

Book Policy Manual
Section 200 Pupils
Title Threat Assessment
Code 236.1 Vol III 2022
Status From PSBA

Revised

Purpose

The Board is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of its students and the school community and providing the resources and support to address identified student needs. The Board adopts this policy to address student behavior that may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community and others.[1]

Authority

The Board directs the Superintendent or designee, in consultation with the School Safety and Security Coordinator, to establish a threat assessment team and develop procedures for assessing and intervening with students whose behavior may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community and others.[1]

Definitions

Behavioral service providers – includes, but is not limited to, a state, county or local behavioral health service provider, crisis intervention center or psychiatric hospital. The term includes a private service provider which contracts with a state, county or local government to act as a behavioral health agency.[2]

Bias – the attitudes or beliefs we have about a person or group that affects our understanding, actions and decisions in a conscious or subconscious manner.[3]

Individualized Management Plan – a plan developed for a student who is referred to the threat assessment team that documents the concerns that brought a student to the team's attention, as well as the resources and supports a student might need based on the information gathered during the assessment.

Threat assessment – a fact-based process for the assessment of and intervention with students whose behaviors may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee, in consultation with the School Safety and Security Coordinator, shall appoint [1]

[Note: districts should only select one of the appropriate options if the designated team is made up of required personnel under 24 P.S. 1302-E]

☒ individuals to a district threat assessment team.

☐ individuals to a threat assessment team at each school building in the district.

☐ the district's Student Assistance Program team to serve as the threat assessment team.

☐ the district's Safe2Say Something crisis team to serve as the threat assessment team.

{ } the district's suicide prevention crisis response/crisis intervention team to serve as the threat assessment team.

{ } the district's _____ to serve as the threat assessment team.

The Superintendent or designee shall designate a member of the team as team leader for the threat assessment team.[1]

The threat assessment team shall include the School Safety and Security Coordinator and individuals with expertise in school health; counseling, school psychology or social work; special education and school administration.[1]

{ } members of the Student Assistance Program team.[4]

{ } school security personnel.[5]

{ } law enforcement agency representatives.

{ } behavioral health professionals.

{ } members of the Safe2Say Something crisis team.[6]

{ } suicide prevention coordinators and/or members of the crisis response/crisis intervention team.[7]

{ } juvenile probation professionals.

✓ The Superintendent or designee may assign additional staff members or designated community resources to the threat assessment team for assessment and response support.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement administrative regulations to support the threat assessment process.

Guidelines

Training

The

{ } Superintendent or designee

✓ School Safety and Security Coordinator

shall ensure that threat assessment team members are provided individual and/or group training **annually** on:[1]

1. Responsibilities of threat assessment team members.
2. Process of identifying, reporting, assessing, responding to and intervening with threats.
3. Identifying and avoiding racial, cultural or disability bias.[3][8]
4. Confidentiality requirements under state and federal laws and regulations, and Board policies.[4][6][9][10][11]
5. { } Student Assistance Program process.[4]
6. { } Youth suicide awareness, prevention and response.[7]

7. { } Trauma-informed approach.[12]
8. { } Safe2Say Something procedures.[6]
9. { } Multi-tiered systems of support.
10. { } Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support.

Threat assessment team training shall be credited toward professional education requirements and school safety and security training requirements for staff, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.[1][6][13][14][15][16]

Information for Students, Parents/Guardians and Staff

The district shall **annually** notify students, staff and parents/guardians about the existence and purpose of the threat assessment team through posting information on the district website, publishing in handbooks and through other appropriate methods.[1]

The threat assessment team shall make available age-appropriate informational materials to students regarding recognition of threatening or at-risk behavior that may present a threat to the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others and how to report concerns, including through the Safe2Say Something program and other district reporting hotlines or methods. Informational materials shall be available for review by parents/guardians.[1][7][8][17][18][19]

The threat assessment team shall make available informational materials for school employees regarding recognition of threatening or at-risk behavior that may present a threat to the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others and how to report concerns, including through the Safe2Say Something program and other district reporting hotlines or methods. Information for school employees shall include a list of the staff members who have been appointed to the threat assessment team.[1][7][8][17][19]

The district shall annually provide mandatory training for school staff on identification or recognition of student behavior that may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, other individuals, school facilities or the community, in accordance with law, Board policy and the standards specified by the state's School Safety and Security Committee.[6][15]

Reporting and Identification

The threat assessment team shall document, assess and respond to reports received regarding students whose behavior may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others.[1]

The threat assessment team shall assist in assessing and responding to reports that are received through the Safe2Say Something Program identifying students who may be a threat to themselves or others.[1][6]

The threat assessment team shall assist in assessing and responding to reports of students exhibiting self-harm or suicide risk factors or warning signs, as identified in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.[1][7]

When the threat assessment team has made a preliminary determination that a student's reported behavior may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, the team shall immediately take the following steps:[1]

1. Notify the Superintendent or designee and School Safety and Security Coordinator of the reported threat.

2. Notify the building principal of the school the student attends of the reported threat, who shall notify the student's parent/guardian of the reported threat.

When a reported student's behavior indicates that there may be an imminent threat to the safety of the student or others, or an emergency situation, a threat assessment team member shall take immediate action, which may include promptly reporting to the appropriate law enforcement agency and school administration.[1][5][6][20]

Where a threat assessment team member has reasonable cause to suspect that a reported situation indicates that a student may be a victim of child abuse, the member shall make a report of suspected child abuse in accordance with law and Board policy.[1][21][22]

Inquiry and Assessment

In investigating, assessing and responding to threat reports, the threat assessment team shall make a determination if the report should be addressed under one or more specific Board policies or administrative regulations, based on the subject matter of the report and the requirements of law, regulations and Board policy, including, but not limited to, reports involving:

1. Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment.[8][17]
2. Bullying/Cyberbullying.[19]
3. Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response.[7]
4. Hazing.[23]
5. Dating Violence.[24]

Members of the threat assessment team shall engage in an assessment of the reported student behavior that may indicate a threat, in accordance with training and established procedures. This process may include, but is not limited to:

1. ✓ Interviewing the student, other students, staff, parents/guardians or others regarding the subject(s) of the reported threat.
2. ✓ Reviewing existing academic, health and disciplinary records and assignments, as appropriate, regarding the subject(s) of the report.
3. ✓ Conducting searches of lockers, storage spaces, and other possessions on school property as applicable, in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Board policy.[25]
4. ✓ Examining outside resources such as social media sites, in coordination with law enforcement, or contacting law enforcement, juvenile probation, or community agencies to request additional information about the subject(s) of the report, in accordance with law, regulations and Board policies.
5. ✓ Where appropriate, convening the appropriate team to assess and/or address the situation that is the subject of the report, such as the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team, Section 504 Team, Behavior Support team, Student Assistance Program team, or others.[4][26][27][28][29][30]

The threat assessment team shall establish and implement procedures, in accordance with the district's Memorandum of Understanding, to address situations where the investigation of a reported threat shall be transferred to the appropriate law enforcement agency.[5][20]

The threat assessment team may request that the county agency or juvenile probation department consult and cooperate with the team in assessing the student who is the subject of a preliminary determination regarding a threat.[1]

4.

When assessment of a student's behavior determines that it is not a threat to the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, the threat assessment team shall document the assessment and may refer the student to other appropriate resources such as a child study team, the Student Assistance Program team, an IEP or Section 504 Team or other district supports and services.

Response and Intervention

The threat assessment team shall develop an Individualized Management Plan for each student identified and assessed as posing a threat to the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others. The plan should document the team's evaluation of the threat and recommendations for disposition of the threat, including the information gathered during the assessment and recommendations for response and intervention.

Following notification to the student's parent/guardian, the threat assessment team may refer the student to an appropriate program or take action to address the reported situation in accordance with applicable Board policy, which may include, but is not limited to:[1]

1. A referral to the Student Assistance Program.[4]
2. A referral to the appropriate law enforcement agency.[5][6][20]
3. An appropriate evaluation to determine whether the student is a qualified student with a disability in need of a Section 504 Service Agreement or in need of special education services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP), in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.[26][27][30]
4. A referral to the student's IEP Team to review and address the student's IEP and/or Positive Behavior Support Plan. This could include, but is not limited to, a manifestation determination or functional behavioral assessment in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Board policy. [27][28][29][30]
5. A referral to the student's Section 504 Team to review and address the student's Section 504 Service Agreement and/or Positive Behavior Support Plan.[26]
6. With prior parental consent, a referral to a behavioral service provider, health care provider or county agency.[31]
7. Addressing behavior in accordance with applicable discipline policies and the Code of Student Conduct.[32][33][34][35]
8. Ongoing monitoring of the student by the threat assessment team, a child study team, Student Assistance Program team or other appropriate school personnel.
9. Taking steps to address the safety of any potential targets identified by the reported threat.[6][36]

Safe Schools Incident Reporting -

For Safe Schools reporting purposes, the term **incident** means an instance involving an act of violence; the possession of a weapon; the possession, use or sale of a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia as defined in the Pennsylvania Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act; the possession, use or sale of alcohol or tobacco; or conduct that constitutes an offense listed under the Safe Schools Act.[20][37][38][39]

When a reported threat also meets the definition of an incident under the Safe Schools Act, in accordance with reporting requirements, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately report required incidents, if not previously reported by district staff, and may report discretionary incidents

committed by students on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity to the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies.[20][32][37][38][40][41][42]

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian, if not previously notified by district staff, of any student directly involved in an incident on school property, at any school-sponsored activity or on a conveyance providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity, who is a victim or suspect, immediately, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee will inform the parent/guardian whether or not the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee will document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.[20][38][43]

Students With Disabilities –

When reporting an incident committed by a student with a disability or referring a student with a disability to a law enforcement agency, the district shall provide the information required by state and federal laws and regulations and shall ensure that copies of the special education and disciplinary records of the student are transmitted for consideration by these authorities. The district shall ensure compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act when transmitting copies of the student's special education and disciplinary records.[9][11][44][45][46][47]

Monitoring and Management

If a student has an Individualized Management Plan, the threat assessment team shall monitor the Individualized Management Plan and coordinate with the designated team or resource to provide support and follow-up assessment as necessary. Follow-up assessments, referrals, re-entry plans and other supports shall be documented as part of the student's Individualized Management Plan.

The threat assessment team, in coordination with other appropriate teams and supports, shall determine when the student's Individualized Management Plan is no longer needed for disposition of the threat(s), and may transfer appropriate information in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Board policy.[4][7][9][11][26][27]

Records Access and Confidentiality

In order to carry out their duties and facilitate the timely assessment of and intervention with students whose behavior may indicate a threat, the threat assessment team shall have access to the following student information to the extent permitted under applicable law and regulations:[1]

1. Student health records.[48][49]
2. Prior school disciplinary records.[9][11][50]
3. Records related to adjudication under applicable law and regulations.[50][51][52][53][54][55]
4. Records of prior behavioral or mental health or psychological evaluations or screenings maintained by the district.
5. Other records or information that may be relevant to evaluating a threat or determining treatment or referral options for a student that are maintained by the district.

The threat assessment team shall use all information or records obtained in fulfilling the team's duty in accordance with law to evaluate a threat or to recommend disposition of a threat. Team members shall not redisclose any record or information obtained or otherwise use any record of a student beyond the purpose for which the disclosure was made to the team, in accordance with law.[1]

Lo.

The threat assessment team shall maintain confidentiality and handle all student records in accordance with applicable law, regulations, Board policy, the Student Records Plan and the district's legal and investigative obligations.[4][7][9][10][11][19][44][46][50][56]

Threat assessment members whose other assignments and roles require confidentiality of specific student communications, in accordance with law, shall ensure that all confidential communications and information are addressed in accordance with applicable law, regulations, Board policy and administrative regulations.[10][57][58][59][60]

Annual Board Report

The threat assessment team shall provide the required information to the Superintendent, in consultation with the School Safety and Security Coordinator, to annually develop and present to the Board, at an executive session, a report outlining the district's approach to threat assessment, which shall include:[1]

1. Verification that the district's threat assessment team and process complies with applicable law and regulations.
2. The number of threat assessment teams assigned in the district, and their composition.
3. The total number of threats assessed that year.
4. A summary of interactions with outside law enforcement agencies, juvenile probation and behavioral service providers.
5. An assessment of the district's threat assessment team(s) operation.
6. Recommendations for improvement of the district's threat assessment processes.
7. Any additional information required by the Superintendent or designee.

✓ The annual threat assessment report shall be presented as part of the annual report to the Board by the School Safety and Security Coordinator on district safety and security practices.[1][5]

The threat assessment team's information addressing verification of compliance with law and regulations, the number of threat assessment teams assigned in the district and their composition, the total number of threats assessed that year, and **additional** information required by the Superintendent or designee shall be included in the School Safety and Security Coordinator's annual report on district safety and security practices that is submitted to the state's School Safety and Security Committee.[1][5][61]

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Legal

1. 24 P.S. 1302-E
2. 24 P.S. 1301-E
3. Pol. 832
4. Pol. 236
5. Pol. 805.2
6. Pol. 805
7. Pol. 819
8. Pol. 103
9. Pol. 113.4

10. Pol. 207
11. Pol. 216
12. Pol. 146.1
13. 24 P.S. 1205.2
14. 24 P.S. 1205.5
15. 24 P.S. 1310-B
16. Pol. 333
17. Pol. 104
18. Pol. 105.1
19. Pol. 249
20. Pol. 805.1
21. 23 Pa. C.S.A. 6311
22. Pol. 806
23. Pol. 247
24. Pol. 252
25. Pol. 226
26. Pol. 103.1
27. Pol. 113
28. Pol. 113.1
29. Pol. 113.2
30. Pol. 113.3
31. Pol. 146
32. Pol. 218
33. Pol. 218.1
34. Pol. 218.2
35. Pol. 233
36. Pol. 709
37. 24 P.S. 1303-A
38. 22 PA Code 10.2
39. 35 P.S. 780-102
40. 24 P.S. 1302.1-A
41. 22 PA Code 10.21
42. 22 PA Code 10.22
43. 22 PA Code 10.25
44. 20 U.S.C. 1232g
45. 20 U.S.C. 1415
46. 34 CFR Part 99
47. 34 CFR Part 300
48. 24 P.S. 1409
49. Pol. 209
50. Pol. 216.1

Book	Policy Manual
Section	800 Operations
Title	Emergency Preparedness and Response
Code	805 Vol III 2022
Status	From PSBA

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Purpose

The Board recognizes its responsibility for the safety of students, staff, visitors and facilities. Therefore, the Board shall provide facilities, equipment and training necessary to protect against hazards and emergencies, including but not limited to natural disasters, hazardous chemicals, fires, weapons, bomb threats, intruders, terrorism, communicable diseases and pandemics. Advance planning, training, practice and comprehensive implementation are key components in protecting the safety and security of the school community.[1]

Authority

The district, in cooperation with the county Emergency Management Agency and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), shall develop and implement a comprehensive disaster response and emergency preparedness plan, consistent with the guidelines developed by PEMA and other applicable state requirements.[2][3]

The Board shall also utilize the resources of and comply with the requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and local law enforcement agencies.[4]

The Board requires that emergency preparedness, emergency evacuation and school security drills be conducted at intervals required by state law.[3][5][6]

Definitions

School security drill – a planned exercise, other than a fire drill or natural disaster drill, designed to practice procedures to respond to an emergency situation that may include, but is not limited to, an act of terrorism, armed intruder situation or other violent threat.[5]

School Safety and Security Assessment – a strategic evaluation of a school entity's facilities and programs used to identify potential safety and security threats.[7]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including parents/guardians, students, staff, community agencies, local law enforcement agencies and first responders, during the development and implementation of the emergency preparedness plan.

The Superintendent or designee shall implement a communication system to notify parents/guardians of the evacuation or sheltering of students and to alert the entire school community when necessary.

Annually, on or before April 10, the Superintendent shall certify that emergency evacuation drills and school security drills have been conducted in the manner prescribed by law.[5]

In accordance with state law and regulations, the Superintendent shall execute a memorandum of understanding with each local police department that has jurisdiction over school property.[4][8][9]

✓ The Board directs the

✓ Superintendent or designee

✓ School Safety and Security Coordinator

to periodically complete a School Safety and Security Assessment in accordance with the provisions of law and established criteria, based on the needs of the district and availability of funding and resources.
[7][10][11][12]

Guidelines

Emergency Planning

The emergency preparedness plan shall be accessible in each district building, be reviewed at least annually, and be modified as necessary. A copy of the plan shall be made accessible to the county Emergency Management Agency, each local police department and each local fire department that have jurisdiction over school property. The district shall obtain assurances from each appropriate agency that the emergency preparedness plan will be safeguarded and maintained confidentially.[2][3][13]

Appropriate information regarding the emergency preparedness plan shall be communicated to students, parents/guardians, staff, the community and other relevant stakeholders.

Annually, by September 30, the district shall assemble information required to assist local police and fire departments in responding to an emergency. The required information shall be deployed immediately to the Incident Command Post in the event of an emergency incident or disaster.[2][3][4]

Schools and school buses or transportation vehicles owned or leased by the district shall be made available to local, county and state officials for emergency planning and exercises.[3]

Continuity of Student Learning/Core Operations

In the event of an emergency, local, county or state officials may require that schools be made available to serve as mass-care facilities. Local, county or state officials may also utilize district-owned buses and other transportation vehicles. The Superintendent or designee shall determine whether schools shall be closed, or the educational program suspended, to safeguard student and staff health and safety.[3][14]

State officials may also direct schools to close in order to mitigate the spread of infection or illness in designated emergencies.[15]

The district shall make provisions in the emergency preparedness plan **and any applicable health and safety plan** for the continuity of student learning during school closings or excessive absences, in accordance with law. This may include, as appropriate, activities qualifying as instructional days for fulfilling the minimum required days of instruction under the law. Instructional activities may include:
[16][17][18][19][20]

1. ✓ Web-based instruction.
2. ✓ Mailed lessons and assignments.
3. ✓ Instruction via local television or radio stations.
4. { } Other: _____.

The continuity of core operations such as payroll and ongoing communication with staff, students and parents/guardians shall be an essential part of the emergency preparedness plan.

Education and Training

Students and staff members shall be instructed and shall practice how to respond appropriately to emergency situations.[5][6][21]

Effective infection control and prevention education and procedures, such as frequent hand washing and cough/sneeze etiquette, shall be encouraged continually to help limit the spread of germs at district schools.[22][23]

The district shall provide mandatory training **for school staff** on school safety and security, **in accordance with law and the standards specified by the state's School Safety and Security Committee:**[21][24][25][26]

1. **Two (2) hours of required training addressing** any combination of one (1) or more of the following areas **shall be completed each year, in person or virtually:**
 - a. Situational awareness.
 - b. Trauma-informed approaches.[25][27]
 - c. Behavioral health awareness.
 - d. Suicide and bullying awareness.[28][29]
 - e. Substance use awareness.[30][31]
2. **One (1) hour of training in the following areas shall be completed each year:**
 - a. Emergency training drills, including fire, natural disaster, active shooter, hostage situation and bomb threat. **This training must be conducted in person.**[32]
 - b. Identification or recognition of student behavior that may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, **other individuals**, school facilities, **or** the community. **This training may be conducted in person or virtually.**[33][34]

The required school safety and security training shall be credited toward professional education requirements, in accordance with law and the district's Professional Education Plan.[21][25][35]

Required Drills

Emergency Preparedness Drill -

The Board directs district schools to conduct a disaster response or emergency preparedness plan drill at least annually, in accordance with the provisions of law.[3]

Fire Drills -

The Board directs each district school to conduct fire drills at least once a month during the school year, in accordance with the provisions of law.[5][6]

School Security Drills -

The Board directs each district school to conduct a school security drill within ninety (90) days of the beginning of each school year. The school security drill shall be conducted while school is in session,

with students present.[5]

The school security drill may take the place of a fire drill for the month in which it is conducted.

The Superintendent or designee

☒ may

☐ shall

conduct additional school security drills in district schools after the first ninety (90) days of the school year. Up to two (2) additional school security drills per school year may be conducted in place of the required fire drills for the month in which they are conducted.[5]

The Superintendent or designee shall:[5]

1. Oversee instruction and training of students and school employees in procedures for conducting school security drills and responding to emergency situations.
2. Notify and request assistance from local law enforcement and the emergency management agency prior to conducting a school security drill.
3. Notify parents/guardians of the students attending the school building where the school security drill is scheduled in advance of conducting the drill.

Bus Evacuation Drills -

Bus evacuation and safety drills shall be conducted twice a year, in accordance with the provisions of law.[5][36]

Safe2Say Something Program

The Board directs the Superintendent or designee to develop procedures for assessing and responding to reports received from the Safe2Say Something anonymous reporting program, in accordance with law. The procedures shall establish a framework within which district administration and staff will respond to program reports, coordinate with the county emergency dispatch center(s) and local law enforcement, and provide appropriate assessment and response for the safety and security of students, staff and school facilities, **in accordance with applicable law and Board policy and administrative regulations.**[4][26][32][34][37]

NOTES:

School entities who receive specific federal funding grants for readiness and emergency management may also have additional requirements for compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

False alarms – 18 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 4905, 4906

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Legal

1. Pol. 705
 2. 22 PA Code 10.24
 3. 35 Pa. C.S.A. 7701
 4. Pol. 805.1
- 4

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Section 800 Operations
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Authority

The Board shall employ, contract for and/or assign staff to coordinate the safety and security of district students, staff, visitors and facilities.

Definitions

School security personnel - school police officers, school resource officers and school security guards.
[1]

Independent contractor - an individual, including a retired federal agent or retired state, municipal or military police officer or retired sheriff or deputy sheriff, whose responsibilities, including work hours, are established in a written contract with the district for the purpose of performing school security services.[1]

Third-party vendor - a company or entity approved by the Office for Safe Schools of the PA Department of Education or the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency that provides school security services in accordance with law.[1]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent shall appoint a school administrator to serve as the School Safety and Security Coordinator, in accordance with law. **When a vacancy occurs in the role of the School Safety and Security Coordinator, the Superintendent shall appoint another school administrator to serve as the School Safety and Security Coordinator within thirty (30) days of the vacancy and shall notify the Board regarding the appointment.**[2]

The Superintendent or designee shall submit the name and contact information for the appointed School Safety and Security Coordinator to the state's School Safety and Security Committee within thirty (30) days of the appointment.[2]

The School Safety and Security Coordinator shall report directly to the Superintendent, and shall be responsible for the following:[2]

1. Oversee all

{☒} school police officers

{ } School Resource Officers (SROs)

{☒} school security guards.

2. Review and provide oversight of all Board policies, administrative regulations and procedures related to school safety and security, and ensure compliance with federal and state laws and regulations regarding school safety and security.

3. Coordinate training and resources for students and staff related to situational awareness, trauma-informed approaches, behavioral health awareness, suicide and bullying **awareness**, substance **use awareness**, emergency procedures and training drills, **and identification or recognition of student behavior that may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, other individuals, school facilities or the community, in accordance with the standards established by the state's School Safety and Security Committee and the requirements of applicable law and regulations.**[3][4][5][6][7][8][9][10][11]
4. Coordinate a tour of the district's buildings and grounds biennially, or when a building is first occupied or reconfigured, with law enforcement and first responders responsible for protecting and securing the district to discuss and coordinate school safety and security matters.
5. Serve as the liaison with law enforcement and other state committees and agencies on matters of school safety and security.
6. Serve on the district's threat assessment team(s) and participate in required training and the threat assessment process.[6][12]
7. Coordinate School Safety and Security Assessments, **School Safety and Security grant requirements** and respond to School Safety and Security surveys, as applicable.[10][13][14][15]

The School Safety and Security Coordinator shall, within one (1) year of appointment, complete required training as specified by the state's School Safety and Security Committee for serving in the role of a School Safety and Security Coordinator. This training shall be in addition to other training requirements for school administrators.[2][16]

By June 30 of each year, the School Safety and Security Coordinator shall make a report to the Board at an executive session on the district's current safety and security practices, and identify strategies to improve school safety and security.[2][17]

The Board directs the School Safety and Security Coordinator to include the following information in the annual report:

1. Threat assessment team information, including verification of compliance with law and regulations, the number and composition of the district's threat assessment team(s), the total number of threats assessed in the past year and **additional** information on threat assessment required by the Superintendent or designee, in accordance with Board policy.[6][12]
2. {✓} Reports of required emergency preparedness, fire, bus evacuation and school security drills. [10]
3. {✓} Information on required school safety and security training and resources provided to students and staff.[10]
4. {✓} Safe2Say Something aggregate data, including a breakdown of Life Safety and Non-Life Safety reports received.
5. {✓} Behavioral health and school climate information, including aggregate data from surveys and assessments issued in the district, information on referrals and services accessed by students and families, and identification of additional resources needed in the district.[18]
6. {✓} Office for Safe Schools reports for the previous year(s) and/or data collected to date for the current year.
7. {✓} Updates regarding the district's Memorandum of Understanding with local law enforcement agencies.[19]

8. ☒ Updates to laws, regulations and/or Board policies related to school safety and security.
9. ☒ Information on tours, inspections and/or School Safety and Security Assessments of school facilities and programs.
10. ☒ Information on grants or funding applied for and/or received in support of school safety and security efforts.

A copy of the report shall be submitted to the state's School Safety and Security Committee.[2]

The Superintendent or designee shall implement job descriptions and procedures to address the responsibilities and requirements specific to each category of school security personnel in carrying out their duties.

School security personnel shall carry weapons, including firearms, in performance of their duties only if, and to the extent, authorized by the Board, including as provided in an agreement with a law enforcement agency for the stationing of a School Resource Officer or in a contract with an independent contractor or third-party vendor approved by the Board.

[NOTE: Select the applicable option(s) below with the appropriate corresponding language for each option, based on the district's school security personnel.]

Guidelines

☒ School Police Officers

The district shall

☒ employ

☒ contract for

one or more school police officers and apply to the appropriate court for appointment and powers of authority, in accordance with the provisions of law.[1][20][21][22][23][24]

School police officer - [1][21][22]

1. A law enforcement officer employed by the district whose responsibilities, including work hours, are established by the district; or
2. An independent contractor or an individual provided through a third-party vendor who has been appointed in accordance with law, and who meets the requirements of contracted services personnel, in accordance with Board policy.[24]

Background Checks -

Prior to receiving an offer of employment, all school police officers shall comply with the requirements for background checks/certifications and employment history reviews for all school employees, in accordance with applicable law, Board policy and administrative regulations. These requirements are addressed separately in Board policy 304 for school police employed by the district and Board policy 818 for school police employed by an independent contractor or third-party vendor.[23][24][25][26][27][28]

The district shall conduct a law enforcement agency background investigation in compliance with applicable law and regulations for all school police employed by the district and shall review a background investigation conducted for all school police employed by an independent contractor or third-party vendor.[29][30]

Following an offer of employment, the district shall request the separation record for a school police officer employed or contracted by the district, in accordance with applicable law and regulations for a law enforcement agency.[31][32]

Requirements -

The district shall annually report the following information regarding school police officers receiving required training to the PA Department of Education and the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency: [33]

1. The district's name and the number of school police officers employed or contracted by the district.
2. The municipalities comprising the district.
3. The date and type of training provided to each school police officer.

The district shall make reports regarding hiring and separation, and shall maintain all records, as required for a law enforcement agency, in accordance with applicable law and regulations.[30][34]

School police officers shall take and subscribe to the Oath of Office required by law.[35]

~~{ }~~ The district shall request that the court grant the school police officer authority to carry a firearm, in accordance with law. The school police officer shall maintain all applicable firearm license and training requirements, in accordance with law and Board policy.[20][36]

School police officers shall successfully complete required training, in accordance with law, and other required staff training, including district training on the use of positive behavior supports, de-escalation techniques and appropriate responses to behavior for students with disabilities, in accordance with law, regulations and Board policy.[36][37][38][39][40]

School police officers shall possess and exercise the following duties:[41]

1. Enforce good order in school buildings, on school buses or vehicles owned or leased by the district, and on school grounds.
2. If authorized by the court, issue summary citations or detain individuals who are in school buildings, on school buses and on school grounds in the district until local law enforcement is notified.
3. If authorized by the court, a school police officer who is a law enforcement officer employed by the district whose responsibilities, including work hours, are established by the district, may exercise the same powers as exercised under authority of law or ordinance by the police of the municipality in which the school property is located.

School police officers shall wear the assigned metallic shield or badge provided by the district in plain view when on duty.[42]

{ } School Resource Officers (SROs)

The district shall establish an agreement with _____, in accordance with the provisions of law, for the assignment of a School Resource Officer(s) to specified district schools.[1][43]

School Resource Officer (SRO) - a law enforcement officer commissioned and employed by a law enforcement agency whose duty station is located in the district and whose stationing is established by an agreement between the law enforcement agency and the district. The term includes an active certified sheriff or deputy sheriff whose stationing in the district is established by a written agreement between the county, the sheriff's office and the district.[1]

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The agreement shall address the powers and duties conferred on SROs, which shall include but not be limited to:[44]

1. Assist in identification of physical changes in the environment which may reduce crime in or around a school.
2. Assist in developing Board policy, administrative regulations or procedures which address crime, and recommending procedural changes.
3. Develop and educate students in crime prevention and safety.
4. Train students in conflict resolution, restorative justice and crime awareness.
5. Address crime and violence issues, gangs and drug activities affecting or occurring in or around a school.
6. Develop or expand community justice initiatives for students.
7. Other duties as agreed upon between the district and municipal agency.

Prior to assignment in the district, the district shall confirm that the law enforcement agency has completed a law enforcement agency background investigation and received the SRO's separation record, when required, in compliance with applicable law and regulations. The district shall coordinate with the law enforcement agency in making required reports regarding hiring and separation, and maintaining all required records, in accordance with applicable law and regulations.[30][34]

SROs shall successfully complete required training, in accordance with law.[44]

School Security Guards

The district shall

✓ employ

✓ contract for

one or more school security guards, in accordance with the provisions of law.[1][23][24][45]

School security guard - an individual employed by the district or a third-party vendor or an independent contractor who is assigned to a school for routine safety and security duties, and has not been granted powers by the court to issue citations, detain individuals or exercise the same powers as exercised by police of the municipality in which the school property is located, in accordance with law. An independent contractor or individual employed by a third-party vendor contracted with the district shall meet the requirements of contracted services personnel, in accordance with Board policy and the provisions of applicable law.[1][22][24][45]

Background Checks -

Prior to receiving an offer of employment, all school security guards shall comply with the requirements for background checks/certifications and employment history reviews for all school employees, in accordance with applicable law, Board policy and administrative regulations. These requirements are addressed separately in Board policy 304 for school security guards employed by the district and Board policy 818 for school security guards employed by an independent contractor or third-party vendor.[23][24][25][26][27][28]

The district shall conduct a law enforcement agency background investigation in compliance with applicable law and regulations for all school security guards employed by the district and shall review a

background investigation conducted for all school security guards employed by an independent contractor or third-party vendor.[29][30]

Following an offer of employment, the district shall request the separation record for a school security guard employed or contracted by the district, in accordance with applicable law and regulations for a law enforcement agency.[31][32]

Requirements -

School security guards shall provide the following services, as directed by the district:[45]

1. School safety support services.
2. Enhanced campus supervision.
3. Assistance with disruptive students.
4. Monitoring visitors on campus.[46]
5. Coordination with law enforcement officials,
☒ including school police officers.
☐ including SROs.
6. Security functions which improve and maintain school safety.

School security guards shall successfully complete required training, in accordance with law, and applicable staff training in accordance with Board policy.[45]

☒ School security guards authorized to carry a firearm shall maintain an appropriate license and successfully complete required firearm training in accordance with law.[45]

The district shall make reports regarding hiring and separation, and shall maintain all records, as required for a law enforcement agency, in accordance with applicable law and regulations.[30][34]

☒ Other Agreements

☒ The district shall enter into a cooperative police service agreement(s) with a municipality(ies), in accordance with the provisions of law.[43][47][48][49]

☐ The district shall enter into an intergovernmental agreement(s) otherwise providing for School Resource Officers with other political subdivisions, in accordance with the provisions of law.[43][44][49]

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Legal

1. 24 P.S. 1301-C
2. 24 P.S. 1309-B
3. Pol. 146.1
4. Pol. 227
5. Pol. 236
6. Pol. 236.1
7. Pol. 249
8. Pol. 222

Le

Book Policy Manual
Section 800 Operations
Title Food Services
Code 808 Vol III 2022
Status From PSBA

Revised

Purpose

The Board recognizes that students require adequate, nourishing food and beverages in order to grow, learn and maintain good health. The Board directs that students shall be provided with adequate space and time to eat meals during the school day.

Authority

The food service program shall be operated in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations, as well as federal guidelines established by the Child Nutrition Division of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).^{[1][2][3][4][5][6][7][8][9][10]}

The district shall ensure that, in the operation of the food service program, no student, staff member or other individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability.^{[11][12]}

Food sold by the school may be purchased by students and district employees but only for consumption on school premises. The price charged to students shall be established annually by the district in compliance with state and federal laws.^{[4][13]}

Nonprogram food shall be priced to generate sufficient revenues to cover the cost of such items. A **nonprogram food** shall be defined as a food or beverage, other than a reimbursable meal or snack, that is sold at the school and is purchased using funds from the child nutrition account. **Nonprogram foods** include but are not limited to adult meals and a-la-carte items. All revenue from the sale of nonprogram food shall accrue to the child nutrition program account.^{[13][14]}

Delegation of Responsibility

Operation and supervision of the food service program shall be the responsibility of the

{ } Superintendent.

{ } Business Manager.

☒ Food Services Director.

{ } Cafeteria Supervisor.

The individual responsible for the operation and supervision of the food service program shall present to the Board each month for its approval a statement of receipts and expenditures for cafeteria funds.^[4]

Cafeterias shall be operated on a nonprofit basis. A periodic review of the cafeteria accounts shall be made by the ^{[3][4]}

{ } Superintendent.

☒ Business Manager.

✓ auditor.

The individual responsible for the operation and supervision of the food service program shall ensure that school meals meet the standards required by the School Breakfast Program, the National School Lunch Program and the Special Milk Program.[2][3][4][6][7][8][9][10]

The Superintendent or designee shall comply with state and federal requirements for conducting cafeteria health and safety inspections and ensuring employee participation in appropriate inspection services and training programs.[15][16][17][18]

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and disseminate administrative regulations to implement this policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians and employees concerning the contents of this policy and applicable administrative regulations. Notification shall include information related to nondiscrimination.[12]

Guidelines

To reinforce the district's commitment to nutrition and student wellness, foods served in school cafeterias shall:[19]

1. Be carefully selected to contribute to students' nutritional well-being and health.
2. Meet the nutrition standards specified in law and regulations and approved by the Board.
3. Be prepared by methods that will retain nutritive quality, appeal to students and foster lifelong healthy eating habits.
4. Be served in age-appropriate quantities, at reasonable prices.

✓ The district shall use USDA Foods for school menus available under the Child Nutrition USDA Foods Programs.

All funds derived from the operation, maintenance or sponsorship of the food service program shall be deposited in the separate cafeteria fund, in the same manner as other district funds. Such funds shall be expended in the manner approved and directed by the Board, but no amount shall be transferred from the cafeteria fund to any other account or fund; however, district advances to the food service program may be returned to the district's general fund from any surplus resulting from its operation.[4]

Surplus accounts shall be used only for the improvement and maintenance of the cafeteria.[4]

Free/Reduced-Price School Meals and Free Milk

The district shall provide free and reduced-price school meals and/or free milk to students in accordance with the terms and conditions of the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program and the Special Milk Program.[20][21]

The district shall conduct direct certification three (3) times per year using the Pennsylvania Student Eligibility System (PA-SES) to identify students who are eligible for free school meal benefits without the need for submission of a household application. Direct certification shall be conducted:[20][21]

1. At or around the beginning of the school year.
2. Three (3) months after the initial effort.
3. Six (6) months after the initial effort.

The district may also conduct direct certification on a weekly or monthly basis.

{ } Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) -

{ } The district participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which provides an alternative to submission of household applications to identify students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals. Under the CEP, the district shall serve to all students free lunches and breakfasts for a defined period, in accordance with applicable provisions of law. [22]

Accommodating Students With Special Dietary Needs

The district shall make appropriate food service and/or meal accommodations to students with special dietary needs in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Board policy.[23][24][25][26]

School Meal Service and Accounts

To ensure the effective operation of the district's food service program and delivery of school food program meals to students, the district shall:

1. Assign individual school meal accounts to each student for the purchase of meals served in school cafeterias, which ensure that the identity of each student is protected.
2. Notify parents/guardians when the student's school meal account reaches a low balance.
3. Notify parents/guardians when the student's school meal account reaches a negative balance. The notice shall include information on payment options.
4. Provide a school food program meal to each student who does not have the money to pay for the school food program meal or who has a negative balance in their school meal account, except when the student's parent/guardian has specifically provided written notice to the district to withhold a school food program meal.[3]

When a student owes money for five (5) or more school food program meals, the district shall make at least two (2) attempts to contact the student's parent/guardian and shall provide the application for free/reduced-price school meal benefits to the parent/guardian to apply for benefits under federal school meal programs. The district **shall** offer assistance to parents/guardians with applying for free/reduced-price school meal benefits.[3][20][21]

Communications regarding a low balance or money owed by a student for school meals shall be made to the student's parent/guardian.[3]

School staff may communicate a low balance or money owed by a student for school meals to a student in grades 9-12; such communication shall be made to the individual student in a discreet manner.[3]

~~{ }~~ The district shall be permitted to contact the student's parent/guardian by means of a letter addressed to the parent/guardian that is delivered by the student.[3]

District schools shall be prohibited from:[3]

1. Publicly identifying or stigmatizing a student who cannot pay for a school food program meal or who has a negative school meal account balance. It shall not constitute public identification or stigmatization of a student for a school to restrict privileges and activities of students who owe money for school meals if those same restrictions apply to students who owe money for other school-related purposes.
2. Requiring a student who cannot pay for a school food program meal to perform chores or other work to pay for the meal, unless chores or other work are required of all students regardless of

their ability or inability to pay for a school food program meal.

3. Requiring a student **or school staff** to discard a school food program meal after it was served to the student due to the student's inability to pay for the meal or due to a negative school meal account balance.

This policy and any applicable procedures or administrative regulations regarding school meal charges and school meal accounts shall be communicated annually to school administrators, school food service personnel, other appropriate school staff and contracted food service personnel.

The district shall provide parents/guardians with a written copy of this policy and any applicable procedures or administrative regulations at the start of each school year, when a student enrolls in school after the start of the school year and when a parent/guardian is notified of a negative school meal account balance.

✓ The district shall annually inform parents/guardians, students and staff about the contents of this policy and any applicable procedures via the district website, student handbooks, newsletters, posted notices and/or other efficient communication methods.

Collection of Unpaid Meal Charges

Reasonable efforts shall be made by the district to collect unpaid meal charges from parents/guardians. Efforts taken in the collection shall not have a negative impact on the student involved, but shall focus primarily on the parents/guardians responsible for providing funds for meal purchases.

Procurement

Procurement of goods or services for the food service program shall meet the requirements of applicable law, regulations and Board policy and procedures.[27][28][29]

Professional Standards for Food Service Personnel

The district shall comply with the professional standards for school food service personnel who manage and operate the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. For purposes of this policy, **professional standards** include hiring standards for new food service program directors and annual continuing education/training for all individuals involved in the operation and administration of school meal programs. Such professional standards shall apply to both district-operated food service programs and contracted food service programs.[6][7][18][30]

School Food Safety Inspections

The district shall obtain two (2) safety inspections per year in accordance with local, state, and federal laws and regulations.[16][17][31]

The district shall post the most recent inspection report and release a copy of the report to members of the public, upon request.

School Food Safety Program

The district shall comply with federal requirements in developing a food safety program that enables district schools to take systematic action to prevent or minimize the risk of foodborne illness among students.[8][10][16]

The district shall maintain proper sanitation and health standards in food storage, preparation and service, in accordance with applicable state and local laws and regulations and federal food safety requirements.[17][31][32]

NOTES:

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Language related to provisions for alternative meals being served to students if the student is not eligible for free/reduced-price school meals and the student's account reaches a negative balance of more than **seventy-five** dollars (\$75) in a school year **has not been included in the policy guide** based on recent food service audits conducted by PDE stating that the language is in violation of the USDA regulations. Although alternative meal provisions were added to the PA School Code 24 P.S. Sec. 13-1337 under Act 16 of 2019, **and modified under Act 55 of 2022**, PDE's Child Nutrition Programs issued a memo regarding Revised Meals for Students with Insufficient Funds and Local Meal Charge Policies stating that the provision of law regarding alternative meals does not apply to any student in any school that participates in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs whether or not the student qualifies for free and reduced-price school meals. School entities should work with their solicitor if they wish to use the alternative meal provisions from 24 P.S. Sec. 13-1337 under Act 16 of 2019 **and Act 55 of 2022**.

If your school entity participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and provides free school lunches and breakfasts to all students under this provision, please work with your solicitor and food service administrator to determine additional revisions to this policy.

When a district contracts for food services, use master as-is except delete the paragraphs under Guidelines starting with "Surplus accounts..." and "All funds derived..."

Summer Food Service – 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1751 et seq
7 CFR Part 225

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Legal

1. 2 CFR Part 200
2. 24 P.S. 1335
3. 24 P.S. 1337
4. 24 P.S. 504
5. 24 P.S. 807.1
6. 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq
7. 42 U.S.C. 1773
8. 7 CFR Part 210
9. 7 CFR Part 215
10. 7 CFR Part 220
11. 7 CFR 210.23
12. FNS Instruction 113-1 (USDA)
13. 42 U.S.C. 1760
14. 7 CFR 210.14
15. 3 Pa. C.S.A. 5713
16. 42 U.S.C. 1758(h)
17. 7 CFR 210.13
18. 7 CFR 210.30
19. Pol. 246
20. 42 U.S.C. 1758
21. 7 CFR Part 245
22. 42 U.S.C. 1759a
23. 7 CFR 15b.40
24. Pol. 103.1
25. Pol. 113
26. Pol. 209.1
27. Pol. 610
28. Pol. 626
29. Pol. 827
30. 7 CFR 210.15
31. 7 CFR 220.7
32. 7 CFR 210.9
- P.L. 111-296
- 7 CFR Part 15
- Pol. 103

PAYMENT OF SCHOOL MEAL ACCOUNTS

NOTE: Districts are encouraged to use this attachment as a means of providing locally developed procedures to students, parents/guardians, and staff for the delivery of school food program meals, payment for school meals and the methods used for collecting unpaid meal charges. Districts should review locally developed procedures and insert those procedures into this attachment. The USDA Food and Nutrition Service has released a resource guide for schools to use in addressing unpaid meal charges. The guide is available [here](https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/2017-edition-overcoming-unpaid-meal-challenge-proven-strategies-our-nations-schools).

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/2017-edition-overcoming-unpaid-meal-challenge-proven-strategies-our-nations-schools>

In reviewing locally developed procedures or developing new procedures, districts may find the checklists and accompanying documents in the Appendices helpful. Dissemination of the policy should include this attachment.

School Meal Charges and Accounts

{ } Insert locally developed procedures here.

Collection of Unpaid Meal Charges

{ } Insert locally developed procedures related to information a parent/guardian needs to know related to collection of unpaid meal charges not information related to how the district will handle collection internally.

