



August 3, 2018

Dear Chief School Administrator:

Act 44 of 2018 (Act 44), which was signed into law on June 22, 2018, amends the Public School Code of 1949 by further providing for school safety and security measures. The full legislation can be accessed here: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2018&sessInd=0&act=44>. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) are working together to provide you with current information regarding the key elements of Act 44.

Per the statute, a statewide School Safety and Security Committee (Committee) was formed and met on July 23, 2018. The Committee was created to:

- 1) No later than September 30, 2018, determine and adopt criteria to be used when conducting school safety and security assessments.
- 2) No later than October 31, 2018, establish criteria for the registration of persons or entities to conduct school safety and security assessments and receive registration applications.
- 3) No later than October 31, 2018, develop a survey to distribute to school entities to measure school safety and security throughout the Commonwealth.
- 4) Administer the School Safety and Security Grant Program.

Specific to school entities, **Act 44 requires each chief school administrator of a school entity (i.e., school district, intermediate unit, area vocational-technical school, charter school or private residential rehabilitative institution) to appoint a school administrator as the school safety and security coordinator no later than August 31, 2018.** The school safety and security coordinator is tasked with reviewing the school entity's policies and procedures, coordinating training and resources for students and staff, coordinating school safety and security assessments, making reports to school board directors on current safety and security practices of the school, and serving as the liaison to the Committee, PDE, law enforcement and other organizations on matters of school safety and security. Details on these duties can be found in Section 1309-B of Act 44. **Additional information on where to report the contact information for your appointed school safety and security coordinator will be forthcoming.**

In addition, school entities are to complete the school survey developed by the Committee no later than November 30, 2018, and submit a copy of a pre-existing school safety and security assessment (if completed within the last three years) to the Committee along with the survey instrument. The Committee is then tasked with reviewing both the survey and assessment.

Finally, the School Safety and Security Grant Program will be allocated to eligible school entities through PCCD. \$60 million has been appropriated to be disbursed during the 2018-2019 school year. Funds can be used for a wide variety of items enumerated in Act 44, including the purchase of equipment, trainings, programs, counseling services, and to secure School Resource and Police Officers. This funding will eventually be distributed through PCCD. As such, we strongly encourage you to visit

PCCD's funding website (<https://www.pccd.pa.gov/Funding/Pages/default.aspx>) to familiarize yourself with PCCD's Egrants process and sign up for email notifications for future funding announcements (<https://www.pccdegrants.pa.gov/Egrants/Public/Subscribe.aspx>).

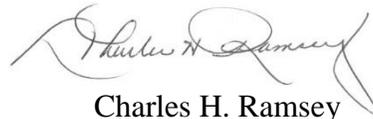
More information on the Committee's activities, the assessment criteria, survey, and the grant program will be disseminated within the next few months via PCCD's Safe Schools and Security Committee webpage (<https://www.pccd.pa.gov/schoolsafety/Pages/default.aspx>), on PDE's Safe Schools' webpage (<https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Safe%20Schools/Pages/default.aspx>) and via communications through PDE.

If you have any questions, please email RA-CD-SSSC@pa.gov.

Sincerely,



Pedro Rivera
Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of
Education



Charles H. Ramsey
Chairman
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime
and Delinquency