



CONSENSUS ITEMS

SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Require school districts applying for grants for new construction and renovation to meet a standard for security infrastructure in the schools.
2. Allocate additional funding, and reauthorize current funding for school districts to apply for grants to improve the security infrastructure in schools (i.e., reestablish the School Security Competitive Grant program first launched in 2007).
3. School Construction grants should be expanded to allow for additional items to be eligible costs; including but not limited to:
 - Reinforced entryway with ballistic glass
 - Double door access, penetration resistant vestibule with CCTV monitoring and computer controlled electronic locks
 - Remote locks on all entrances and exits and a buzzer system
 - Classroom doors with computer controlled electronic locks
 - Cameras
 - All around the school
 - At entrances and exits
 - Mobile emergency response buttons for designated school personnel
 - Solid core (internal and external) doors with ballistic glass, excluding classroom windows
 - And other security infrastructure improvements and devices as they become industry accepted standards deemed appropriate and approved by relevant construction officials at the Department of Construction Services and DESPP

PERSONNEL:

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

1. Provide intensive, individualized interventions for the most high risk students who are already exhibiting violent tendencies and further require remediation plans and follow-ups with individuals in question.
2. Require the State Department of Education to provide technical assistance to school districts on the issue of increasing behavioral intervention specialists¹ in the schools, not limited to public schools; but including private schools, parochial schools, and public and private pre-school programs.

¹ Included, but not limited to, psychologists, psychiatrists, marital/family therapists, social workers, licensed professional counselors, and guidance counselors

EMERGENCY PLANS

1. Clarify existing statutes to ensure development of model district and school security and safety plans, in conjunction with local law enforcement, or use a model plan created by or from the state, with basic minimum requirements.
 - Require districts to submit the plan to the Department of Emergency Security and Public Protection (DESPP)
 - Plans need involvement from local responders, implementation of a command center, and addressing all four phases of crisis management with police departments “scoring” the drills and reporting on difficulties experienced and improvements that can be made
 - Require districts to report on the three crisis drills they are required to do on the same form that they use for the fire drills and have it attested to by the local fire or police department.
 - All-hazard’s approach
 - Require a Security and Vulnerability Assessment (SVA) for every school every 2 years
2. As part of district security and safety plans, districts shall establish School Safety and Security Committees/Threat Assessment Teams which shall include a member of local law enforcement .

BEST PRACTICES

1. State Department of Education (SDE) reviews district anti-bullying programs and reports back to the General Assembly. Provide links to model “Safe School Climate Plans” currently available.
2. Crisis management plan and violence prevention training for school employees, including, but not limited to, professional development and teacher and administrator certificate programs.
3. Establish minimum qualifications to ensure that school security consultants are properly trained and have school security expertise – include limited liability for use of security consultants in plans or school security construction reviews.

ADDENDUM – NON CONSENSUS ITEMS

The Subcommittee did not reach consensus on the following items:

1. Dedicated multi-year funding stream for behavioral intervention specialists (such as school psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, guidance counselors) to work in school settings currently underserved by such professionals.
2. Additional mental health training for school and law enforcement personnel
3. Additional school-based health clinics
4. Additional school monitors and/or school resource officers
5. Requirement of a suggestion box/confidential email/confidential voicemail where students could warn staff of another student's violent threats; creation of a central reporting system for threats
6. Formal process for the sharing of confidential/sensitive information with law enforcement

While various Subcommittee members saw merit in the items above, they all entail costs. The Subcommittee as a whole felt that, if the state were to support these measures it would need to provide a sustained funding source.