

2019 SB 1 Summary: School Safety and Resiliency Act

Securing our Schools with: PERSONNEL

Add new section of KRS Chapter 158:

- Universally defines that a school resource officer (SRO) is a sworn law enforcement officer whose certification adheres to the standards of the Peace Officer Professional Standards Act (POPS), and who also receives standardized state training to work with youth in school settings. Training shall be provided by the Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT). SROs may either be hired by a law enforcement agency or a local school board.
- Establishes a state goal of providing more SROs and mental health professionals in our schools (as soon as practicable, as funds and qualified personnel are available). This is a balanced approach of ‘hardening and softening schools’ while also taking cost and practicality issues into account of finding and then compensating enough qualified individuals.
- Requires districts to appoint a district-level “school safety coordinator” who will receive a common state training, and administer local school safety training, recommended structures & protocols, and a school safety threat assessment team.
- Requires certain personnel, by Sept. 15, 2019, and every subsequent year, to receive standardized training on responding to active shooter situations.

Securing our Schools with: SYSTEMS & STRUCTURES

Revises KRS 158.162 (3)(d):

- When developing and adhering to practices to “control the access to each school building,” revises “Practices may” to “Practices shall include but not be limited to,” by July 1, 2022.
- Requires KDE, after collaborating with the Center for Safe Schools, the DOCJT, and the Department of Kentucky State Police, to make available to each local school district an anonymous reporting tool or “tipline.”
- Deters hoaxes and fake threats that are traumatizing, disruptive, and costly, by more explicitly criminalizing this activity (as part of 2nd degree terroristic threatening). School leaders will be required to provide notice on this provision to students and parents, to enhance the deterrence effect. This notice will also include information on the particular hotline/tipline used by the district for anonymous reporting of safety concerns

Securing our Schools with: A CULTURE of STUDENT CONNECTION

- Revises KRS 156.095 (suicide training) to include:
 - every public middle and high school administrator shall disseminate suicide prevention awareness information **by video or live presentation** to all students **in grades 6 through 12**.
 - a minimum of one (1) hour of high-quality suicide prevention training, **including the recognition of signs and symptoms of mental illness**, shall be required for all **staff employed by the local board of education whose duties require direct contact with students**.”
- Mental health component: defines “mental health professional” and adopt a state goal, beginning July 1, 2021, of having mental health professionals in schools, one per every 1500 students, as funds are available.
- By July 1, 2020, requires the local school board to develop a plan to adopt trauma-informed approaches in schools, including establishment of a trauma-informed school

team, community awareness, assessment of school climate, adjusted discipline policies, and collaboration with local law enforcement agencies to confidentially communicate with the district about a child who has been identified at the scene of a traumatic event.

***Securing our Schools with:* ACCOUNTABILITY**

- Reorganizes the board of directors of the KCSS to include a balance of representatives from law enforcement, education, health services, and parents.
- Creates a new position of “state school security marshal,” who will be hired by and report to the Commissioner of the DOCJT. The Marshal shall function similarly as the state fire marshal by enforcing safety compliance. The Marshal shall at least annually present a report to the KCSS Board about his/her findings and recommendations.
- Establishes sanctions for schools that fail to comply with submitting safety risk assessments or for correcting safety deficiencies.
- In non-codified language, requires the Education Accountability and Assessment Review Subcommittee (EAARS) to study school guidance counselors’ time spent on student support versus other administrative duties.