

School Safety and Security



An Overview of Act 44 of 2018 and New Requirements

Heather Masshardt, PSBA

A look at what we'll cover . . .

- Act 44 establishment of School Safety & Security Committee
- School Safety & Security Coordinators
- School Safety & Security Training
- Assessment Criteria, Assessor Registration and Surveys
- School Safety & Security Grant Criteria
- School Police/School Resource Officers/Security Guards
- State Police RVAT Teams
- Safe2Say Something Anonymous Reporting System
- Additional New Provisions – Executive Sessions, School Security Drills



Act 44 of 2018 & School Safety & Security Committee

- Act 44 signed into law June 22, 2018 – established several new sections of the Pennsylvania School Code
- Established a School Safety & Security Committee within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD)
- Committee composed of individuals appointed from various areas – Secretary of Education (PDE), Attorney General’s Office, State Police, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), legislative appointments, Department of Human Services, and others

<https://www.pccd.pa.gov/schoolsafety/Pages/default.aspx>



Pennsylvania Commission on Crime
and Delinquency

School Safety & Security Committee

- Establish criteria for school safety and security assessments
- Establish criteria for registration of vendors conducting assessments
- Develop a survey for distribution to school entities on safety and security preparedness
- Review surveys completed by school entities
- Approve, disperse and administer School Safety and Security grant funds



School Safety & Security Coordinators

WHO – “school administrator”

“The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) have interpreted the term "school administrator" to mean any individual who currently serves or who will serve in an administrative capacity in a school entity that meets the coordinator requirements of Act 44. The coordinator will represent the entire school entity.”

--PCCD FAQs on School Safety and Security



School Safety & Security Coordinators

- Appointed by August 31, 2018
- Appointed by Chief School Administrator
- Reports directly to the Chief School Administrator
- Oversees all School Police, School Resource Officers or security guards
- Reviews and provides oversight of policies, administrative regulations, and procedures related to school safety and security, and legal compliance



School Safety & Security Coordinators

- Coordinates training and resources for students and staff:
 - ✓ Situational awareness
 - ✓ Trauma-informed education
 - ✓ Behavioral health awareness
 - ✓ Suicide awareness
 - ✓ Bullying awareness
 - ✓ Substance abuse
 - ✓ Emergency procedures
 - ✓ Training drills: fire, natural disaster, active shooter, hostage, bomb threat



School Safety & Security Coordinators



- Coordinate a tour of buildings and grounds biennially, or when a building is first reoccupied or reconfigured, with law enforcement and first responders
- Serve as liaison with law enforcement and state agencies on school safety
- Coordinate school safety and security assessments



School Safety & Security Coordinators

- By **June 30** of each year:
 - ✓ Make a report to the Board in Executive Session on school entity safety and security practices
 - ✓ Identify strategies to improve school safety and security
 - ✓ Submit the report to the state's School Safety and Security Committee



School Safety and Security Training

- Mandatory training on school safety and security
- 3 hours every 5 years (effective immediately)
- Can count toward Professional Development if PDE and Committee approve



School Safety and Security Training

- Must include training on:

✓ Situational awareness

✓ Trauma-informed education

✓ Behavioral health awareness

✓ Suicide awareness

✓ Bullying awareness

✓ Substance use awareness

✓ Emergency training drills:

Fire

Natural disasters

Active shooter

Hostage situation

Bomb threats



School Safety and Security Assessment

As defined by law:

“a strategic evaluation of a school entity’s facilities and programs used to identify potential safety and security threats.”



Assessment Criteria

- Physical assessment
- Policy and training assessment
- Student assistance and behavioral health assessment



“The criteria are not meant to direct school entities to have all of these best practices in place, but rather to guide school officials with respect to what they may need to do to create a safer, more secure learning environment.”

Physical Assessment Criteria

- Review of existing physical security documents – All-hazards plan, MOU
- Physical vulnerabilities – Exterior Spaces:
 - ✓ Building access
 - ✓ Playground/Recreation area
 - ✓ Buses, parking, outside spaces
 - ✓ Deliveries and utilities
- Physical vulnerabilities – Interior Spaces:
 - ✓ Interior access and security
 - ✓ Classrooms
 - ✓ High occupancy spaces



Physical Assessment Criteria

- Other Physical Security Considerations:
 - ✓ Keys and identification
 - ✓ Visitor policy and procedures
 - ✓ Communications plan
 - ✓ Community engagement
 - ✓ After-hours events and large gatherings
 - ✓ Monitoring and surveillance
 - ✓ Technology



Student Assistance and Behavioral Health Criteria

- Student Assistance Programs (SAP) and SAP Training:
 - ✓ SAP Teams
 - ✓ Student services, Positive Behavior Support, conflict resolution
 - ✓ Periodic training
- Behavioral health services
 - ✓ Needs assessments
 - ✓ School counselors and psychologists, student referrals, community services
- School climate
 - ✓ Survey instruments and data collection
 - ✓ Trauma-informed education



“Throughout the criteria, the term “**policy**” is used as a general term denoting written documentation and could include a board-approved policy, internal procedure or administrative regulation, or plan, based on requirements of law and regulations and the advice of legal counsel.”

Policy and Training Criteria

- Statutorily required policies
 - ✓ Bullying policy
 - ✓ Safe2Say procedures
 - ✓ Student services plan
 - ✓ Suicide awareness, prevention and response policy
- Criteria-based policies
 - ✓ Related to exterior security: procedures on door security, parking permits, delivery
 - ✓ Related to interior security: visitors, key control, mass notifications
 - ✓ Related to behavioral health and school climate: drug/alcohol use, suicide awareness
 - ✓ Other: Internet acceptable use, student discipline, Code of Conduct, searches



Policy and Training Criteria

- Statutorily required training
 - ✓ School safety and security
 - ✓ Fire drills, school security drills (active shooter, intruder, emergency preparedness)
 - ✓ CPR
 - ✓ Suicide awareness and prevention
 - ✓ Child abuse recognition and reporting
- Criteria-based training – Staff and students
 - ✓ Security and operations plans
 - ✓ Warning signs of violent behavior
 - ✓ Training with first responders

**Student training
should be
age-appropriate**



Registration Criteria

School Safety & Security Committee will establish criteria for registration of vendors qualified to conduct school safety and security assessments – by October 31

- Physical assessments & policy/training related to physical security
- Student assistance and behavioral health assessments & policy/training

Registered assessors must use the established Safety & Security Assessment Criteria



Survey

- School Safety & Security Committee must develop a survey for distribution to each school entity on safety and security preparedness by **October 31**
- Each school entity must complete this survey by **November 30** and indicate whether it has a pre-existing safety assessment completed within the past 3 years, and submit a copy of such assessment
- Committee will review all surveys no later than **January 31, 2019** and notify school entities of the findings



School Safety & Security Grants

- Approval, disbursement and administration of grants is by the School Safety & Security Committee
- Administered through PCCD Egrants system – **separate** from PDE’s system and separate from Office for Safe Schools grants
- Part A: Meritorious Application - \$25,000 each school entity, annually
- Part B: Competitive Application
- Also provision for other community-based entities to apply for funds to prevent community violence

See PCCD School Safety and Security webpage for tools, and also the FAQ page:

<https://www.pccd.pa.gov/Funding/Pages/Funding-Announcement-QA.aspx>



School Safety & Security Grants Criteria

Act 44 specifies the types of school safety and security programs that meet the grant criteria (this is not a comprehensive listing):

Safety and Security Assessments	Student, staff, visitor identification system
Conflict resolution and restorative justice	Staff and student training
School-wide positive behavior support	Counseling services for students
School-based diversion	Training/Compensation SRO/school police
Researched-based violence prevention	Training/Compensation guidance counselor
Emergency preparedness planning	Trauma-informed education practices
Security-related technology	**Reducing community violence



School Police

“Law officer employed by a school district whose responsibilities, including work hours, are established by the school district”

- School must apply to Court of Common Pleas
- School must report to Office for Safe Schools
- Must complete required firearm training
- Compensated by and employee of school entity
- Can enter into Cooperative Police Service Agreements with municipality
- School entities may hire retired state/municipal/military police as independent contractor



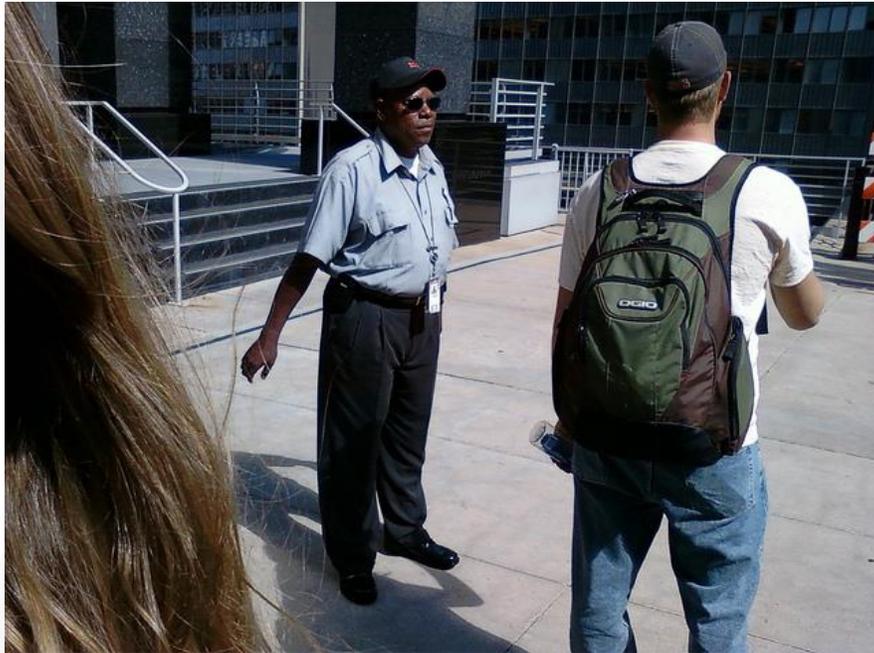
School Resource Officer (SRO)

“Law enforcement officer commissioned and employed by a law enforcement agency whose duty station is located in a school entity and whose stationing is established by an agreement between the law enforcement agency and the school entity”

- Schools may confer duties to identify physical changes, develop school policy, educate students, address crime and violence
- Intergovernmental agreements to share costs for SROs
- SROs may be employees of other political subdivisions



Security Guard



“An individual employed by a school entity or a third party contractor who is assigned to a school for routine safety and security duties and is not engaged in programs with students at the school”

Security guards may provide the following:

- School safety and support
- Enhanced campus supervision
- Assistance with disruptive students
- Monitoring visitors
- Coordinating with law enforcement



State Police RVAT Teams



- By March 31, 2019, the PA State Police will establish 3 Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Teams (RVAT)
- The teams will operate in 3 Regions geographically designated by the State Police
- Will be trained in and use the Assessment Criteria
- Perform School Safety and Security Assessments for school entities free of charge

717-346-4085

ra-pspoffdomesticsecurity@pa.gov



Safe2Say Something

- Anonymous reporting system for students, parents, staff, public to report tips concerning school safety and security
- Administered by the Office of the Attorney General
- Hotline number 24/7 continuously monitored and app – reported to school entities and law enforcement
- Schools must have procedures in place for handling reports
- Set to go live **January 14, 2019**



Additional Safety-Related Updates

- Executive Session – 24 P.S. 425 allows executive sessions of school board meetings for planning, reviewing or discussing matters related to school safety, if the discussion of such matters in public would be reasonably likely to impair effectiveness or jeopardize safety and security – **action is still taken in public**
- School Security Drills – 24 P.S. 1517 requires school entities to conduct 1 school security drill in place of 1 monthly fire drill – must be conducted within first 90 days of school year, while school is in session and students are present. Schools have the option to replace 1 additional fire drill with school safety drill after the first 90 days



Questions?



Contact Information:

Heather Masshardt

Director of Policy Services

heather.masshardt@psba.org

717-506-2450 ext. 3401