



## Northeast Homeland Security Regional Advisory Council Hosts School Safety Awareness Event

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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On Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at Winchester High School, NERAC (the Northeast Homeland Security Regional Advisory Council) hosted a school safety awareness event to inform law enforcement, school representatives, government officials and parents about the region's successful implementation of the School Threat Assessment and Response System (STARS\*). The STARS Tool Kits and Floorplans that NERAC has funded for its member communities provide crucial information to enable school officials and emergency personnel to effectively plan for and respond to a threat or critical incident.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, over **1 million students across America take a weapon to school each month**, and over 1.3 million students are injured or threatened with a weapon each year.

The NERAC STARS Tool Kit and Floorplan project has been hailed as a national model. At the event NERAC officials demonstrated the latest school safety technology currently available to school systems and how this national model can be implemented in schools across the Commonwealth, featuring special guests:

- **Chief Brian Pattullo**, *NERAC Chair and Andover Chief of Police*
- **William McAlduff**, *Superintendent, Winchester Public Schools*
- **Lt. Thomas Duffy**, *Burlington Police Department; Commander, STARS Task Force*
- **Tom McDonald**, *BeSAFE Technologies, LLC*
- **Kristen Woollam**, *Incident Management Team, Winchester High School*

“STARS immediately gives first responders the tools to really neutralize any threat presented in a building.” -Brian Pattullo, NERAC Chair and Andover Chief of Police

Since its inception in 2004, NERAC has provided regional resources for municipalities and the first responder community in northeastern Massachusetts.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ON NERAC:

Go to [www.NERAC.us](http://www.NERAC.us) or contact Amy Reilly at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council at (617) 451-2770 x2059 or [areilly@mapc.org](mailto:areilly@mapc.org)



\* STARS is an emergency preparedness and response system and service developed by NEMLEC, the Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council, Burlington, MA.