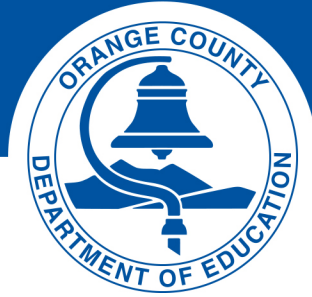


# NEWS RELEASE

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**Four state and county leaders to convene for a special forum on school safety**  
Discussion will open this year's Safe Schools Conference, featuring 48 breakout sessions

COSTA MESA, Calif. – State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Sandra Hutchens, Orange County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Al Mijares and California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Executive Director Roger Blake will discuss the state of school safety during a special forum on Wednesday, July 20 to kick off the seventh annual Safe Schools Conference.

The forum, set to feature a question-and-answer session, will be held from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Wyndham Hotel in Garden Grove.

**WHAT:** Forum on the state of school safety

**WHO:** State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, Orange County Sheriff Sandra Hutchens, Orange County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Al Mijares and California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Executive Director Roger Blake

**WHEN:** 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, July 20

**WHERE:** The Wyndham Hotel, 12021 Harbor Blvd. in Garden Grove

**CONTACT:** Ian Hanigan at [ihanigan@ocde.us](mailto:ihanigan@ocde.us) or 714-966-4008

## **About the Safe Schools Conference**

More than 500 educators, school workers and law enforcement representatives will have the opportunity to choose from 48 workshops addressing critical school safety issues during the seventh annual Safe Schools Conference, which will take place Wednesday, July 20 through Friday, July 22 at the Wyndham Hotel in Garden Grove.

Presented by former California Secretary of Education Dave Long through his firm, Dave Long & Associates, in collaboration with the Orange County Department of Education and the Orange County

Sheriff's Department, the three-day conference represents a unique partnership between the education community and law enforcement. The event annually draws school board members, counselors, police officers, youth service workers and other school and community leaders interested in learning more about student safety, as well as its impact on school attendance and academic performance.

Each day of this year's conference will feature a keynote presentation.

On July 20, FBI Special Agent Jeff Cugno will be joined by Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Sandra Hutchens and fellow FBI Special Agent Jill Sanborn to talk about school and community violence. On July 21, Dr. Terrence Roberts, a member of the famed Little Rock Nine group that was at the center of efforts to integrate Little Rock Central High School in 1957, will share his experiences defying an angry mob and attending classes under the protection of U.S. Army troops. Finally, on July 22, Orange County Sheriff's Department Investigator Naomi Hernandez will discuss the role schools play in combating human trafficking.

Breakout sessions will cover topics including bullying, trends in social media and technology, dropout prevention, active-shooter strategies, human trafficking, gang intervention and prevention, alcohol and drug use, mental health and best practices for building positive school cultures.

In addition, Cpl. Gabriela Soto, a school resource officer with the Fullerton Police Department, and James J. Harris, Jr., director of maintenance, operations and transportation for the Savanna School District, will be honored as the 2016 recipients of the Distinguished Safe Schools Award.

The Wyndham Hotel is located at 12021 Harbor Blvd. in Garden Grove. For more information, visit [safeschoolsconference.com](http://safeschoolsconference.com), or contact OCDE Communications Officer Ian Hanigan at [ihanigan@ocde.us](mailto:ihanigan@ocde.us).

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