

SAFE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Not later than October 1 of each school year, each school district site shall select a Safe School Committee composed of at least seven members. The committee will include an equal number of teachers, parents of the children affected, and students. In addition, the committee shall include a school official who participates in the investigation of reports of harassment, intimidation, bullying, and threatening behavior. The committee will study and make recommendations to the principal concerning:

1. Unsafe conditions, possible strategies for students, faculty and staff to avoid physical and emotional harm at school, student victimization, crime prevention, school violence, and other issues which prohibit the maintenance of a safe school;
2. Student ~~harassment, intimidation, and~~ bullying at school;
3. Professional development needs of faculty and staff to implement methods to decrease student harassment, intimidation, and bullying; ~~and~~
4. Methods to encourage the involvement of the community and students, the development of individual relationships between students and school staff, and use of problem-solving teams and resources that include counselors and other behavior health and suicide prevention resources within or outside the school system;
5. Policies and regulations to be revised in light of the Department of Homeland Security's threat assessment guidelines; and
6. Professional development needs of faculty and staff to recognize and report suspected human trafficking.

The committee shall meet (*annually*) (*as needed*) (*each semester*).

Responsibilities of the Safe Schools Committee include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Study unsafe conditions in the schools, student victimization, school violence, and other issues concerning school safety.
2. Make recommendations to the principal regarding possible strategies for students to avoid harm at school, crime prevention, professional development needs of the faculty and staff concerning school safety, and methods to encourage the involvement of the community members and students.
3. Review traditional and accepted harassment, intimidation, and bullying prevention programs utilized by other states, state agencies, or school districts. The State Department of Education will provide a list of research-based programs appropriate for the prevention of harassment, intimidation, and bullying of students at school. If the district implements a commercial bullying prevention program, it shall use a program listed by the State Department of Education.
4. Review the district's current safety policies and regulations and make recommendations to the administration regarding any changes needed related to the Department of Homeland Security's threat assessment level and required or proposed actions.
5. (Optional language) Study and make recommendations to the school district board of education regarding the development of a rape or sexual assault response program that may be implemented at the school site.

The principal shall give consideration to recommendations of the committee.

REFERENCE: 70 O.S. §24-100.5