

Safety and Security Update



August 21, 2018

ACT 44 of 2018-School Safety Act

- Appoint a school administrator as the school safety and security coordinator by August 31, 2018.
- Employee Professional Development
- School Safety and Security Committee
- PA State Police Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Team Program
- School Safety and Security Grant Program

School Safety and Security Coordinator Responsibilities

- Oversee all school resource/police officers and/or school security guards.
- Report directly to the chief school administrator on school safety and security matters.
- Review the school entity's policies and procedures relative to school safety and security and compliance with federal and state laws regarding school safety and security.
- Coordinate training and resources for students and school entity staff in matters relating to situational awareness, trauma-informed education awareness, behavioral health awareness, suicide and bullying awareness, substance abuse awareness and emergency procedures and training drills (including fire, natural disaster, active shooter, hostage situation and bomb threat).
- Coordinate school safety and security assessments.
- Serve as the school entity liaison with the committee, the department, law enforcement and other organizations on matters of school safety and security.
- Make an annual report by June 30 to the school board of directors on the current safety and security practices in order to identify strategies to improve school safety and security..
- Coordinate a tour of the school entity's buildings and grounds biennially with the law enforcement agencies and first responders serving within the school district

Employee Professional Development

- Training shall address the following:
 - Situational awareness.
 - Trauma-informed education awareness.
 - Behavioral health awareness.
 - Suicide and bullying awareness.
 - Substance use awareness.
 - Emergency training drills (including fire, natural disaster, active shooter, hostage situation and bomb threat).
- Training may be provided through the internet or other distance communication systems.
- Employees shall complete a minimum of three hours of training every five years.
- Employees required to undergo continuing professional education under Section 1205.2 shall receive credit toward their continuing professional education requirements.

School Safety and Security Committee

- Establishes the committee within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.
- Requires the committee to establish school safety and assessment criteria by September 30, 2018 and develop a survey to measure school safety and security preparedness by October 31, 2018.
- Requires criteria for the registration of high quality school safety and security providers by October 31, 2018.
- Requires schools to complete the survey and indicate whether they possess a pre-existing safety and security assessment by November 30, 2018.
- Requires the committee to review the surveys and pre-existing safety and security assessments in order to evaluate a school's preparedness and notify the school of its findings by January 31, 2019.

PA State Police RVAT Program

- Requires the State Police to establish three regional Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Teams (RVATs) with no fewer than three troopers from PSP's existing funds to regularly conduct school safety and security assessments at no charge to schools.

School Safety and Security Grant Program

- Provides \$60 million for the School Safety and Security Grant Program in FY 2018-19.
- Provides a menu of school safety and security measures eligible for funding covering a wide range of school safety and security infrastructure, training and personnel, trauma-informed educational approaches and school-based behavioral health needs.
- Grants each school district that applies a minimum allocation of \$25,000 annually and provides that no school entity may receive more than 10% of the funds available.
- Provides that up to 12.5% of the funding under the program may be used for community violence programs.

Options-Based Active Assailant Protocol

- All PSD employees will be trained by PA State Police
- The option-based protocol focuses on decision making, situational awareness, and mitigating injury during an active shooter crisis.
- In addition to our State Police, the options-based protocol has been endorsed and recommended by the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- Act 39 (House Bill 1448) of 2018 updated Section 1517 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code to require that a minimum of one monthly fire drill to be replaced by a security-based drill.
- In the past, none were mandated, but Parkland Schools conducted a minimum of one security-based drill in addition to the required monthly fire drills as part of our emergency operation planning ethic.



Parkland School District Active Assailant Protocol

If you experience a safety threat, one of three situational options may be employed in the most common-sense order based on promiximity to the assailant.

RUN

- RUN to evacuate and survive.
- Leave your belongings behind and keep visible.
- Evacuate any areas such as classrooms, offices, hallways, cafeteria, bathrooms, gym, auditorium, open unsecured areas, rooms/offices to get outside and run towards safety or the place that has been designated as your school evacuation site during an emergency.



OR

HIDE

- HIDE by implementing a LOCKDOWN or by hiding in an area out of the assailant's view.
- Block entry to your hiding place by locking or barricading the doors and silencing all cell phones/devices in your room.
- This applies to classrooms, offices, or any other secured area.



OR

FIGHT

- FIGHT as the last resort. If an active assailant enters your classroom, use **WHATEVER** means necessary to keep you and your students safe.
- All forms of resistance to the threat is justified. This includes moving about the room to lessen accuracy, throwing items (books, computers, phones, book bags) to create confusion, exiting out the windows, and confronting the intruder directly to stop him or her.
- Tell students to get out any way possible and move to another location.



Remain calm and follow instructions when Law Enforcement arrives. Drop items in your hands (i.e., bags, jackets). Do not touch a discarded weapon dropped by a subject. Show your hands and spread fingers so that the police may see that you are unarmed.

Office of Safe Schools

- Continues the Office of Safe Schools' distribution of targeted grants under the Department of Education's Safe Schools Grant Program for school safety and security infrastructure and programs and for school resource officers and school police officers.
- Prioritizes new funding under this grant program for nonpublic schools.