



SOUTH SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: August 25, 2022

Agenda Section: Presentation / Report

Agenda Item Title: Safety and Security requirements for the summer 2022.

From: Eugene Tovar – Chief of Police/ Emergency Management Coordinator / Andy Rocha
Executive Director of Operations

Description: Texas Education Agency / Texas School Safety Center providing guidance to the Governor's Abbott's letter outlining safety and security requirements that schools must complete by September 9, 2022.

Recommendation: To promote a safe and secured learning Environment

Funding Budget Code and Amount:



South San Antonio ISD Police Department



Eugene F. Tovar
Chief of Police

The mission of the South San Antonio I.S.D. Police Department is dedicated to protect and serve the future.
We accomplish this by collaborating efforts with the school district and the community it serves;
Therefore, the focus of all our officers is to work as a positive influence to the students
By providing a safe learning environment.

Memorandum

To: School Safety and Security Committee
Fr: Eugene Tovar; Chief of Police / Emergency Management Coordinator
Andy Rocha; Executive Director of Operations
Date: August 25, 2022
Re: Safety and Security Requirements for Summer 2022

TEA and Texas School Safety Center Safety and Security Requirements for the summer 2022

- **School Safety Committee Meeting**
 - SSSC meeting held on June 14, 2022 and August 25, 2022
 - District EOP approved by the School Board
 - Active Threat Annex Plan Submitted to School Safety and Security Committee August 25, 2022
- **School Behavioral Threat Assessment Teams**
 - Police Officers, Counselors, Principal's and Vice Principals have been trained for every campus
 - Navigate 360 Behavior and Threat Assessment Platform
- **Safety Procedures and Drills**
 - All campuses have entered their drills into navigate 360 for the entire school year.
 - Staff and Substitutes are trained in the Standard Response Protocols
- **Access Control Procedures**
 - Navigate 360 Office Visitor Management at each campus
 - Technology department is conducting an audit
 - All campus exterior doors are being audited
- **Intruder Detection Audits –Partial Safety Audits**
 - Chief attended the Intruder Webinar with TxSSC
 - Partial Audit is being finalized for each campus
 - Weekly door sweeps are being conducted at each campus.



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

June 1, 2022

Kathy Martinez-Prather, Ph.D.
Director
Texas School Safety Center
Texas State University
415 North Guadalupe Street #164
San Marcos, Texas 78666-5719

Dear Dr. Martinez-Prather:

The work and trainings provided by the Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC) has reached thousands of schools and instructors and has benefited millions of Texas schoolchildren. The school law enforcement training and behavioral threat assessments are tools which are critical in striving to prevent tragedies in the future. However, the tragedy at Robb Elementary School last week requires us all to do more.

Though much has been done, there is a clear, convincing, and urgent need to continue and expand upon the work the TxSSC and school districts across the state are doing. The State must work beyond writing words on paper and ensuring that the laws are being followed; it must also ensure that a culture of constant vigilance is engrained in every campus and in every school district employee across the state. To begin that process I request you do the following:

Under state law, school districts are required to create School Safety and Security Committees. These groups are required to meet three times a year, and generally one meeting occurs during the summer. Please contact every ISD immediately to communicate the expectation that all districts will ensure the District Safety and Security Committee will meet this summer and that before the start of the 2022-2023 school year, each district will:

1. **Ensure their School Safety and Security Committee meets to review their Emergency Operations Plan and address any campus safety needs. This includes reviewing their Active Threat plan.**
2. **Ensure the School Behavioral Threat Assessment Team is trained and has reviewed procedures for each campus.**
3. **Ensure that all staff and substitutes are trained on their specific district and campus safety procedures and that all drills are scheduled *before* the start of the next school year.**
4. **Conduct an assessment of their access control procedures, such as single access points, locked instruction room doors, visitor check-in procedures, exterior door locks, etc.**
5. **Complete these efforts by September 1, 2022, and certify this data to the TxSSC by September 9, 2022.**

Kathy Martinez-Prather, Ph.D.

June 1, 2022

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The TxSSC will provide a progress report of these findings to the Office of the Governor and the Legislature by October 1, 2022. I will work with TxSSC, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Legislature to hold accountable any districts that do not meet these requirements.

Additionally, I am charging the TxSSC, in coordination with TEA, to develop and implement a plan to conduct random inspections to assess access control measures of Texas school districts. Among other reviews, your team should begin conducting in-person, unannounced, random intruder detection audits on school districts. Staff should approach campuses to find weak points and how quickly they can penetrate buildings without being stopped. This will help determine if schools are prepared to implement and follow the EOPs they have already submitted to the state. This will improve accountability and ensure school districts are following the plans they create.

Also, the TxSSC should immediately begin working with my office and the Legislature on recommendations to improve current security systems and determine the funding necessary to continue the work of hardening our schools against outside threats. This issue will no doubt be at the forefront of the next Legislative Session. You have my full support to make recommendations for consideration by the Legislature. To the extent you need additional resources to accomplish the tasks outlined in this letter, I will work with leaders in the Texas Senate and House and state agencies to ensure you have those resources.

Finally, Senate Bill 11, passed in the 2019 Legislative Session, gave the TxSSC significant additional authority to audit School Safety Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs). If a school district fails to satisfactorily submit an EOP, they are required by state law to hold a meeting to notify the public of their noncompliance. If they fail to do that, the TEA can take over school leadership and ensure the district takes these responsibilities seriously. I will work with TEA to hold accountable any ISD that is not in compliance with these standards.

Again, I want to thank you for your work. Though we have all made significant progress, even one failure is unacceptable. Texans have never shirked away from a challenge, and I know with the support of state leadership, we can continue the work of improving each student's experience in our schools.

Sincerely,



Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:shd

cc: The Honorable Mike H. Morath, Commissioner
Texas Education Agency



Tovar, Eugene <eugene.tovar@southsanisd.net>

Fwd: Guidance on Safety and Security Requirements for Summer 2022

1 message

Henry Yzaguirre <henry.yzaguirre@southsanisd.net>
To: Eugene Tovar <eugene.tovar@southsanisd.net>

Mon, Jun 6, 2022 at 4:34 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Texas School Safety Center <txssc@txstate.edu>
Date: June 6, 2022 at 2:00:38 PM CDT
To: henry.yzaguirre@southsanisd.net
Subject: Guidance on Safety and Security Requirements for Summer 2022
Reply-To: Texas School Safety Center <txssc@txstate.edu>

[Texas School Safety Center](#)

Dear MR HENRY YZAGUIRRE:

As we all continue to struggle to comprehend the horrific act of targeted school violence at Robb Elementary School last month, the Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC) is committed to supporting districts through this difficult time.

We are contacting you to provide guidance regarding Governor Abbott's letter to the TxSSC outlining safety and security requirements that schools must complete this summer. We are your partners in creating safe and secure learning environments and are here to provide you the resources and technical assistance you need to meet these requirements.

We are developing a reporting tool which will ask you to certify your district's policies and procedures regarding the items listed below. In the coming weeks, we will share with you the specific questions that you will be required to answer. **The reporting tool will open no later than September 1, 2022, and you must submit responses by September 9, 2022.**

To ensure your district receives timely communications from the TxSSC this summer, please **keep your district's contact information updated** in

AskTED.

What You Need to Do Now

You should review your district's policies and procedures regarding each of the items below. For each item, we have listed resources to help you become familiar with best practices and to assist you with addressing any gaps in your current policies and procedures.

1) School Safety and Security Committee Meeting

- Ensure the committee meeting happens prior to the school year.
- Record membership, date, and time of the meeting.
- Review any campus safety needs.
- Review Emergency Operations Plan.
- Review Active Threat Plan and include district actions for all five phases of emergency management (TEC 37.108) and address portable buildings (TEC 37.108 (3)).

Resources:

- [School Safety and Security Committee Guidelines and FAQ](#)
- [EOP Basic Plan Toolkit](#)
- [Active Threat Toolkit](#)
- [Best Practices for Safety in Portable Buildings](#)

2) School Behavioral Threat Assessment Teams

- Train School Behavioral Threat Assessment Teams as needed.
- Ensure the team reviews procedures for each campus.

Resources:

- [School Behavioral Threat Assessment Training](#)
- [Operationalizing School Behavioral Threat Assessment FAQ](#)
- [Model Policies and Procedures to Establish and Train on Threat Assessment](#)
- [Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Toolkit](#)
- [Behavioral Threat Assessment Online Course](#)

3) Safety Procedures and Drills

- Train staff and substitutes on district and campus-specific safety procedures prior to the start of the next school year.
- Schedule drills before the start of the school year.

Resources:

- [Training, Drilling and Exercising Toolkit](#)
- [Standard Response Protocol Toolkit](#)
- [Drill Guidance for School District Administrators](#)

4) Access Control Procedures

- Review visitor check-in procedures.
- Assess the access control procedures regarding single access points, locked instruction room doors, and exterior door locks.

Please note that the Governor has charged TEA with reviewing and amending rules to ensure that building standards for school district facilities are safe and secure by September 1, 2022.

Resource:

- [School Facilities Standards for Construction on or after November 1, 2021](#) (TEA) Please note that you will need to scroll to end of the document and review Section (k) that pertains to safety and security standards and addresses access control, exterior door numbering, and visitor management.

Intruder Detection Audits

We have also been charged with conducting intruder detection audits. Before we conduct these audits, we will coordinate appropriately with central administration offices and local law enforcement. Schools will have the opportunity to make corrective action should an audit result in issues that need to be addressed. We will communicate the process and procedures for these audits well in advance.

Thank you for making school safety a priority. This challenging work would not be possible without your commitment and dedication. We will provide additional information about the reporting tool and the intruder detection audits as we develop and refine processes. In the meantime, please **contact us** with any questions. We look forward to working with you throughout the summer.

Texas School Safety Center

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