

BULLETIN BOARD

School Safety

The reported threats made against Michigan schools have been relentless since the Parkland, Fla., mass shooting in February 2018. Michigan was ranked in the top five states of school districts receiving threats in the last two weeks of February.¹

As the leader of your district's board of education, ensuring the safety of your students, staff and visitors is one of your top priorities. A few ways this can be done include:

Emergency/Crisis Response Plan—Ideally, this plan should be developed cooperatively with administrators, teachers, employees, students, parents, community members, law enforcement, medical responders, emergency management and others involved outlining the steps to be taken and by whom during an emergency situation. These situations can range from a weather event to having an active shooter in a building. It should include practice, i.e., drills for lockdown, fire and tornado, as well as having a communications plan to reach out to your various audiences about what is happening during and after an emergency. The plan should be revisited on at least an annual basis.

Policies—Policies to be sure you have in place related to school safety can include: attendance, harassment, early/late entrance, student rights and responsibilities, discipline, weapons, bullying/cyberbullying, threats of violence, student searches and inspections, communicable diseases, reporting requirements, community use of district facilities, visitors to district facilities, criminal history record checks, facilities planning, hazing, safety standards and more. Be sure to double-check yours annually to see if there are any gaps that need to be filled in or further explained.

Resources—This can range from having a school resource officer and mental health professionals in your district to ensuring students are aware of external resources like OK2SAY. MASB is working with a coalition of law enforcement and education groups to have new legislation introduced to provide districts with grant opportunities for more school resource officers and mental health professionals, as well as safety-related updates for school buildings, and mandatory reporting of threats and graduated penalties to help prevent violence. As more information becomes available, MASB will share it with you through our various communication channels, including *DashBoard*, *StoryBoard*, emails and the website.



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¹ Haddad, K. Michigan ranks among top states for school threats after Parkland high school shooting. Retrieved from www.clickondetroit.com/news/michigan-ranks-among-top-states-for-school-threats-after-parkland-high-school-shooting, March 24, 2018.