Safety and Security Committee

Responsibilities

In accordance with guidelines established by the Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC), each district shall establish a school safety and security committee. The committee shall:

1. Participate on behalf of the district in developing and implementing emergency plans consistent with the district multihazard emergency operations plan to ensure that the plans reflect specific campus, facility, or support services needs;
2. Periodically provide recommendations to the board and district administrators regarding updating the district multihazard emergency operations plan [see CKC] in accordance with best practices identified by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the TxSSC, or a person included in the registry of persons providing school safety or security consulting services established by the TxSSC;
3. Provide the district with any campus, facility, or support services information required in connection with a safety and security audit, a safety and security audit report, or another report required to be submitted by the district to the TxSSC;
4. Review each report required to be submitted by the district to the TxSSC to ensure that the report contains accurate and complete information regarding each campus, facility, or support service in accordance with criteria established by the center; and
5. Consult with local law enforcement agencies on methods to increase law enforcement presence near district campuses.

Membership

The committee, to the greatest extent practicable, must include:

1. One or more representatives of an office of emergency management of a county or city in which the district is located;
2. One or more representatives of the local police department or sheriff's office;
3. One or more representatives of the district's police department, if applicable;
4. The president of the board;
5. A member of the board other than the president;
6. The superintendent;
7. One or more designees of the superintendent, one of whom must be a classroom teacher in the district;

8. If the district partners with an open-enrollment charter school to provide instruction to students, a member of the open-enrollment charter school's governing body or a designee of the governing body; and

9. Two parents or guardians of students enrolled in the district.

Meetings

Except as otherwise provided for year-round schools, the committee shall meet at least once during each academic semester and at least once during the summer. A committee established by a district that operates schools on a year-round system or in accordance with another alternative schedule shall meet at least three times during each calendar year, with an interval of at least two months between each meeting.

The committee is subject to Government Code Chapter 551 (Open Meetings Act) and may meet in executive session as provided by that chapter. Notice of a committee meeting must be posted in the same manner as notice of a board meeting. [See BE]

Education Code 37.109

Sheriff-Led School Safety Meetings

The sheriff of a county with a total population of less than 350,000 in which a public school is located shall call and conduct semiannual meetings to discuss:

1. School safety;

2. Coordinated law enforcement response to school violence incidents;

3. Law enforcement agency capabilities;

4. Available resources;

5. Emergency radio interoperability;

6. Chain of command planning; and

7. Other related subjects proposed by a person in attendance at the meeting.

The sheriff of a county to which this requirement applies in which more than one public school is located is only required to hold one semiannual meeting. This requirement does not require public schools located within the same county to adopt the same school safety policies.

The following persons shall attend the meeting:

1. The sheriff or the sheriff's designee;

2. The police chief of a municipal police department in the county or the police chief's designee;

3. Each elected constable in the county or the constable's designees;

4. Each police chief of a school district's police department or school district security coordinator from each school district located in the county;

5. A representative of DPS assigned to the county;

6. A representative of each other state agency with commissioned peace officers assigned to the county;

7. A person appointed to a command staff position at an emergency medical service in the county;

8. A person appointed to a command staff position at a municipal emergency medical service in the county;

9. A person appointed to a command staff position at a fire department in the county;

10. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee of each school district located in the county;

11. The person who serves the function of superintendent, or that person's designee, in each open-enrollment charter school located in the county; and

12. Any other person the sheriff considers appropriate.

The sheriff shall invite any federal law enforcement official serving in the county to attend the meeting.

As soon as practicable after the meeting, the sheriff shall submit a report to the TxSSC identifying the attendees of the meeting and the subjects discussed. The TxSSC shall maintain the report and make it publicly available on its internet website. The TxSSC may not make publicly available and shall redact any parts of a report that it determines may expose a safety vulnerability of a school district facility.

Education Code 85.024

Agreements

Each district that enters into a memorandum of understanding or mutual aid agreement addressing issues that affect school safety and security shall, at the TxSSC's request, provide a copy of the memorandum or agreement. A copy of a memorandum of understanding or mutual aid agreement provided to the TxSSC under

this provision is confidential and not subject to disclosure under Government Code Chapter 552. *Education Code 37.2121(d), (d-1)*

Sharing School Safety Training with Private Providers

"Accredited private school" means a private school accredited by an organization recognized by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission or TEA.

"Child-care facility" has the meaning assigned by Human Resources Code 42.002.

"Organization providing out-of-school-time care" includes a faith-based organization, a before-school or after-school program, a summer camp, a Texas 4-H or other agricultural program, and a youth sports organization.

From money available for the purpose, a district may make available at no cost school safety training courses, including active shooter training courses, approved under Education Code 25.0815 [see EB] and determined to be appropriate by the district's school safety and security committee, to employees of accredited private schools located in the district or child-care facilities or other organizations providing out-of-school-time care to children younger than 18 years of age who reside in the district.

Education Code 37.119

Prohibited Coronavirus Preventative Measures

"COVID-19" means the 2019 novel coronavirus disease and any variants of the disease.

A district may not implement, order, or otherwise impose a mandate requiring:

1. A person to wear a face mask or other face covering to prevent the spread of COVID-19;
2. A person to be vaccinated against COVID-19; or
3. The closure of a public school to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Health and Safety Code 81B.001-.004