

2015 Achievement Awards Virginia Association of Counties

APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2015.** Please include this application form with electronic entry.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Locality: Hanover County
Program Title: Hanover County Public Schools Emergency Alarm System
Program Category: Criminal Justice/Public Safety

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: David R. Hines *David R. Hines*
Title: Sheriff
Department: Hanover County Sheriff's Office
Complete Mailing Address: P.O. Box 40 Hanover, VA 23069
Telephone # 804-365-6110 Fax # 804-365-6390
E-mail: drhines@hanovercounty.gov

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Name: Cecil R. Harris, Jr.
Title: Hanover County Administrator
Signature: *Cecil R. Harris Jr.*

Tactical Alert System Installed in Hanover County Public Schools

One of the most significant challenges facing law enforcement is our ability to provide a safe environment for our most vulnerable citizens, our children. As a result, law enforcement must consistently be prepared and equipped to respond to these soft targets.

An armed intruder/active shooter in a school is law enforcement's worst nightmare. Studies show that a quicker law enforcement response will more rapidly eliminate the threat. A significant challenge is the school personnel being able to notify law enforcement with accurate information, quickly.

The Hanover County Sheriff's Office is pleased to nominate the Tactical Alert System installed in the Hanover County Public Schools for the 2015 Virginia Association of Counties Achievement Awards. This alarm system offers an innovative solution to a problem, promotes intergovernmental cooperation, and provides a model that other local governments may implement in their own localities.

The Hanover County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with Hanover County Public Schools, has successfully installed a new law enforcement tactical alert system in every county school, as well as the School Board Office, to further enhance safety throughout the district. The alert systems were installed and tested prior to the start of the 2014-2015 school year and were fully paid for with Sheriff's Office asset forfeiture funds (approximately \$300,000).

Each system, which can only be activated by school personnel, has been strategically placed at multiple locations at each school to ensure quick access to law enforcement during an armed intruder/active shooter incident. A rapid cohesive law enforcement response, with as much information as possible, has been identified by national studies as the most efficient method to ensure the safety of potential victims.

Tactical Alert System Installed in Hanover County Public Schools

Once activated, an alert is immediately broadcast over the Sheriff's Office Dispatch channel (the main channel) with the location of the emergency and other pertinent information, similar to an officer "mayday" distress signal. This allows for more rapid response by law enforcement, which is critical during a crisis.

"I'm pleased that we were able to secure these funds to further improve safety within our schools, especially in light of the increase of school violence incidents throughout our nation. However, I want to reassure students, parents, and faculty that this will not serve as a substitute for our visible presence at our schools each day. This will continue to be one of my highest priorities," said Colonel David R. Hines, sheriff.

"We are proud of the strong partnership between Hanover County Schools and the Hanover County Sheriff's Office and our collaborative efforts to assure that effective methods of safety and security are consistently sought and implemented within our schools. This latest initiative further demonstrates the exceptional cooperation between the Sheriff's Office and the school division and our emphasis on providing a secure environment in which our students and staff learn and work," said Dr. Jamelle S. Wilson, superintendent of schools.

The Hanover County Sheriff's Office appreciates the support of the Hanover County Board of Supervisors, Hanover County Emergency Communications Center, Motorola, and Gately Communication Company who also partnered with the Sheriff's Office in support of this project.

Thank you for considering the Hanover County Sheriff's Office Tactical Alert System installed in Hanover County Public Schools for the 2015 Virginia Association of Counties Achievement Awards.