

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, February 6, 2023
Immediately Following Education Committee Meeting
Administration Office
Board Room

Committee Members				Remaining Meeting Dates
X	Gale Husack - Chairperson	X	Eric Hill	Monday, March 6, 2023
	Michelle Heckman - Co-Chairperson		Gene Marks	Monday, April 3, 2023
X	Chad Christman	X	Scott Pyne	Monday, May 1, 2023
X	Matthew Link	X	James Schnyderite	Monday, June 5, 2023
X	Tania Stoker	X	Michael Strohl	Monday, August 7, 2023
X	Todd Breiner	X	John Rushefski	Tuesday, September 5, 2023
X	Michele Dotta	X	Jennifer Butz	Monday, October 2, 2023
X	David Hauser	X	Tim Weaber	Monday, November 6, 2023
		X	Nichole Fink	

Also in attendance: Mr. Haas, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Frantz, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Christman, Mr. Green, Mr. Kern, Mr. Distler

AGENDA

Policy 236.1 - [Threat Assessment](#)

- Revisions to School Code section 1302-E now require some actions related to threat assessment to be completed annually. Threat assessment team now needs to be provided with individual or group training annually on the required elements that were already outlined in the law and Board policy.
- The school entity must annually notify students, employees and parents/guardians about the existence and purpose of the threat assessment team, including posting information on the school entity's publicly accessible website.
- There is also a new annual requirement added to the school safety and security training for all school employees 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, and how to report concerns to the threat assessment team or through other methods, such as the Safe2Say Something program or another school entity tip line.
- Policy 236.1 is recommended for legal liability purposes; school entities are required to establish procedures for implementation of 24 P.S. Sec. 1302-E regarding threat assessment.

- Committee supports the item being placed on the board agenda for participation.

Policy 805 - [Emergency Preparedness and Response](#)

- Act 55 of 2022 established a new requirement for the state's School Safety and Security Committee, in coordination with PCCD, to establish minimum standards for training of school employees on the topics outlined in School Code for school safety and security training.
- The standards approved by the School Safety and Security Committee must be made available to school entities and PCCD is also tasked with providing geographically disbursed training to school employees at no cost that meets the standards adopted by the Committee.
- School Code section [1310-B](#) was revised to identify two different groups of requirements for school safety and security training for school employees; the standards adopted by the School Safety and Security Committee will address each of these areas:

2 hours of training annually in any one or more of the following:	1 hour of training annually in the following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Situational awareness ● Trauma-informed approaches ● Behavioral health awareness ● Suicide and bullying awareness ● Substance use awareness <p>Training may be conducted online or in-person</p>	<p>Emergency training drills, including fire, natural disaster, active shooter, hostage situation and bomb threat</p> <p>Training must be conducted in-person</p>
	<p>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</p> <p>Training may be conducted online or in-person</p>

- The required training must be credited toward professional education requirements for applicable certificated staff, in accordance with law and the Professional Education Plan. A new section of the School Code also requires that educator and administrator preparation programs must include three semester hours or their equivalent of instruction that incorporate the new school safety and security training subjects for candidates who begin a program after July 2025.
- Legal citations were added reflecting the new grant opportunities and provisions.
- In the section on Continuity of Student Learning/Core Operations, a reference was added to "any applicable health and safety plan" to reflect the fact that some school entities have incorporated their temporary revisions to their continuity of learning plans in their Health and Safety Plans, which are still currently required for school entities using federal ESSER funds.

- Additional references were added to the language regarding the Safe2Say Something Program procedures.
- Policy 805 is recommended for legal liability purposes.
- Committee supports the item being placed on the board agenda for participation.

Policy 805.2 - School Security Personnel

- School Code section 1309-B was revised with new requirements for the role of the School Safety and Security Coordinator. The School Code had already required that the School Safety and Security Coordinator be a school administrator appointed by the Chief School Administrator, but the new School Code updates reiterated that requirement because many school entities had been appointing outside contracted security personnel or a School Resource Officer (who are not school employees) to serve in that role—it must be a school administrator who serves in that role.
- The following new requirement was added: When the individual serving as School Safety and Security Coordinator leaves the school entity or can no longer serve in that role, the Chief School Administrator has 30 days to appoint another school administrator to serve in that role (it can be an existing employee who is appointed to that role). PSBA recommends that these appointments be presented to the board as an informational item officially on a board agenda, so there is an official record of the appointment in the board minutes.
- The name and contact information of the School Safety and Security Coordinator must be officially submitted to the state’s School Safety and Security Committee, through PCCD – this report should be made by the Chief School Administrator.
- The state’s School Safety and Security Committee, under PCCD, is tasked with developing and approving criteria and establishing standards for newly required School Safety and Security Coordinator training—these standards must be in place by September 30, 2022. The required training may not require more than seven hours, must be in addition to other training required for school administrators, and the Committee must make the training standards and criteria available to school administrators and other groups and providers. Once the training requirements are available, School Safety and Security Coordinators will have one year to complete the training, and newly appointed School Safety and Security Coordinators will have one year from their appointment to complete the required training.
- The language referencing school safety and security training for school employees was also updated to reflect the new requirements outlined in Policy 805.
- References were added to reflect the School Safety and Security grant requirements under the new School Code provisions.
- Policy 805.2 is recommended for legal liability and auditing purposes.
- Committee supports the item being placed on the board agenda for participation.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 6, 2023