

The Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018

Overview

May 10, 2018



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- **Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018**
 - Introduced to the Maryland General Assembly and approved by Governor Hogan in March/April 2018.
- The bill requires the **Maryland Center for School Safety** to:
 - Collaborate with school districts and partner agencies to provide a comprehensive approach to school safety including:
 - Development of school assessment policies;
 - Provide training curriculums for school resource officers and other school security employees;
 - Provision grant funding to local school systems to enhance school safety.
- Effective **June 1, 2018.**

Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS)

- **Configuration**

- Redesigned independent unit within MSDE not the State Police;
- FY2019 budget provides \$2.5 million in funding for 13 new positions.

- **New Functions and Roles of the MCSS**

- Develop a web-based searchable database on school safety resources;
- Assist local school systems to conduct thorough assessments of their school safety data, school building layouts and use of human resources;
- Analyze data on school resource officers and develop guidelines and training for local school systems;
- Certify school safety coordinators;
- Review and certify school emergency plans and consult with local school systems on safety evaluations.

School Safety Subcabinet

- **Subcabinet Membership**

- State Superintendent of Schools;
- Secretary of Health;
- Secretary of State Police;
- Secretary of the Department of Disabilities;
- Attorney General;
- Executive Director of the Interagency Committee on School Construction

- **Subcabinet Duties**

- Distribution of grant funds;
- Development of a model policy for School Safety Assessment Teams (by September 1, 2018);
- Promulgation of all requisite regulations under the new law.

Safe to Learn Act Deadlines

- **School Safety Assessment Teams**

By **September 1, 2018**, the Subcabinet must develop a model policy for each local school system that addresses:

- 1) the identification of, and intervention with, students or other individuals who may pose a threat to school safety;
- 2) the composition and appropriate number of assessment teams within local school systems; and
- 3) training for the assessment teams.

By **September 1, 2019**, school systems must adopt a local policy consistent with model policy.

Safe to Learn Act Deadlines

- **School Resource Officers (SROs)**

By **September 1, 2018**, the MCSS must develop a specialized SRO training curriculum for training SROs for submission to and approval by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (PTSC). All SROs and other school security personnel must complete the approved training by **September 1, 2019**.

By **December 15, 2018**, the MCSS must analyze SRO data and develop guidelines for school systems identifying the “appropriate number and assignment” of SROs.

By **July 1, 2019**, school systems must implement SRO guidelines and submit plans to the MCSS for review and comment.

Safe to Learn Act Deadlines

- **School Resource Officers (SROs)**

Before the 2018–2019 school year, each local school system must file a report with MCSS identifying high schools that have an assigned SRO.

Beginning with the 2019–2020 school year and every school year thereafter, each local school system must file a report that identifies the schools in that jurisdiction with an assigned SRO. If a school lacks an assigned SRO, the report must detail the adequate local law enforcement coverage that will be provided to the school.

Safe to Learn Act Deadlines

- **Safety Evaluations**

By **June 15, 2019**, school systems must conduct a safety evaluation of each school in consultation with the MCSS.

By **December 1, 2019**, MSDE and MCSS must update the emergency planning guidelines for school systems.

By **July 1, 2020**, school systems must update emergency plans for each school and submit to the MCSS for review and comment.

Safe to Learn Act Deadlines

- **Safety Drills**

MSDE and the Subcabinet may adopt regulations to incorporate age-appropriate components of the Active Shooter Preparedness Program developed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or guidelines developed by the Maryland Active Assailant Work Group into the annual schedule of school safety drills.

Beginning with the 2018–2019 school year, and annually thereafter, each school system must complete at least one active shooter drill, in addition to the existing state-mandated emergency drill types such as lockdown, shelter in place, and drop-cover-hold.

Safe to Learn Act Deadlines

- **Local School System Mandates**

Each school system must:

- Post on its website information on the role and authority of the SROs;
- Collaborate with local law enforcement to establish policies for responding to an emergency at each school in the county;
- Adopt a policy for establishing assessment teams consistent with the model policy developed by the Subcabinet;
- Designate a school safety coordinator to be certified by the MCSS **AND** a mental health services coordinator

Safe to Learn Act Deadlines

- **Data-driven accountability (reporting back)**

On or before August 1, 2020 and each August 1 thereafter, each school system must submit a report to the MCSS that includes:

- ❖ Aggregate data about threats made against any school or facility;
- ❖ Information about lockdowns, evacuations, or other emergency responses;
- ❖ Incidents in which a public school's emergency plan failed to function as anticipated;
- ❖ School hours spent in an emergency or emergency drill

Safe to Learn Act Funding

- **The FY2019 operating and capital budgets include:**
 - \$2.5 million for 13 new positions at the MCSS;
 - \$2.5 million in safety assessment grants;
 - \$10 million in MSDE grants for school safety;
 - \$10 million in IAC grants for safety related operating and capital projects;
 - \$10 million in capital budget funding for IAC grants
- **The Act also mandates \$10 million in funding for FY2020 and beyond for SROs and other local law enforcement strategies to provide adequate school coverage.**

How does MCPS fit in?

- **School Safety Assessment Teams**

- Each MCPS school has a student services team consisting of school counselors, a school psychologist, a pupil personnel worker, and a school nurse that collaborates with the *Montgomery County Crisis Center* and the Mental Health Association of Montgomery County.
- MCPS will need to align protocols for identification of, and intervention with, students and individuals who may pose a threat to school safety with the MCSS's model policy.

- **School Resource Officers (SROs)**

- MCPS staff will have the opportunity to provide feedback via survey conducted by the MCSS to guide development of the SRO training curriculum.

How does MCPS fit in?

- **Safety Evaluations**

- MCPS recently completed a comprehensive facility and safety/security assessment for each school from Summer 2017 to Fall 2018; the findings were analyzed and documented in the *Final Report*;
- MCPS will continue these assessments next school year in consultation with the MCSS.

- **Safety Drills**

- MCPS directed high schools to complete an additional lockdown/shelter in place drill during a period of transition prior to the end of this school year;
- MCPS will include all schools for scheduling additional drills next school year and include the state-mandated active shooter drill.

DISCUSSION

