

School Safety Committee
Massachusetts State Laws and Regulations
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Document #1: School Safety and Security (Massachusetts Task Force Report)

This document is the findings of the Massachusetts Task force that was assembled to analyze school safety in Massachusetts and make recommendations. I have annotated some parts of the document that I explain below.

Pg 3 of the PDF: Open letter to Massachusetts citizens. There are two sentences from this open letter that define Massachusetts beliefs in regards to school safety that seem to align with the ideas talked about in our meeting. These ideas align with keeping the local districts in control, and provide justification for the importance of addressing school safety.

Pg 8 of the PDF: I added two bullet points with some ideas. The Massachusetts task for defined some key terms that relate to school safety. We may need to do the same. Furthermore, I am not sure if there are specific definitions for PA.

IDEA I like the Emergency Management Cycle box at the bottom of the page. If we are trying to write legislation that would allow for an Act 1 exception, we could use this framework as a starting point. Rather than try to identify specific actions that are defined under the school safety umbrella, districts could justify their expenses if they fall within a school safety management framework. For example, if WCASD buys a new phone system the district can submit that it falls under the prevention category of the management framework for an Act 1 exception.

Pg 9 of the PDF: This report indicates that these are the only three laws that Massachusetts has that directly address School Safety.

The remainder of the report presents many ideas that individual districts can do to address school safety.

Document #2: Massachusetts Law on Safe and Supportive Schools Framework

Link: <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXII/Chapter69/Section1P>

This document is the Massachusetts Law that addresses local districts responsibility in establishing safe and supportive schools. This law defines “safe and supportive schools.”

Document #3: Massachusetts House Bill No 1082. An Act establishing a community safe school fund.

This document is a proposed house bill in Massachusetts to establish a safe school fund. The bill outlines how the fund would be established, contributions made, and what the fund can be used for. This may provide language needed to address funding issues.

Document #4: Massachusetts Safe & Supportive Schools Commission Website

Link: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/safety/?section=commission>

This site provides many current resources that the Massachusetts Safe & Supportive Schools commission is working through. This site defines safe and supportive schools. This commission was established as a result of the Massachusetts law on Safe and Supportive Schools Framework (Document #2 from above)