

Safe Schools

The EASTCONN Board of Directors is committed to the prevention of violence against people or property in the schools or at school activities, whether by students, staff or others. While committed to the protection of each person's constitutional rights, including due process rights, the EASTCONN Board of Directors does not condone lawlessness. Any individual committing violent acts in or on school property will be disciplined according to applicable EASTCONN Board of Directors' policy and regulations.

Staff members who implement this or any other EASTCONN Board of Directors' policy will receive the full support of the EASTCONN Board of Directors and the administration.

The EASTCONN Board of Directors shall establish an advisory committee to review specific policies, regulations, plans and procedures in order to ensure a comprehensive and effective program to prevent and punish vandalism and violence occurring in the schools and on EASTCONN property. Simultaneously with the work of the committee, the Executive Director of EASTCONN and appropriate school administrators shall review the practices at each school and shall submit a separate report to the EASTCONN Board of Directors including any findings and recommendations on the implementation of committee suggestions on these and other policies, regulations, plans and procedures concerning safety. Members of the advisory committee* shall include an EASTCONN Board of Directors' member, the Executive Director of EASTCONN, appropriate school personnel, a student representative, parents, and other community representatives. All members shall be appointed by the EASTCONN Board of Directors.

The advisory committee shall examine the policies, regulations, plans and procedures concerning:

1. student conduct and discipline;
2. the maintenance of public order on school property;
3. the banning of weapons on school property;
4. drug and alcohol abuse;
5. school emergency management;
6. coordination efforts with law enforcement agencies;
7. searches and seizures by school officials;
8. training for staff and students in conflict resolution and violence prevention; and

9. building security measures including procedures governing visitors to the schools and access to school buildings.

The advisory committee shall review these and other policies, regulations, plans, and procedures, as directed, to ensure that they are:

1. consistent with law and regulation;
2. clear, complete and enforceable; and
3. appropriately disseminated to students, staff, parents and are available to the general public.

The advisory committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the EASTCONN Board of Directors prior to public release. Final reports shall be delivered to the EASTCONN Board of Directors at a meeting scheduled by the EASTCONN Board of Directors to receive the report.

Any official policy level action is the sole discretion of the EASTCONN Board of Directors. The EASTCONN Board of Directors is in no way obligated to follow committee recommendations. The EASTCONN Board of Directors has the right to accept, reject or modify all or any part of a committee recommendation.

*EASTCONN may also want to use shared decision-making committees for conducting this review in individual school buildings.

The EASTCONN Board of Directors shall conduct a security and vulnerability assessment of the Agency schools every two years and develop a school security and safety plan for each school based upon the assessment results. The EASTCONN Board of Directors, as required, shall submit to the DEMHS Regional Coordinator the required information pertaining to EASTCONN's school security and safety plans.

In the development of a school security and safety plan, an EASTCONN crisis response team shall be assembled that includes a variety of professionals with expertise in emergency management, (e.g., chief executive officer of the municipality, police, fire and emergency services personnel), and include community partners such as public and mental health professionals and school based staff. The EASTCONN teams shall work closely with school-based crisis response teams to develop EASTCONN-wide and building-specific emergency management plans. Such plans shall be compliant with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and incorporate the National Incident Command System, and be compliant with the standards for such plans issued by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP). The plans shall utilize the School Security and Safety Plan Template which meets all-hazards threats, as released and revised by the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. The EASTCONN Board of Directors will annually develop and implement a school security and safety plan for each school and review, update, and submit such plans to the DESPP as required.

Each school shall also establish a school's security and safety committee to assist in developing and administering the school's safety and security plan.

The crisis management plan shall be developed within the context of the four recognized phases of crisis management:

- Mitigation/Prevention addresses what schools and EASTCONN can do to reduce or eliminate the risk to life and property.
- Preparedness focuses on the process of planning for the worst-case scenario.
- Response is devoted to the steps to take during a crisis.
- Recovery pertains to how to restore the learning and teaching environment after a crisis.

Crisis management must be viewed as a continuous process in which all phases of the plan are being reviewed and revised. The plan must be continuously updated based upon experience, research and changing vulnerabilities.

(cf. [5131](#) - Conduct at School and Activities)

(cf. [5131.5](#) - Vandalism)

(cf. [5131.6](#) - Drugs/Alcohol and Tobacco)

(cf. [5131.8](#) - Out of School Misconduct)

(cf. [5131.9](#) - Gang Action by or Association)

(cf. [5132](#) - Dress and Grooming)

(cf. [5141.6](#) - Crisis Management Plan)

(cf. 5146 - Child Abuse and Neglect)

(cf. [5142](#) - Student Safety)

(cf. 5147 - Suicide Prevention)

(cf. 5143 - Student Health Assessments and Immunizations)

(cf. 5144 - Administering Medications)

(cf. [5145](#) - Communicable and Infectious Diseases)

(cf. [5114](#) - Suspension/Expulsion/Exclusion/Removal)

(cf. [6114](#) - Emergencies)

(cf. 6161.11 - Drugs/Alcohol and Tobacco)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[4-176e](#) through [4-185](#) Uniform Administrative Procedure Act.

[10-19](#) Teaching about alcohol, nicotine or tobacco, drugs and acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Training of personnel.

[10-221](#) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

[10-222m](#) - School security and safety plans. School security and safety committees

[10-222n](#) - School security and safety plan standards

[10-233a](#) through [10-233f](#) re in-school suspension, suspension, expulsion. (As amended by PA 95-304, An Act Concerning School Safety).

[52-572](#) Parental liability for torts of minors. Damage defined.

[53a-3](#) Firearms and deadly weapons.

[53-206](#) Carrying and sale of dangerous weapons.

[53a-217b](#) Possession of firearms and deadly weapons on school grounds.

PA 94-221 An Act Concerning School Safety.

PA 95-304 An Act Concerning School Safety.

PA 97-290 An Act Enhancing Educational Choices and Opportunities.

PA 13-3 An Act Concerning Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety (Sections 86, 87, 88)

GOALS 2000: Education America Act.

18 U.S.C. 921 Definitions.

Title III - Amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Sec. 314 (Local Control Over Violence).

Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Gun Free Schools Act of 1994.

New Jersey v. TLO., 469 U.S. 325; 1055. CT. 733.

Policy adopted: January 26, 2021