

2026 EXPLORATORY PUBLIC SAFETY

Program Standards

CONTENT STANDARD 1.0: PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Performance Standard 1.1: Student Leadership in Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSO)

- 1.1.1 Define the values, roles, and opportunities provided through career technical student organizations (e.g., SkillsUSA).
- 1.1.2 Investigate career exploration and skill development.

CONTENT STANDARD 2.0: PUBLIC SAFETY CAREERS AND SYSTEMS

Performance Standard 2.1: Career Exploration and Pathways

- 2.1.1 Identify major public safety pathways (e.g., law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services [EMS], corrections, and security).
- 2.1.2 Describe roles and responsibilities of at least three public safety professions.
- 2.1.3 Compare education, training, and credential requirements.
- 2.1.4 Analyze personal interests and strengths related to public safety careers.

Performance Standard 2.2: Public Safety Systems and Services

- 2.2.1 Describe components of public safety systems (e.g., law enforcement, fire, EMS, and emergency management).
- 2.2.2 Explain how 911 and emergency communication systems operate.
- 2.2.3 Identify roles within coordinated emergency response systems.
- 2.2.4 Recognize how public safety agencies collaborate during incidents.

CONTENT STANDARD 3.0: FOUNDATIONS OF LAW AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Performance Standard 3.1: Law and Its Purpose

- 3.1.1 Distinguish between laws, rules, and regulations.
- 3.1.2 Explain the importance of laws in maintaining order and safety.

Performance Standard 3.2: Justice System Structure and Citizenship

- 3.2.1 Describe the basic structure of the criminal justice system (e.g., law enforcement, courts, and corrections).
- 3.2.2 Identify rights and responsibilities of citizens.

CONTENT STANDARD 4.0: SAFETY, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, AND RISK AWARENESS

Performance Standard 4.1: Hazard and Risk Awareness

- 4.1.1 Identify common hazards and strategies for risk reduction.
- 4.1.2 Recognize situational awareness and personal safety practices.

Performance Standard 4.2: Emergency Preparedness

- 4.2.1 Describe basic emergency preparedness procedures (e.g., evacuation, sheltering).
- 4.2.2 Explain the role of individuals during emergencies.

CONTENT STANDARD 5.0: PROFESSIONALISM, COMMUNICATION, AND ETHICS

Performance Standard 5.1: Communication and Teamwork in Public Safety

- 5.1.1 Demonstrate clear verbal and nonverbal communication.
- 5.1.2 Practice active listening in scenario-based activities.
- 5.1.3 Explain the importance of teamwork in emergency situations.
- 5.1.4 Identify communication challenges in high-stress environments.



Performance Standard 5.2: Ethics, Responsibility, and Professionalism

- 5.2.1 Define ethics and integrity in public safety contexts.
- 5.2.2 Identify examples of ethical and unethical decision-making.
- 5.2.3 Explain the importance of accountability and responsibility.

CONTENT STANDARD 6.0: CAREER READINESS AND INTRODUCTORY PUBLIC SAFETY SKILLS

Performance Standard 6.1: Employability Skills and Career Readiness

- 6.1.1 Demonstrate responsibility, punctuality, and organization.
- 6.1.2 Practice problem-solving and decision-making skills.
- 6.1.3 Participate in collaborative team activities.

Performance Standard 6.2: Introduction to Public Safety Skills

- 6.2.1 Demonstrate awareness of emergency response procedures (non-certification level).
- 6.2.2 Identify basic equipment used in public safety professions.
- 6.2.3 Participate in scenario-based problem-solving activities.
- 6.2.4 Recognize appropriate actions in simulated emergency situations.

IDCTE Document Control Information

Program Standard Revision: Middle School Exploratory: Public Safety

Date	Standard #	Original	Summary of Change	Revised By	Approved By