

District Safety/Security Committees

1. **Each District school shall create a "Safety Committee" composed of representatives from all constituent groups in the facility, including students in secondary schools.**

The goal of each Safety Committee shall be:

To plan, implement and orchestrate deliberate, focused activity to increase the probability that the school or facility remains as safe as possible, within a reasonable context, given the nature of the school business and limited resources.

Each school's Safety Committee is charged with, and must respond with continued activity in the following four areas:

A. Physical facility assessments

Purpose: To assure that each school is physically maintained and/or upgraded to a standard that promotes safety conditions. Further, that procedures have been enacted to secure the school from unwanted intrusion and effectively respond to any unwanted intrusion.

Elaboration: Each school's Safety Committee shall monitor progress on an ongoing basis toward the building goals for safety and security. An evaluation shall be conducted annually and a progress report shall be submitted to the District Safety Committee. The District Safety Committee shall review these annual reports and communicate their findings to the Superintendent of Schools for consideration.

School Safety Assessments, conducted by a team of trained employees or a professional school safety consultant, shall be completed every five years. These assessments should enlist the cooperation of local police and/or other experts knowledgeable of such school safety procedures.

B. Climate and culture promotes positive interpersonal relationships

Purpose: To identify and implement procedures and/or activities to foster healthy, positive, welcoming, supportive, cooperative, and empathetic interpersonal relationships that contribute positively to the climate and culture of each school.

Elaboration: Safety Committee attention to climate and culture is intended to identify and orchestrate aggressive activity promoting the characteristics represented in positive community cultures. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Promoting activities that foster empathy and mutual support and accentuate respect for individual differences as a positive element of our community values.
- A process to assist with the identification of those who are exhibiting troublesome behavior.
- Promoting equity and fairness in the treatment of all students and staff.
- Advancing efforts to communicate and respond to unacceptable behaviors by students articulated in existing school and District policies, such as bullying, malicious behavior and discrimination.

C. Accessing information to avert violence or destructive behavior

Purpose: To identify a process for those with knowledge of potential violence or destructiveness to communicate such information, anonymously if necessary, to school or law enforcement officials.

Elaboration: The Safety Committee should focus on an activity which is purposefully designed, consistently communicated in and out of the school and sustained over time. How this information is obtained is of less importance than the encouragement of a moral to report. Paramount in this goal is the need to break any code of silence protecting perpetrators.

D. Emergency Readiness

Purpose: To assure that all District employees are trained in the appropriate steps and procedures to follow in the event of an emergency, and are knowledgeable about how to access District resources.

Elaboration: The District would provide for sustained training on the procedures for emergency management. Activities shall include, but are not limited to, an annual review of the safety plans and participation in required safety drills and exercises.

2. Annual reporting and District Safety Committee review

Each school's Safety Committee shall monitor progress on an ongoing basis toward the building goals for safety and security. An evaluation shall be conducted annually and a progress report shall be submitted to the District Safety Committee. The District Safety Committee shall review these annual reports and communicate their findings to the Superintendent of Schools who shall in turn report to the Board of Education no later than September 30 each year.

Each facility's Safety Committee shall include, but is not limited to, the following representatives.

Schools

Staff (where applicable): Principal and/or assistant principal, teacher, counselor, front office staff person, school resource officer, campus supervisor, custodian.

Others: Parent representing building accountability committee, student (if secondary school).

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LEGAL REF.: C.R.S. 22-32-109-1 Safe Schools

CROSS REF.: EBCB, Safety Drills and Exercises

St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J, Longmont, Colorado