
MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and Independent School Heads
FROM: Heather A. Bouchey, Ph.D. Interim Secretary of Education
SUBJECT: School Safety Act Assurances for 2023-2024 School Year
DATE: September 15, 2023

Purpose and Background

First and foremost, I hope that your school year is off to a good start. I am reaching out to provide an update on the school safety legislation that was passed during the 2023 legislative session. Act 29, an act relating to school safety has provisions that go into effect on a rolling basis over the next two years, but there are immediate requirements that all supervisory unions/school districts (SU/SDs) and Independent Schools must meet.

The purpose of this memo is to provide instructions on how SU/SDs and Independent Schools will meet these immediate requirements, while the Agency of Education (AOE) along with our partners at the Department of Safety continue to support the implementation of the major elements of Act 29.

Implementation and Compliance Assurances

Ultimately, SU/SDs and independent schools will be required to fully comply with all requirements of Act 29, including the development and implementation of key policies, staff training, and reporting of data to the AOE. However, we understand that not all provisions of the Act will be implementable immediately.

In acknowledgment of the challenging deadlines, and the need for additional technical assistance from the AOE and Vermont School Safety Center (VSSC), we have developed assurances meant to bridge the gap as you work towards full compliance once you are reasonably able to do so.

The assurances that are intended to allow school systems (SU/SDs and independent schools) to certify their compliance with several key elements of Act 29 through the [Assurances Webform](#).

These assurances should be submitted by the Superintendent or Independent School Head no later than October 15, 2023. We appreciate



Contact: Jill Briggs Campbell, jill.briggscampbell@vermont.gov

your dedication to ensuring the safety of Vermont's students and school communities. These assurances are a critical step in the implementation of Act 29, and we are here to support you every step of the way.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, any questions regarding these requirements should be directed to Jill Briggs Campbell at jill.briggscampbell@vermont.gov.