On June 22, 2018, the School Safety and Security Grant Program was established within the

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) by Act 44 of 2018. Amending the Public

School Code of 1949, the Act contained multiple provisions for school safety and security preparedness,

including:

• Mandating the appointment of School Safety and Security Coordinators by school

entities;

• Expanding the PA State Police’s Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Team (RVAT) unit;

• Establishing mandatory school safety training for school entity employees;

• Establishing standards for school police, school resource officers, and school security

guards;

• Establishing the Safe2Say Program within the PA Attorney General’s Office; and

• Creating a School Safety and Security Committee (Committee) within PCCD, which was

tasked with:

o Developing criteria to be used to assess school safety and security;

o Establishing a registry for vendors who may conduct school safety assessments;

o Issuing a survey to school entities to review school security preparedness; and

o Administering $60 million in funding via grants.

This guide specifically addresses the Committee’s statutory requirement to develop criteria to be used

to assess school safety and security:

**Section 1303-B. School safety and security assessment criteria.**

(a**) Duty to establish**. -- No later than September 30, 2018, the committee shall establish criteria

to be used when conducting school safety and security assessments that include the following:

(1) **A physical assessment**. The physical assessment shall be conducted during calendar

months when school is in session and shall consist of an evaluation of the school entity's

structural facilities and surrounding property that includes:

(i) A review of the school entity's existing school safety and security plan.

(ii) A review of the school entity's existing plans for crisis response and mitigation.

(iii) An analysis of the school entity's crime prevention policy or practices, including

environmental design.

(iv) Discussions with the local law enforcement agencies that are primarily responsible

for protecting and securing the school.

(v) An analysis of the school entity's cooperative agreements with the local law

enforcement agencies that are primarily responsible for protecting and securing the

school.

(vi) Discussions with the school entity's employees.

(2) **A policy and training assessment**. The policy and training assessment shall consist of an

evaluation of the school entity's policies and practices, including:

(i) An analysis of the school entity's policies related to student safety, security and

management issues.

(ii) Discussions with the school entity's employees.

(iii) A review of the school entity's student code of conduct.

(iv) A review of the school entity's safety and security training practices.

(v) Recommendations for effective school safety and security training and practices

for all school entity employees.

(vi) An analysis of the school entity's communications practices and available

technology and tools.

(3) **A student assistance and behavioral health support assessment**. The student assistance

and behavioral health support assessment shall consist of an analysis of the school entity's

climate, including:

(i) The availability of student assistance programs and behavioral health professionals

to provide assistance to the school entity.

(ii) A review of recommendations by behavioral and physical health professionals and

consideration of their recommendations.

(b) **Periodic review of criteria**. -- The committee shall review the criteria established in subsection

(a) at a minimum every three years and may make revisions as needed.

In addition to the criteria requirement, Section 1304-B of the PA Public School Code requires that the Committee establish criteria for the registration of an individual or vendor with knowledge and experience in matters of school safety and security. Meeting these criteria and receipt of approval will qualify the person to conduct school safety and security assessments.

More information on School Safety and Security can be found on PCCD’s website at: <https://www.pccd.pa.gov/schoolsafety/Pages/default.aspx>