

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1288

By: Lindley

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to schools; creating the Oklahoma School Comprehensive Violence Prevention Act; stating purpose of the act; establishing the School Violence Prevention Pilot Projects; requiring the State Department of Education to award and administer grants for pilot projects; requiring the State Department of Education to contract with a certain type of organization; specifying components of pilot projects; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-100.2 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma School Comprehensive Violence Prevention Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-100.3 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The purpose of the Oklahoma School Comprehensive Violence Prevention Act is to ensure a safe learning environment for the children and a safe workplace for the teachers in the public schools of Oklahoma.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-100.4 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The State Department of Education shall administer and award grants for School Violence Prevention Pilot Projects in not less than ten public schools. In addition to any funds that may be appropriated for this purpose, any resources that are available from various state agencies or organizations, community sources, federal entities, law enforcement organizations, or juvenile justice grants shall be utilized. Schools may utilize resources through cooperative efforts among school districts.

B. The objectives of the pilot projects shall be:

1. Establishment of a balanced approach to violence prevention in the public schools;

2. Provision to schools of accurate vulnerability assessments for the student body, administration, communications, and facilities;

3. Establishment of a uniform threat analysis procedure, communications process, and warning reporting format for the school district;

4. Identification, implementation, and measurement of the effectiveness of a comprehensive, sustainable, and value-added school violence prevention program that is capable of helping administrators, law enforcement agencies, juvenile affairs organizations, and communities to intervene and prevent crises, including loss of life, on public school campuses;

5. Ensurance that trained counselors and analysts are in place to identify threats, recognize and monitor indicators, validate their seriousness, pursue real threats, and provide warning to decision makers in time to initiate intervention efforts and prevent crisis; and

6. Provision of follow-on threat analysis assistance and refresher training programs as required.

C. The pilot projects administered by the State Department of Education shall be established in large urban, middle-sized, and

small rural school districts classified with different levels of threat assessment and vulnerability to violence, which shall be selected in accordance with consultation with entities specializing in such threat assessment.

D. The State Department of Education shall contract with an organization which specializes in intelligence for school violence prevention to provide the following minimum amount of training and orientation, with the appropriate consultation, for the school districts serving as pilot project sites:

1. One (1) day of in-service training as orientation for administrators and teachers to provide general program concept understanding, and organizational and individual responsibilities;

2. One (1) day of program operations training for counselors and designated analysts to provide them with the skills to implement, manage, and supervise the violence prevention program, including training on fundamentals of vulnerability assessments and crisis response planning;

3. One (1) day of training for counselors and designated analysts to become trainers, in order to provide them with the capability to conduct violence prevention training to sustain program operations through ongoing and annual training of additional personnel and students; and

4. Orientation sessions for the students to describe the school district's violence prevention program, increase threat awareness, and define student responsibilities in threat reporting and incident prevention.

E. The School Violence Prevention Pilot Projects shall incorporate the following characteristics for each location:

1. Human Resources, Communications, Physical Threat, Vulnerability, and Risk Assessment, to provide administrators with current threat information, establish the school safety/security posture for future monitoring security planning, and identify

physical and personnel actions required to remove vulnerabilities and reduce the risk of crisis; and

2. Community Resource Networking and Coalition Development, to ensure broad awareness of the school district's violence prevention program, and to generate broad support and participation, including working with the safe school committees required in Section 24-100 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes in developing law enforcement, juvenile justice, and health services partners in planning intervention strategies and ongoing crisis prevention efforts. This should also include basic review of crisis response plans and integrating indicators-based threat assessment capabilities.

F. The pilot projects shall incorporate pre- and post-tests in order to measure effectiveness, to be conducted as follows:

1. With each training phase on program understanding, threat awareness, threat reporting, and student-teacher attitude toward efforts for school safety;

2. A survey of school personnel on human resources, communications and physical vulnerabilities and risk; and

3. A survey of community resource networking and coalition development in regard to community, law enforcement, and juvenile justice program support.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2001.

SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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