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Committee on Statewide School Safety
2021 Recommendations – Interim

Recommendation #1: Support Senate Bill 36 (2021) and submit friendly amendment language regarding Emergency Operation Plans. The draft friendly amendment language makes the following changes:

- 1.1 Clarify that the plan for the management of a crisis, emergency, or suicide (CESR plan) should be considered an all-hazards school emergency operations plan, in accordance with national best practices.
- 1.2 Remove the requirement for the Division of Emergency Management to approve all CESR plans but maintain the requirement for review of CESR plans in accordance with national best practices for the auditing of such plans.
- 1.3 Clarify that the presentation of any plans or reports tied to the CESR plans to a board of trustees of a school district or governing body of a charter school are exempt from the state's open meeting laws.
- 1.4 Replace requirements for physical posting of annual completion of review notices for CESR plans and references to relevant portions of state statute with requirements for such notices and references to be posted on each school's website.
- 1.5 Remove the requirement for the school committee to consult with local social service agencies, law enforcement agencies, and emergency management agencies or personnel when reviewing the district or charter's CESR plan and making recommendations for deviations from that plan.
- 1.6 Remove the responsibility for a principal of each charter school to designate an employee to serve as the school safety specialist and place that responsibility on the governing body of a charter school instead.
- 1.7 Replace the requirement for a tour of each school in the district or charter school with a site familiarization activity for each blueprint used by the district or charter school and reference relevant state statute regarding the confidentiality requirements of those blueprints.

Recommendation #2: Make a significant investment in school-based mental health professionals and services through the following recommended actions:

2.1 Support ratios adopted by the State Board of Education for Specialized Instructional Support Personnel in alignment with nationally accepted best practice ratios:

School Counselors 1:250 students

School Psychologists 1:500 students

School Social Workers 1:250 students

School Nurses 1:750 students

School Library Media Specialist 1: school

2.2 Prioritize funding to provide statewide suicide prevention for all school staff. Prevention education and training should be a priority for all school staff (administration, certified, classified, support) in the area of recognizing signs of suicide, prevention, intervention and postvention. Schools should have a menu of training available and the ability to demonstrate staff competency in prevention and intervention and individualizing training to meet their needs.

2.3 Recommend that school safety account funds are protected as categorical funds and removed from Tier C as currently proposed in the Pupil Centered Funding Plan in order to ensure that current mental health services are not interrupted or halted during the recovery period from the pandemic.

Recommendation #3: Continue a commitment to ensuring the availability of additional trained school resource officers and school police personnel through the following recommended actions:

3.1 Recommend that school safety account funds are protected as categorical funds and removed from Tier C as currently proposed in the Pupil Centered Funding Plan in order to ensure that current school safety services are not interrupted or halted during the recovery period from the pandemic.

3.2 Explore federal opportunities to support school police and school resource officers when available.

Recommendation #4: Provide funding to ensure safe learning environments through the following recommended actions:

4.1 Continue to provide categorical funding dedicated to enhancing school building and site safety, accepting applications for funding from school districts and charter schools based on a hazard and vulnerability assessment that is aligned with state and national standards for such an assessment. Funds will be distributed based on “guided autonomy” that includes the hazard and vulnerability assessment to identify school needs.

4.2 Provide required training/professional development for administrators and staff on matters pertaining to threat assessment and behavioral health disaster response.

Recommendation #5: Provide legislation and budgetary authority that would grant school districts and charter schools funds to ensure students and school staff have prevention skills needed to help all students be successful and safe in school through the following recommended actions:

5.1 Proactively integrate Social Emotional Learning (SEL) into the fabric of all Nevada schools to help educators, parents, families, and students navigate and succeed within their 21st Century learning communities and to serve as responsible, contributing, and safe members of society

5.2 Require statewide Social-Emotional-Behavioral programming (SEB) as part of a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework that requires each school to implement an integrated program with screenings, interventions, and progress monitoring.

5.3 Continue to require and support the use of the statewide framework for restorative practices in schools as an alternative to out-of-school consequences for behavioral infractions and the accompanying frustration that sometimes leads students to engage in antisocial or other behaviors that threaten the safety and/or learning of others.

5.4 Restore the \$5 million over the biennium to be made available as a block grant to school districts and charter schools to support curriculum, training and program needs as they implement Social, Emotional, and Academic Development (SEAD) programs in schools across the state. This will provide the flexibility and line-item accountability to be able to track the progress of these programs over time.

Recommendation #6: Encourage districts throughout Nevada to institutionalize restorative practices as a preventative measure to support prosocial behavior on campuses through the following recommended action:

6.1 Make necessary statutory and regulatory changes regarding disproportionality of school discipline. This includes a requirement for additional school discipline data, including but not limited to removal of pupils, to be disaggregated by race/ethnicity and special education status, and for such data to be reported annually.

Recommendation #7: The Statewide School Safety Task Force recommends that the Board of Health consider adding information regarding the safe storage of firearms to existing requirements for continuing education units in the prevention of suicide.

2020-2021 Statewide School Safety Task Force Members:

Chairperson: Chief Jason Trevino

Vice Chairperson: Anthony York

Members:

Deputy Chief Ryan Miller

Mr. Matthew Williams

Dr. Charles Russo

Dr. Leon Ravin

Ms. Angila Golik
Mr. Tam Larnerd
Dr. Dave Jenson
Ms. Shawina Tims
Mr. Joe Roberts
Ms. Kasina Douglass-Boone
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Ms. Nikke Northrup
Ms. Zoe Butterfield
Ms. Isabella Rosales