



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner *Dianna R. Wentzell*
Connecticut State Department of Education

Dora B. Schriro, Commissioner *Dora B. Schriro*
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

DATE: April 4, 2018

SUBJECT: School Safety and Security and Annual School Safety Plan Submission

Given the recent school shootings and the national discussion around keeping students and staff safe within school buildings, we know that school safety and security are at the forefront of your planning. Therefore, we take this time to remind you of the Connecticut General Statute (C.G.S.) Section 10-222m, which states: “...each local and regional board of education shall develop and implement a school security and safety plan for each school under the jurisdiction of such board. Such plans shall be based on the school security and safety plan standards developed by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, pursuant to section 10-222n. Each local and regional board of education shall annually review and update, if necessary, such plans.” The Statute further requires that a school security and safety committee be established at each school, to assist in developing and administering the school security and safety plan. As recent national experiences have clearly shown, the safety and well-being of students and staff are directly related to school and community coordination of emergency planning and response.

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection/Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DESPP/DEMHS), with a multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary working group, has developed the required School Security and Safety Plan Standards and the accompanying School Security and Safety Plan Template. These documents were disseminated for use by local education agencies (LEAs) to help with meeting the requirements. LEAs are urged to immediately review the attachments and check their compliance with these requirements. An FAQ sheet is also attached. If you are not in compliance, please update your plans and submit them to DESPP/DEMHS immediately. If you have any questions regarding the planning requirements, please contact DEMHS at SchoolSecurityPlanStandards@ct.gov. If you are interested in school security training, please feel free to also contact the agency through this e-mail address.

Finally, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) recently provided notification of a list of resources that the department developed that may help students, staff, families and others cope with the recent tragedy. This information can be found on the Superintendents Digest page of the CSDE website at: <http://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Digest/Superintendents-Digest>.

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Other resources may be available via Sandy Hook Promise. The organization has developed School Safety and Violence Prevention Programs that are being implemented in school districts in multiple states, including Connecticut. Follow the link for further information <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/>.

The CSDE and DESPP are available to support you in your school security and safety efforts.

Attachments