Proposed Final Report

First Responder Mapping System in K-12 Schools

Legislative Auditor Conclusion: School districts and law enforcement see both advantages and limitations of the state school mapping system.

WASPC can address many limitations by developing training strategies, using data, and coordinating with school safety centers.

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WASHINGTON JLARC

Recommendations

1. WASPC should develop and implement detailed training and outreach strategies that have measurable goals and targets.

2. WASPC should periodically review technology standards, address user feedback about technology issues, and use system data to inform its program management decisions.

WASPC Partially Concurs

Study mandate: SSHB 1216 (2019)

JLARC staff directed to identify:

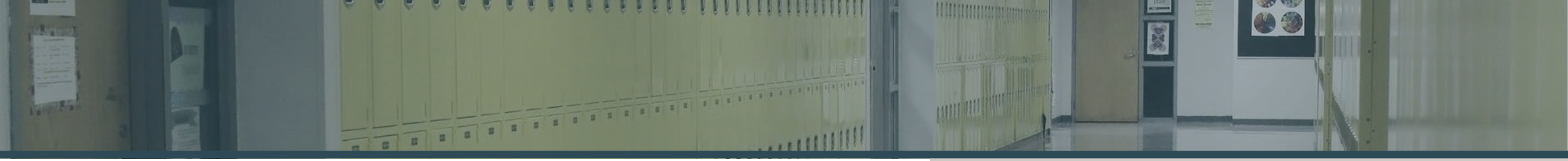
- Which school districts use the state mapping system or an alternative system.
- How districts and agencies are using the system(s).
- Costs incurred.
- Training provided/received.
- Opportunities for improvement.

Methods:

- Review of data in state mapping system (e.g., logins, uploaded files).
- Survey of 295 school districts.
- Survey of 272 local law enforcement agencies.
- Interviews with stakeholders.
- Document review.

Legislation to create system passed in 2003 to:

Provide information to emergency responders during incidents at K-12 schools

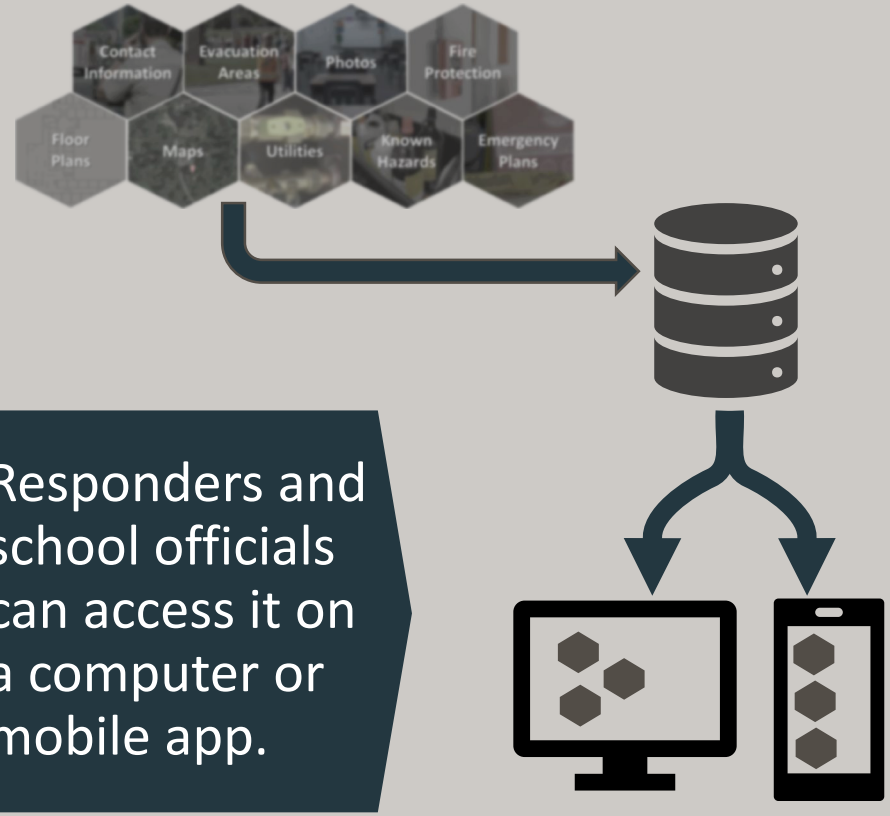


The state currently pays for program management and the system license.

- **Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC)** is responsible for program management.
- Private vendor owns the software, database, and mobile app.

School districts cover the costs if they choose to update information or add sites.

Districts and schools enter information into Rapid Responder database.



Responders and school officials can access it on a computer or mobile app.

Law enforcement reports that mapping information is useful <u>if it is kept current</u>.

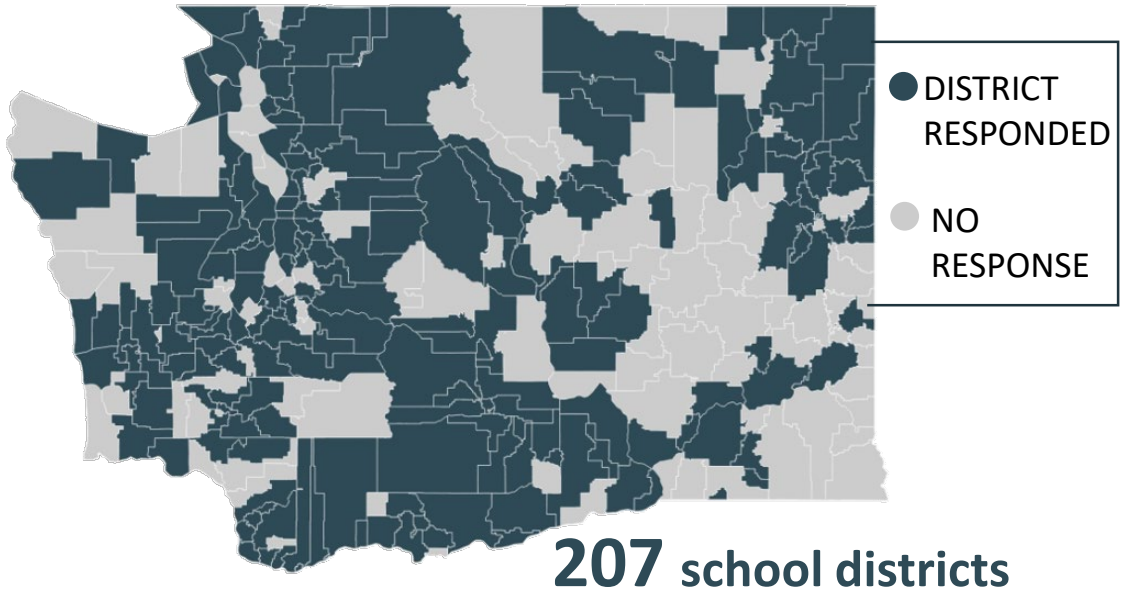
For most data, the system records only the date information was added.

- No routine verification that information is current.

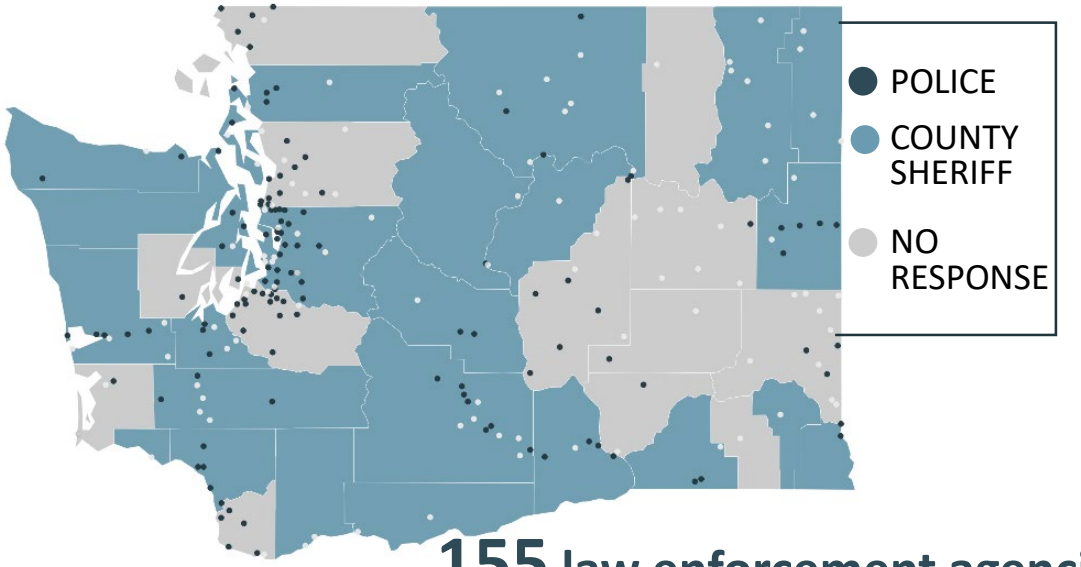
It is unclear if the information in the system is current

2019 Legislature directed JLARC to review how school districts and law enforcement use the state mapping system

362 responses to JLARC surveys about mapping system



207 school districts
70% response rate



155 law enforcement agencies
57% response rate

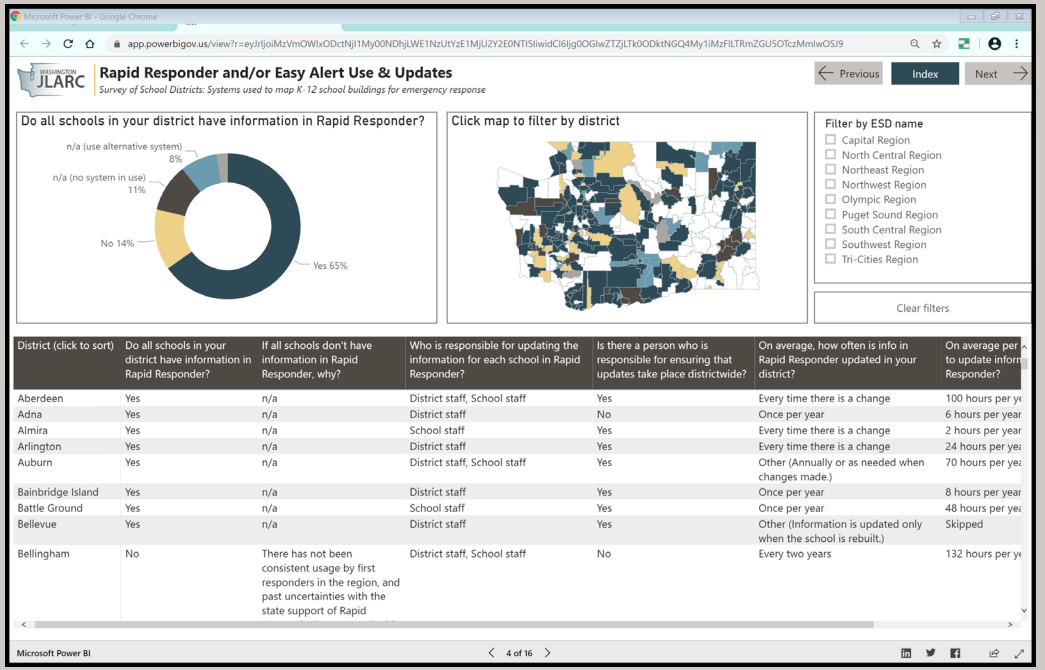
Survey administered by Washington State University Social and Economic Sciences Research Center.

80% school district respondents

70% law enforcement respondents

report that they use the state mapping system

Interactive survey data available in the report



http://leg.wa.gov/jlarc/reports/2020/mapping/pf_2/default.html#appendix-a

Source: JLARC analysis of survey responses.

Respondent opinions

20 Neither need nor want a mapping system.

272 Perceive advantages and limitations.

- ✓ Available information
- ✗ Lack of training
  System issues

47 Like and need a mapping system.

The most frequently mentioned limitations are associated with WASPC's approach to program management

WASPC has not formally communicated with users about their needs or system updates

No process to identify user needs or problems.

Automated system notices do not reach users who are not regularly logging in.

Easy Alert mobile app has been available to law enforcement since 2018.

Law enforcement survey respondents:

- 65% unaware of Easy Alert.
- Reported that lack of a mobile app was a limitation.

Detailed training strategy is needed to reach all districts and emergency response agencies

10% of potential users trained in last 3 years.

All trainings are done in person.

Training is provided upon request.

Legislative Auditor's Recommendation #1

WASPC should develop and implement detailed training and outreach strategies that have measurable goals and targets.

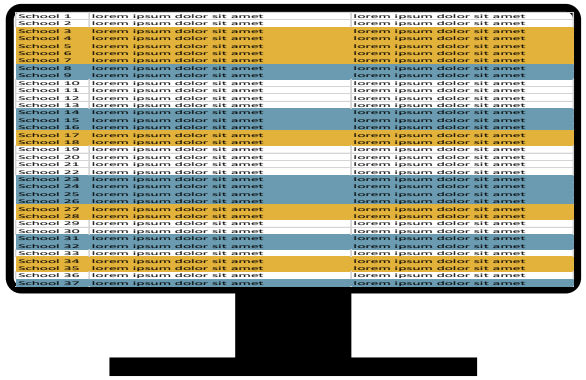
WASPC Partially Concurs
citing need for additional resources

Legislative Auditor Comment	WASPC should develop strategies under two scenarios: what it can accomplish within existing resources and what it could improve with additional funding.

WASPC does not use system data to manage and prioritize program activities

Technology standards not updated since 2005.

Data about how and when system is used could inform program management decisions.



Target training

Suggest review

Legislative Auditor's Recommendation #2

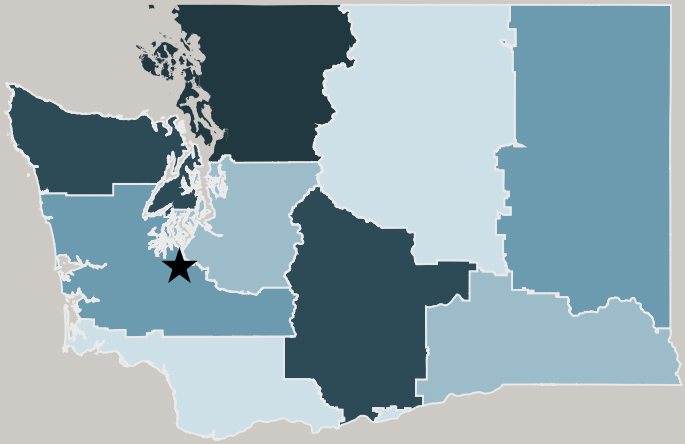
WASPC should periodically review technology standards, address user feedback about technology issues, and use system data to inform its program management decisions.

WASPC Partially Concurs
citing need for additional resources

Legislative Auditor Comment Same as previous

School mapping should be coordinated with the work of the school safety centers at OSPI and ESDs

- **OSPI concurs with Legislative Auditor recommendations.**
- **WA Association of Educational Service Districts (ESDs) defers to OSPI's position.**



Other Stakeholder Responses to Recommendations:

- **WA Fire Chiefs** – Concurs and recommends fire service involvement
- **OFM and Washington Association of School Administrators** – No comment

Contact Us

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