



Pennsylvania Department of the

**AUDITOR GENERAL**

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## News for Immediate Release

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### **DePasquale Pleased School Safety Task Force Recommendations Starting to be Implemented**

*Says more law enforcement contact with students, educators can improve school safety*

**HARRISBURG** – Auditor General Eugene DePasquale today released the following statement about Pennsylvania State Police adding safety checks into their patrols each day by visiting schools:

“Our students deserve to feel safe and be safe in their schools so that they can focus on their schoolwork. Having state police troopers visit schools each shift is a move in the right direction.

“Over and over again at the School Safety Task Force meetings I attended this year, I heard students say they did not feel safe in their schools. These safety checks are an excellent step toward implementing some of our recent report’s recommendations, which were designed to help keep students safer.

“I commend Governor Wolf and Acting State Police Commissioner Evanchick for continuing to build on the work of our task force. I encourage municipal and regional police departments to follow the state police example at schools in their communities.

“A police presence in school buildings can help officers build solid relationships with students and educators, which will lead to better communication – and better safety efforts.”

Earlier this year, DePasquale and Gov. Tom Wolf co-chaired a School Safety Task Force, holding meetings across the state to listen to students, staff, administrators, law enforcement experts and others about how to best protect students.

The School Safety Task Force [final report](#) offers 32 recommendations for a variety of local and state officials, as well as community members, to help keep students safer in school.

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