

October 26, 2022

Dear colleague,

As you may know, on July 8, 2022, the Governor signed Act 55 of 2022, which enacted significant updates related to school safety and security in the Commonwealth.

Among its provisions, Act 55 included new employee training requirements that took effect with the law's passage. Specifically, the Act requires all school employees to complete two hours of training annually on any **one or more** of the following school safety and security topics: situational awareness, trauma-informed approaches, behavioral health awareness, suicide and bullying awareness, and substance use awareness. In addition, one hour of annual training is required for all school employees on the topics of emergency training drills, and the identification or recognition of student behavior that may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, other individuals, school facilities, or the community.

These topics should all be familiar to school entities because they were previously mandated; however, the required number of hours and the expectation that training align with newly developed standards have changed the learning requirements on these topics.

As required by Act 55, on September 28, 2022, the School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC) adopted standards for training all school employees on school safety and security. Currently PCCD and the SSSC are working to develop and provide training that meets these standards in a geographically disbursed manner and free of charge to school entities; however, the development of these trainings will take additional time.

During the time period that PCCD and the SSSC work to get a system in place to develop and approve trainings, school entities must undertake or continue the training of employees in accordance with Act 55 and should use the approved standards as a baseline to ensure that training undertaken for the purposes of Act 55 includes all of the required elements. Your administration, in consultation with your solicitor, should determine whether training currently being offered meets the standards approved by the Committee.

PCCD and PDE developed Q&A guidance to address frequently asked questions from school entities regarding these new requirements. Our agencies will continue to monitor questions and provide updated guidance through a Q&A document available on PCCD's [School Safety and Security webpage](#).

Thank you for the work you do each day on behalf of Pennsylvania's students. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact PCCD staff at [ra-cd-sssc@pa.gov](mailto:ra-cd-sssc@pa.gov).

Sincerely,



Michael D. Pennington  
Executive Director, PCCD



Eric Hagarty  
Acting Secretary of Education