

AB-72: Education Advisory Committee
on the Safety and Well-Being of
Public School Staff

Recommendations

May 31, 2024

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Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment

Recommendation #1

- Make a significant investment in school-based mental health professionals and services. Prioritize staff and student safety by assisting local education agencies (LEA) in meeting recommended ratios for school based behavioral health to improve the capacity of schools to intervene early and prevent violence.

Recommendation #1

- This commitment includes:
 - That student and staff safety be prioritized and protected with state funding and designated outside of the pupil centered funding plan in the 2023 legislative session by allocating state funds to improve school-based behavioral health ratios in our schools.
 - The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) and the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will assist local education agencies (LEA) in their plans to reach the non-binding staff support ratios by working through barriers to billing Medicaid, assist with additional federal funding when available, and work on workforce development issues.
 - The NDE and the DHHS will ensure each local education agency has access to tele-health services if requested.

Recommendation #2

- Make a commitment to provide funding to ensure safe learning environments.

Recommendation #2

- This commitment includes:
 - 2.1 Ensure the availability of funds for school resource officers and school police personnel.
 - 2.2 Each school district shall provide personnel with access to student information available 24 hour per day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to assist local law enforcement with student life safety or school safety response.
 - 2.3 Establish a categorical fund dedicated to enhancing school building safety. This funding should be distributed based upon on school facility/site assessments that are aligned with state standards for such assessments.
 - 2.5 Require training and professional development for administrators and staff on matters pertaining to threat assessment and other behavioral health safety response.

Recommendation #3

- Review and promote quality improvement and management of school safety planning and implementation. This would include ensuring all schools have what they need to update, implement, and practice their emergency operations plans (EOP). Chapter 388/394 of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) provides the establishment of school safety teams, committees to develop EOPs, and the content/requirements of emergency operations plans (EOP).

Recommendation #3

- This commitment includes:
 - 3.1 The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) is currently required to develop a model plan to incorporate the following: a) Model Threat Assessment for individual students [NRS 388.253(2)]b) Behavioral Health Disaster Response element [NRS 388.253(2)(b)]c) Annual exercises of plans including external response agencies. These models should be reviewed by the field every other year to ensure the models capture evidence-based improvements.
 - 3.2 The Statewide School Safety Committee will work with local education agencies (LEA) to determine if there are any gaps in funding for implementing the current school safety planning process, practicing the school safety plans, and implementing the school safety plan. These gaps will be highlighted in 2023 recommendations. The Committee will also ensure that expectations and requirements for emergency operations plans (EOP) are clear for school and emergency operations plan development committees.
 - 3.3 Promote and create systems that improve communication between schools, law enforcement, and behavioral health professionals to respond to all hazards and school safety concerns.



Recommendation #4

- Provide legislation and budgetary authority that would grant local education agencies (LEA) funds to ensure students and school staff have prevention skills needed to help all students be successful and safe in school.

Recommendation #4

- This commitment includes:
 - 4.1 Proactively integrate Social Emotional Learning (SEL) into the fabric of all Nevada schools to help educators, parents, families, and students remain motivated to develop skills to navigate and succeed within their 21st Century learning communities and to serve as responsible, contributing, and safe members of society.
 - 4.2 Sustain and scale up multi-tiered system of supports Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for all willing schools to be able to implement with fidelity integrated screenings, interventions, and progress monitoring.
 - 4.3 Request funds to be made available as a grant to schools to support curriculum, training and program needs as they implement Social Emotional Learning (SEL) into schools across the state. This will provide the flexibility and line-item accountability needed to track the progress of this program over time.
 - 4.4 Suicide prevention training should be mandatory for all school staff members.



Recommendation #5

- Support schools and local education agencies (LEA) with strategies that eliminate disproportionality of school discipline and reduce the number of students getting suspended and or expelled.

Recommendation #5

- This commitment includes:
 - 5.1 Support and fund school's capacity to implement and ensure access to restorative practices as a preventative measure.
 - 5.2 Create a workgroup to review bullying, restorative practices and discipline and make recommendations for improvement. (Acknowledge the difficulties of the past year and should be given the proper amount of time to develop to move forward on benefits for students understanding the context of restorative practices. Also acknowledge that it takes 3 to 5 years for implementation).

Recommendation #6

- Identify interventions to mitigate negative impacts and promote positive impacts of social media.

Recommendation #6

- This commitment includes:
 - 6.1 Create a youth panel and other avenues for youth to support the Statewide School Safety Committee in identifying these interventions.
 - 6.2 Ensure cyber-bullying awareness is integrated into all the bullying school trainings, resources, and school response protocols.
 - 6.3 The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) should include specific training for interventions that address cyber-bullying and the negative impacts of social media on school safety.