
Issue Date: December 13, 2024

Vermont School Safety Center Newsletter

December 2024

Greetings,

The Vermont Agency of Education, in partnership with the Department of Public Safety and Vermont School Safety Center, are piloting a monthly newsletter dedicated to school safety. This newsletter is intended to provide information about various school safety resources, including training opportunities, intra-agency guidance, notes from leadership, and more.

Notes from Leadership

School leaders and safety management partners,

On behalf of the Agency of Education, I would like to thank you and your school safety teams for all that you do for your schools, students, and communities. Your efforts to uphold safe and healthy schools are critical to a successful and safe school and community environment and are very much recognized by the State of Vermont.

During this time of great change within our education system, I would like to acknowledge the large and sometimes conflicting pressures schools and districts are under, including pressures around school safety. We at the AOE, along with our partners at the Vermont School Safety Center of the Department of Public Safety, are committed to providing support and guidance to all Vermont schools.

One such safety initiative for which the Vermont School Safety Center can provide appropriate supports is the implementation of Act 29. Act 29 of 2023, now provided in statute under Title 16 VSA § 1480-1485, is designed to provide a comprehensive physical school safety framework for schools and districts. The various provisions of Act 29 address a wide range of school safety and security needs and are consistent with multiple other State and Federal requirements and recommendations. Our collective ability to implement Act 29 with fidelity, rigor, and meaning is paramount to a continued effort to protect Vermont school communities.

Thank you again for your unwavering support for our students, staff and families. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our teams at the AOE and DPS with any school safety questions.



Happy Holidays!

Jill Briggs Campbell, Deputy Secretary of Education

Critical Incident Reporting Form

Please note: *this form should only be used by Superintendents, Independent School Heads, Principals or other Key School Safety staff. It should **not** be distributed or used by other members of the school community.*

In an effort to share timely and accurate information and to support schools/school districts when managing a critical incident, the Agency of Education, Department of Public Safety and the Vermont School Safety Center have developed a Critical Incident Report webform.

The intent of this form is to ensure state level school safety stakeholders are informed of a school based critical incident and to provide insight into any regional or statewide school threats schools/school districts may be experiencing.

This form does NOT replace the need to call (911) if you are in need of emergency response resources to assist with managing a critical incident. This form should be completed once the situation is being effectively managed and school leaders are in a position to submit this form with the level of accuracy and detail requested.

The types of incidents that we request a report be submitted include:

- Bomb threat
- Swatting
- Death of a student or faculty/staff member during the academic day or during recognized after school activities
- Other than drills or exercises, any event that results in a partial or total evacuation of the school
- Lockdown
- Threat of targeted violence
- School bus accident where students and/or staff have sustained serious injury
- Any critical incident response that may result in significant media attention

Please contact Sunni Eriksen (sunni.eriksen@vermont.gov) and/or Rob Evans (revans@cosecure.com) from the Vermont School Safety Center with questions about potential critical incidents. Please contact Taylor Goodwin (taylor.goodwin@vermont.gov) for access to the form.

Act 29 Resources

As a reminder, all public and approved or recognized independent schools are subject to Act 29. Please see the full [Act 29 statute](#) and the [AOE Act 29 website](#) for more information.

Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs)

Under Act 29 Statute, all public and approved or recognized independent schools shall have an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Please see the [AOE Act 29 website](#) for more information.

EOP Communications Package

Please see the [EOP Communications Package](#) that was provided by the AOE on November 22, 2024, as well as the below relevant resources.

[Template – All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan](#)
[Planning Guide – All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan](#)

Behavior Threat Assessment Management (BTAM)

Under Act 29 statute, all public and approved and recognized independent schools must have a Behavior Threat Assessment team in place. Please see the [AOE Act 29 website](#) for more information.

Upcoming: BTA Resources and Reporting Form

Further information forthcoming - stay tuned for more information

Drill Reporting

All public and approved or recognized independent schools must report school safety drills to the AOE at least twice annually. Please see the [2024-2025 Drill Reporting Memo](#) for more information. Please use this [Drill Reporting Tool](#) to report all school safety drills.

Upcoming Trainings

I Love U Guys Foundation Reunification Training – January 31, 2025

The I Love U Guys Foundation will host a reunification training for school safety partners. This in-person, 4-hour training will take place from 10am-2pm on Friday, January 31, 2025. Further information can be found via the [reunification training flyer](#). Please contact Sunni Eriksen (sunni.eriksen@vermont.gov), Vermont Emergency Management to register or for questions.

EOP Development for Rural Schools – February 18, 2025

The Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center (REMS) is hosting an EOP Development for Rural Schools Training on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. This one-day, virtual training will provide valuable resources and information regarding EOP development, specifically for schools in a more rural setting. Please see this [EOP training flyer](#) for more information and the [EOP training registration](#)

[link](#) to register. Please contact Sunni Eriksen (sunni.eriksen@vermont.gov), Vermont Emergency Management, with questions.

Resources

VEM Training Calendar

Please visit the [Vermont Emergency Management Training Calendar](#) to learn more about upcoming school safety-related trainings.

SchoolSafety.gov

SchoolSafety.gov was created by the federal government to provide schools and districts with actionable recommendations to create safe and supportive learning environments for students and educators.

[SchoolSafety.gov | School Safety Resources](#)

[SchoolSafety.gov November 2024 School Safety Community Bulletin](#)

Reminders

Drill Reporting

To meet the AOE's request of biannual school safety drill reporting, please ensure that drills are reported by the end of the fall semester via the [Drill Reporting Tool](#).

Contact:

For questions about school safety needs, please email Sunni Eriksen (sunni.eriksen@vermont.gov) of Vermont Emergency Management and/or Rob Evans (revans@cosecure.com), School Safety Liaison Officer.

For questions about this newsletter or Act 29 requirements, please email Taylor Goodwin (taylor.goodwin@vermont.gov), AOE Safe and Healthy Schools Coordinator.