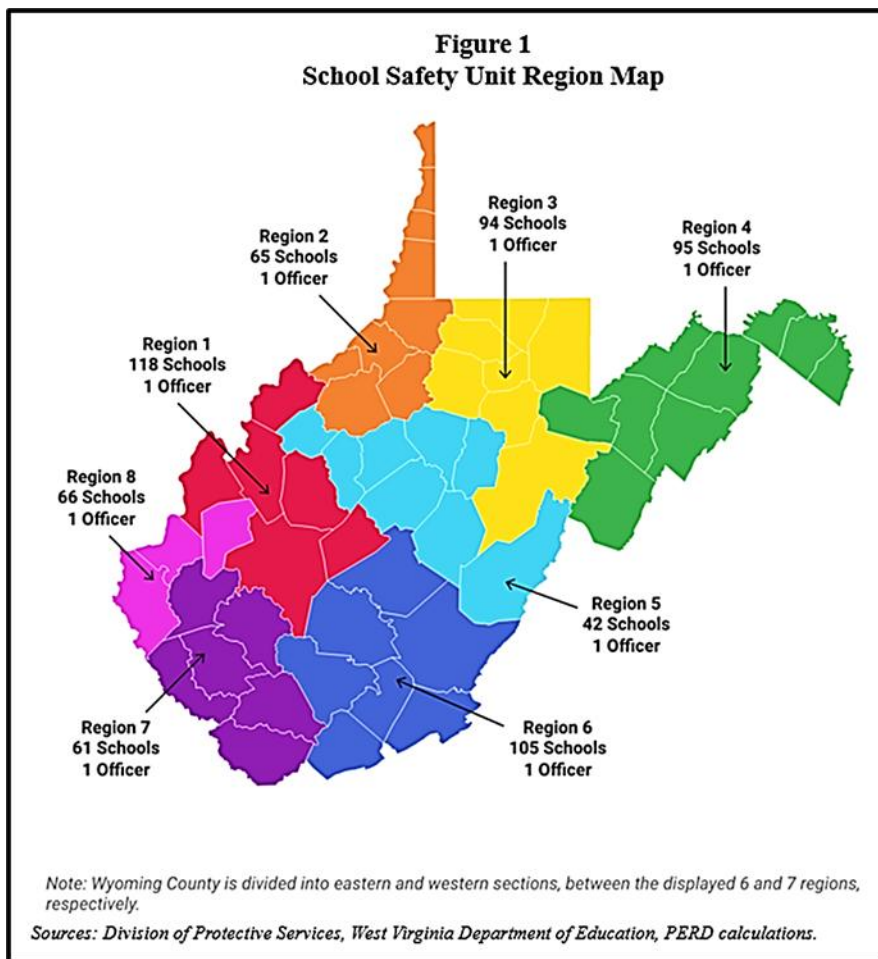
Key Recommendations:

PERD recommends the Legislature consider codifying a statewide risk-management strategy program that all departments and agencies must participate in and allow the Department of Homeland Security to have oversight authority of these plans to ensure that they are properly integrated across government and departments and address all relevant security vulnerabilities. Such plans should address physical facility and operational security risks across all major state government assets.

PERD recommends the Legislature in conjunction with Department of Homeland Security and the Division of Protective Services consider ways to continue funding for the School Safety Unit and how best to continue operations into the future based on available future funding identified.

What Did PERD Find?

- There is an ongoing need for DPS and the Division is materially compliant with its statutory duties.
• The State lacks a comprehensive risk-management strategy program or a state-wide oversight and review program of physical security plans, business continuity plans, or emergency management plans.
• A voluntary U.S. DHS assessment notified DHS and DPS of safety and security vulnerabilities for the State's major assets. DPS has addressed some of the vulnerabilities identified; however, other vulnerabilities remain outside of DPS's authority or funding.



- The SSU conducts inspections of schools and makes recommendations to appropriate school personnel regarding school safety; however, the unit is funded by a WVDE grant expiring June 30, 2027.
• The Division's website partially complies with W. Va. Code §5F-1-7 and could improve user-friendliness and transparency.