



STATE OF ALABAMA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Eric Mackey, State Superintendent of Education
Hal Taylor, Secretary, Alabama Law Enforcement Agency

FROM: Governor Kay Ivey

SUBJECT: Implementation of the Alabama Sentry Program and the School Safety Training and Compliance Teams

DATE: May 30, 2018

Thank you for your prompt response to my May 16, 2018, request for information concerning the funding needed to implement SAFE Council recommendations one through four and my request for an implementation plan for recommendations five through ten.

I now ask that you immediately proceed with the implementation of SAFE Council recommendation ten, on the School Safety Training and Compliance Teams and accompanying training modules. I also ask that you take all necessary steps to implement the Alabama Sentry Program based on the following specifications:

- **General description.** The Alabama Sentry Program shall be established through administrative action to permit a school administrator, in a school without a school resource officer (SRO), who voluntarily secures the approval of his or her superintendent, school board, and county sheriff to use lethal force to defend the students, faculty, staff, and visitors of his or her school from the threat of imminent bodily harm or death by an armed intruder. School sentries will train to maintain an authorized weapon in a biometrically-secured safe fastened to the school's physical plant.
- **Sentry qualifications.** A school administrator seeking to hold the duty of school sentry shall possess a valid Alabama school administrator certificate and a valid concealed-carry pistol permit; shall be an active school administrator in a public K-12 school without an SRO; shall pass a drug screening, a mental-health assessment, and a stress test; and shall be duly sworn as a reserve deputy county sheriff.
- **Required training.** The School Safety Training and Compliance Teams, created under SAFE Council recommendation ten, will train school sentries with an Alabama Law

Enforcement Agency-designed training module. The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency shall immediately design the Alabama Sentry Program training module.

- **Ongoing screening.** Sentries shall be subject to random drug screenings, annual School Safety Training and Compliance Team training recertification, annual mental-health assessments, and annual stress-test recertification.
- **Administrative oversight.** The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency and the Alabama State Department of Education, in collaboration with the SAFE Council, will establish guidelines for training requirements, stress test assessments, mental health evaluations, and drug screenings.
- **Authorized equipment.** The School Safety Training and Compliance Team will promulgate a list of authorized weapons and weapons-storage systems for use by sentries. The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency shall design a distinctively marked bullet-proof vest for use by sentries. In the event of an active shooter scenario, before engaging a weapon, sentries shall wear the bullet-proof vest. The School Safety Training and Compliance Teams shall train local law enforcement to identify the distinctively marked bullet-proof vests. Local boards of education shall be responsible for acquiring and maintaining a weapons-storage system, an approved weapon, ammunition, accessories, and the ALEA-designed bullet-proof vest.
- **Confidentiality.** The names of individuals, schools, and school systems participating in the Alabama School Sentry Program shall not be released. Participation in the Alabama Sentry Program will be included in a participating local education agency's school safety plan.
- **Termination of sentry status.** The Alabama State Department of Education or the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency may terminate a sentry's participation if he or she violates the terms of participation, the sentry is no longer fit for service, the sponsoring school district or county sheriff terminates participation, or if the sentry resigns. School sentry certification is not transferable from school to school or person to person. A school's participation in the program shall be terminated immediately if the school hires an SRO or if the local board of education or county sheriff chooses to terminate participation.

I ask that you provide to me, by June 15, 2018, an implementation plan for the Alabama Sentry Program and the School Safety Training and Compliance Teams. The plan shall include each of the aforementioned elements and an emergency budget request for the same. Additionally, I ask that you include emergency budget requests to implement SAFE Council recommendations five through nine, which shall bolster the effectiveness of the Alabama Sentry Program and the School Safety Training and Compliance Teams.

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Thank you, as always, for your commitment to our great State and to the safety of our schoolchildren.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Ivey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "K" and "I".

Kay Ivey
Governor

c: Jim Purcell, Acting Secretary, Alabama Office of Information Technology
Lynn Beshear, Commissioner, Alabama Department of Mental Health
Jimmy Baker, Chancellor, Alabama Community College System