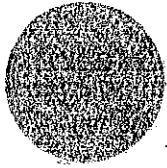


✦ [dhs.gov/cisa/school-safety-and-security](https://dhs.gov/cisa/school-safety-and-security)



**USA  
TODAY**

**DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE**

**+182.24**

Closing: 27,674.80  
Change: +7%  
YTD % Chg: +18.6%

**S&P 500 • STANDARD & POOR'S**

**+8.40**

Closing: 3,085.18  
Change: +.3%  
YTD % Chg: +23.1%

# Secret Service looks inside school attacks

## Study reveals shooters showed warning signs

Colleen Long  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – Most students who committed deadly school attacks over the past decade were badly bullied and had a history of disciplinary trouble, and their behavior concerned others but was never reported, according to a U.S. Secret Service study.

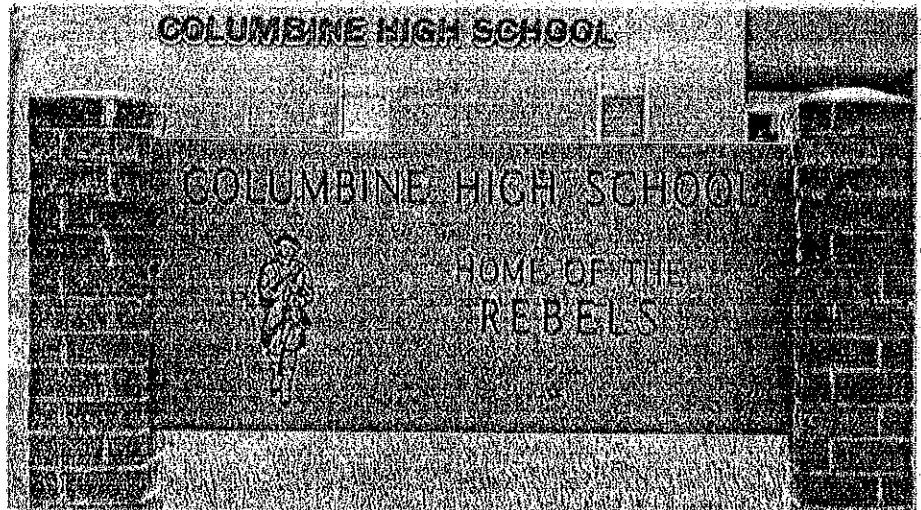
In at least four cases, attackers wanted to emulate other school shootings, including those at Columbine High School in Colorado, Virginia Tech and Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut.

The study by the Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center is one of the most comprehensive reviews of school attacks since the Columbine shootings in 1999. The report obtained by The Associated Press looked in depth at 41 school attacks from 2008 through 2017.

The information gleaned through the research will help train school officials and law enforcement on how to better identify students who may be planning an attack and how to stop them before they strike.

"These are not sudden, impulsive acts where a student suddenly gets disgruntled," Lina Alathari, the center's head, said in an AP interview. "The majority of these incidents are preventable."

Nearly 40 training sessions for groups of up to 2,000 are scheduled. Alathari and her team trained about



Several school shooters said they wanted to emulate the deadly attack at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

7,500 people during 2018. The training is free.

The Secret Service is best known for its mission to protect the president. The threat assessment center was developed to study how other kinds of attacks could be prevented. Officials use that knowledge and apply it in other situations such as school shootings or mass attacks.

Since the Columbine attack on April 20, 1999, there have been scores of school shootings. Some, like Sandy Hook in 2012, were committed by non-students. There were others where no one was injured. Those were not included in the study.

The report released Thursday covers 41 school attacks from 2008 through 2017 at K-12 schools chosen if the attacker was a current or former student who

used a weapon to injure or kill at least one person at the school while targeting others.

"We focus on the target so that we can prevent it in the future," Alathari said.

Nineteen people were killed and 79 injured; victims included students, staff and law enforcement. The research was launched after the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, in 2018.

The Secret Service put out a best practices guide based on some of the research last July to 40,000 schools nationwide, but the new report is a comprehensive look at the attacks.

"It really is about a constellation of behaviors and factors," Alathari said, noting the goal is to make schools safer.