



The Smart on Safety Initiative Securing Alabama's Facilities of Education (SAFE) Council



The Smart on Safety Initiative

- Governor Ivey is committed to keeping our children safe at school.
- On March 6, 2018, Governor Ivey launched the Smart on Safety Initiative via Executive Order 713. The Governor's Smart on Safety Initiative is a commonsense plan to enhance school safety and security in Alabama.
- The Smart on Safety builds upon the work of the Emergency Task Force on School Safety and Security, chaired by Rep. Terri Collins.



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 713

ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S SAFE COUNCIL

WHEREAS providing safe schools for the children of Alabama is a paramount responsibility of the State of Alabama;

WHEREAS state agencies possess unique capabilities and resources for promoting school security;

WHEREAS coordinated, inter-agency planning and training is required to prevent school violence;

WHEREAS the President of the United States has initiated an appropriately wide-ranging national conversation of proposals to protect our schools;

WHEREAS the Legislature's Emergency Task Force on School Safety and Security has already made and begun implementing school-safety proposals at the state level;

WHEREAS all school-safety ideas should be considered, whether arming willing and trained school personnel, tightening access to school buildings, or improving support for at-risk students;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Alabama, do hereby establish the Governor's Securing Alabama Facilities of Education Council ("the Governor's SAFE Council" or "the Council") as further set forth below:

1. **Purpose.** The Council's purpose shall be to implement the Governor's announced proposals, and to develop additional proposals, for enhancing the safety of Alabama schools.
2. **Implementation plan.** The Council shall submit to the Governor by April 30, 2018, a plan to implement the Governor's initiatives to enhance the physical safety of Alabama's schools, to assess internal

The Smart on Safety Initiative

Alabama Secures Schools

Each schools' security needs are unique; therefore, local districts must be given an opportunity to assess their own security needs. The state should support local districts by providing technical and financial support to local districts as they implement their physical security plans.

We Know Our Kids

There are many external safety threats to schools; however, as recent events have shown, many threats emanate from inside the school. Evidence-based strategies are required to prevent school violence, and schools are the right place to identify students at risk of harming themselves or others.

Training for Teachers, Parents, and Students

In collaboration with their local government and community partners, schools can take steps to plan for potential emergencies. School personnel must respond immediately when a school-based emergency occurs, although schools are not traditional response organizations.

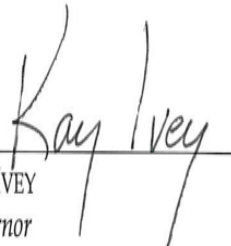
The Securing Alabama's Facilities of Education (SAFE) Council

By Executive Order 713, Governor Ivey convened the SAFE Council, composed of the Alabama State Superintendent of Education, the Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System, the Secretary of ALEA, the Director of the Office of Information Technology, and the Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Mental Health, to offer recommendations to fulfill the Smart on Safety Initiative.

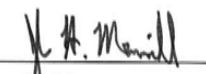
3. **Membership.** The Council shall consist of the following members or their designees: the Governor, who shall act as chair; the Secretary of the Alabama Office of Information Technology; the Secretary of the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency; the Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Mental Health; the Alabama State Superintendent of Education; and additional individuals as the Governor deems necessary.
4. **State agency cooperation.** State agencies and other state-funded entities shall cooperate with the Council and provide information requested by the Council.

DONE AND ORDERED this 6th day of March 2018.

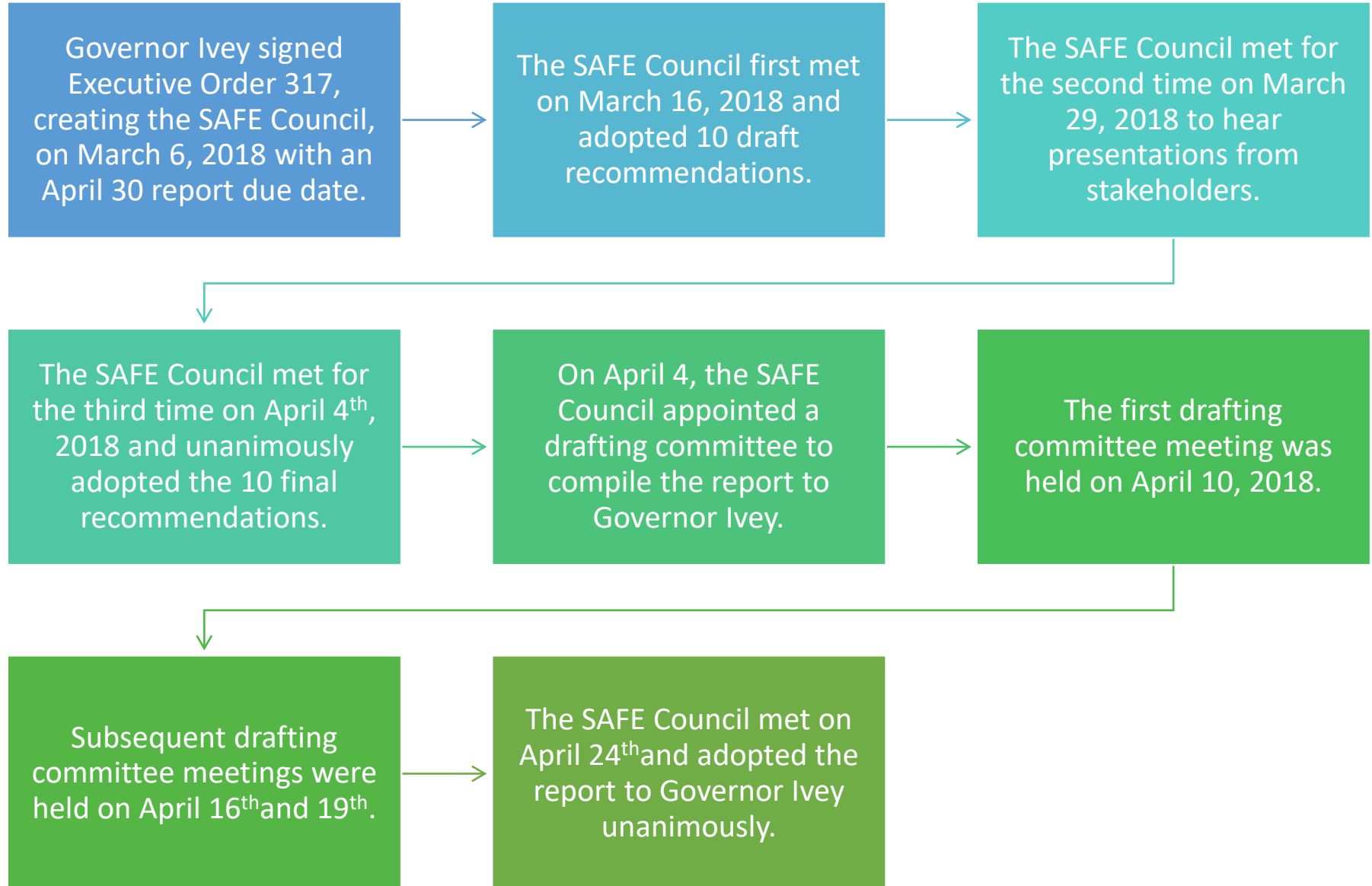



KAY IVEY
Governor

ATTESTED


JOHN H. MERRILL
Secretary of State

The April 30 SAFE Council Report



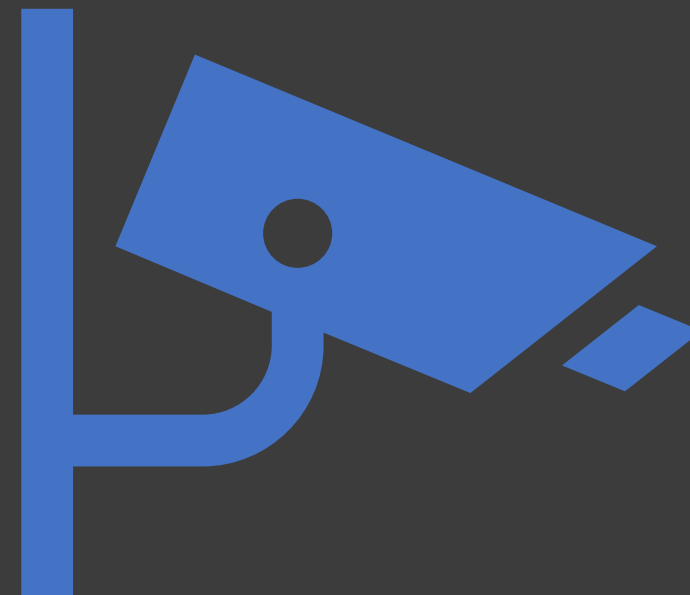
SAFE Council Final Recommendations

Physical Security

1. Funding for SROs and District Safety Coordinators (DSCs)—Provide dedicated and sustained funding for SROs to reach as many schools as possible under existing funding constraints.

2. Bond Issue for Enhancing School Building Security—Provide for a bond issue for building security enhancements that are part of system-wide security plans and that meet standardized levels of security.

3. Surveillance Systems Linked to Law Enforcement—All schools will upload floor plans in the Virtual Alabama School Safety System (VAS3) and will maintain surveillance cameras linked to the Virtual Alabama School Safety System (VAS3) to assist law enforcement in crisis response. Identify schools without surveillance systems, and provide them with technical and financial assistance.



Threat Assessments and Mental Health

4. School-Based Mental Health—Expand the School-Based Mental Health Program by hiring as many more master’s-level mental health professionals as possible under existing funding constraints.

5. Identifying Warning Signs—Create an evidence-based threat assessment model with tiered intervention options for identifying and addressing troubling student behavior. School-based mental health counselors will triage students using the threat assessment system.

6. Reporting Threats—Create a virtual platform for reporting threats, available to students, parents, teachers, and members of the community. The district safety coordinator will determine whether reported threats require a response from school personnel, law enforcement, or both.

7. Tracking School Violence—Currently, the ALSDE only receives an annual incident report from schools in June. Schools will report incidents of school violence to the ALSDE in real-time.



Coordinated Training and Planning

8. Empowered and Accountable District Safety Coordinators—All local education agencies will designate a district safety coordinator (DSC) who will be accountable for assessing all reported threats. All DSCs will be required to attend at least two comprehensive safety trainings annually. All DSCs will train school-level safety coordinators in their districts twice annually. Training offered by the school safety training and compliance teams will satisfy the requirement.

9. Building a Culture of Safety —The Alabama State Superintendent of Education will interpret Section 16-1-44 of the Alabama code to require all schools to conduct comprehensive school safety trainings and drills. Currently “code red” drills are required, but no training is required. Training offered by the school safety training and compliance teams will satisfy the requirement.

10. School Safety Training and Compliance Team- Create school safety training and compliance teams to address physical security, threat assessment, mental health, active shooter, bullying/cyberbullying, and cyber security/awareness with trainers from the AG/local DA’s Offices, ALSDE, ADMH, ALEA, OIT and local law enforcement. Seven teams will be established to cover the geographic areas of the seven regional in-service centers.




Governor Ivey's Response to the April 30 SAFE Council Report

- Governor Ivey replied to the April 30 SAFE Council Report with a May 16 Executive Memorandum requesting the costs for implementing recommendations 1-4 and plans for the immediate implementation of recommendations 5 through 10.
- The SAFE Council responded with implementation plans for recommendations 5 through 8 ahead of schedule in May. The Governor is funding the emergency implementation of recommendations 5 through 10.
- The SAFE Council transmitted final cost estimates to the Governor to implement recommendations 1 through 4 today. The Governor is working with the SAFE Council to create an implementation plan for recommendations 1-4.

IVEY
ERNOR

STATE OF ALABAMA
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA



STATE OF ALABAMA

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Dr. Eric Mackey, State Superintendent of Education
Hal Taylor, Secretary, Alabama Law Enforcement Agency
Jim Purcell, Acting Secretary, Alabama Office of Information Technology
Lynn Beshear, Commissioner, Alabama Department of Mental Health
Jimmy Baker, Chancellor, Alabama Community College System

FROM: Governor Kay Ivey *Kay Ivey*

DATE: May 16, 2018

SUBJECT: Implementation of the SAFE Council Recommendations

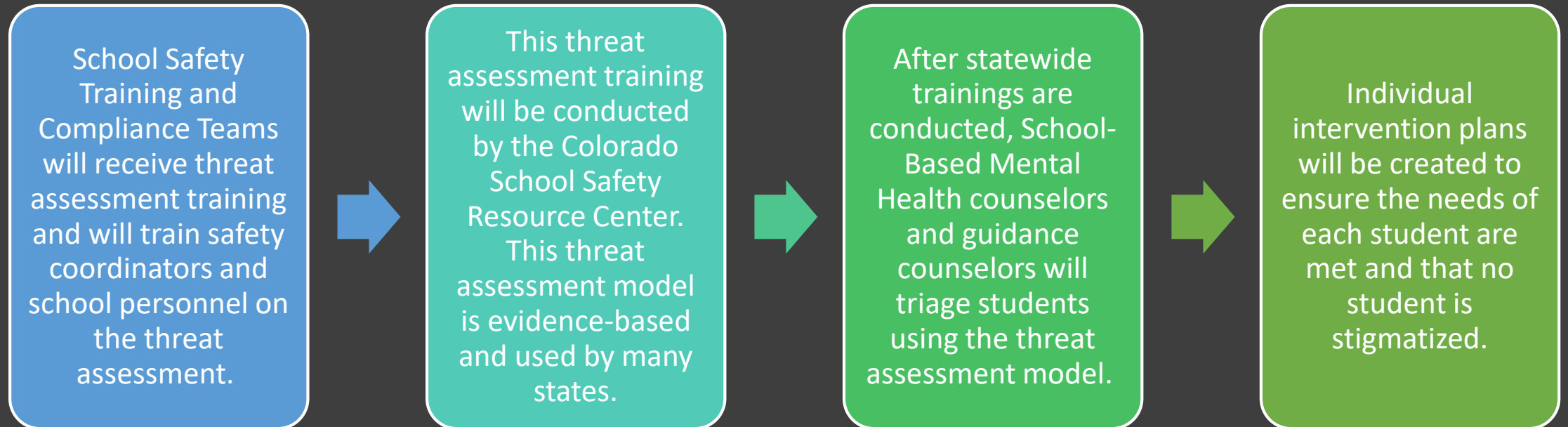
As you know, a key component of my Smart on Safety Initiative is the Governor's Securing Alabama's Facilities of Education (SAFE) Council, established by Executive Order 713 and comprised of each of you to offer recommendations to enhance school security, prevent school violence, and coordinate school safety training. Having reviewed the recommendations contained in your report dated April 30, 2018, I now ask that you move forward with implementation—and in particular, that you proceed along the following two lines.

First, I ask that you take immediate steps to implement recommendations five through ten of your report. These recommendations—advocating creation of an evidence-based threat assessment model, a virtual threat-reporting platform, a real-time incident-reporting system, and so on—may be implemented immediately through administrative action. I therefore request that you submit to me, by June 15, 2018, a proposed timeline for implementing each of these recommendations. I further request that you immediately begin following that proposed timeline to secure implementation of these recommendations as quickly as possible.

Second, I ask that you provide me with additional information concerning recommendations one through four of the report. These recommendations, which propose additional personnel and security-infrastructure upgrades, each require legislative action to fully effectuate. As to these recommendations, I therefore ask that you provide to me, also by June 15, 2018, answers to the following four questions so that we may accurately determine the additional resources needed for implementation:

600 DEXTER AVENUE • (334) 242-7100

Recommendation 5: Identifying Warning Signs



Recommendation 6: Reporting Threats

- Alabama’s existing school safety toll-free number, 1-888-SAV-KIDS, rings in ALEA’s police communications center (dispatchers). This number was set up after Columbine and was initially advertised as a way for the public to phone in tips. Because it is no longer publicized, few (if any) calls are coming in to that line.
- ALEA is developing a “Dashboard” that will be viewable by school officials and local law enforcement. The dashboard will include social media threats, bomb threats, and school shooting threats. The dashboard will receive information from the software company “nSide,” which manages Virtual Alabama. The dashboard will also receive information from student incident reports from school systems.
- ALEA will need to purchase a tool to manage the dashboard. To get the dashboard started on an emergency basis, ALEA will need at least one investigative technician and one intelligence analyst.



Recommendation 7: Tracking School Violence

The Alabama State Department of Education is developing a real-time application that allows threatening behaviors to be extracted from the Student Incident Reports (SIR) located in the Student Information System used by all K-12 schools in the state.

Threats reported through the Student Incident Reports will be assessed by the LEA Safety Coordinator, and accessible by LEA Safety Coordinators, LEA Superintendents, ALSDE, ALEA, and the ADMH.

LEAs will designate a District Safety Coordinator who spends a reasonable amount of time available to spend addressing school safety issues.

The District Safety Coordinator to attend at least two standardized comprehensive safety trainings annually.

Upon return, the District Safety Coordinator will train school safety coordinators twice annually.

All trainings will be entered in the online professional development (PD) platform (STIPD).

The Governor's SAFE Council will review PD sessions in STIPD.

District safety coordinators will participate in at least one Professional Learning Unit (PLU) per license renewal.

Recommendation 9: Building a Culture of Safety

1

The Alabama State Superintendent of Education will interpret the Code Red statute to require drills and trainings, instead of only drills.

2

The Alabama State Superintendent of Education will author a Memorandum to LEA Superintendents detailing the meaning and requirements of the Code Red statute.

Recommendation 10: School Safety Training and Compliance Teams

- One School Safety Training and Compliance Team of Trainers will be created, which will train seven regional School Safety Training and Compliance Teams to serve each ALEA Region. Members of the team of trainers and the regional teams consist of representatives of all SAFE Council member agencies.
- All members of the seven regional School Safety Training and Compliance Teams will be trained by the Governor's SAFE Council School Safety Training and Compliance Team of Trainers.
- The seven regional teams will provide two trainings annually to each LEA in their regions and be available to provide onsite trainings as requested.
- Members of the seven regional teams will train school sentries using an ALEA-designed training module.
- Trainings provided by the School Safety Training and Compliance Teams will include physical security assessment, threat assessment, school-based mental health, cyber security and awareness, and active shooter response.

The Alabama Sentry Program

- On May 30, Governor Ivey established the Alabama Sentry Program under existing law to provide schools without a school resource officer a chance to survive, in the event of an armed intruder, until law enforcement responds.
- FBI research shows that law enforcement responders arrive after the shootings has ended in 60 percent of active shooter scenarios.
- The Alabama Sentry Program will allow active school administrators to maintain a firearm in a secured safe on school grounds, if they seek the approval of their superintendent, school board, and county sheriff; are deputized by the sheriff as a reserve deputy sheriff; undergo mental health, physical, and drug screenings; complete ALEA-sponsored sentry training; and possess a concealed-carry pistol permit.
- Sentries only exercise law enforcement duties in response to an armed intruder on school grounds.

KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

STATE OF ALABAMA

M E M O R A N D U M

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

LEGAL UNDERPINNINGS OF THE ALABAMA SENTRY PROGRAM

The Alabama Sentry Program is already fully authorized under existing Alabama law.

- The Administrative Code of the State Board of Education provides that only authorized law enforcement personnel are permitted to possess a firearm on school grounds.[\[1\]](#) An Attorney General's opinion has confirmed the validity of this rule.[\[2\]](#)
- Therefore, consistent with existing law, regulations, and the guidance of the Attorney General, **a Sentry must be duly appointed and sworn as a reserve deputy sheriff.**
- As a reserve deputy sheriff, the Sentry will be the only person in school with access to the firearm. The Sentry may unlock the firearm and take possession of it **only when his or her status as a reserve deputy sheriff has been activated.** The Sentry's letter of appointment from the Sheriff will specify the limited emergency circumstances under which the Sentry's reserve deputy sheriff status is activated (e.g., in the event of an active shooter situation). **At all other times, a Sentry is acting in the capacity of civilian school personnel.**
- There are **no additional liability insurance costs** to the State, local school systems, or local governments. Sentries are already covered under existing law and policies.
 - When acting within the line and scope of their duties as reserve deputy sheriffs (e.g. in responding to an active shooter), Sentries enjoy statutory and constitutional immunity and legal protection.[\[3\]](#)
 - At all other times, Sentries are civilian school personnel covered by the Educators Liability Trust Fund, administered by the Risk Management Division of the State Department of Finance.[\[4\]](#)
- The Alabama Sentry Program is completely **voluntary**. No school administrator, no local school board, and no sheriff is required to participate. The Governor is simply **establishing a training program and overseeing the issuance of uniform guidelines** for the selection and training of Sentries under existing law, **in order to promote responsible, safe implementation by school systems** that wish to add this extra layer of security in their schools.

[\[1\]](#) Ala. Admin. Code r. 290-3-1-.02(1)(b)3.

[\[2\]](#) Ala. Att'y Gen. Op. 2014-044 (Feb. 28, 2014).

[\[3\]](#) Ala. Code 36-22-3(b).

[\[4\]](#) Act 2013-215.

Alabama Sentry Program Description

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.

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 will train school sentries with an Alabama Law Enforcement Agency-designed 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 is designing a distinctively marked bullet proof vest for use by sentries. The School Safety Training and Compliance Teams will train local law enforcement to identify the distinctively marked bullet-proof vests.

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.

Next Steps

The State Department of Education and ALEA will present Governor Ivey with a detailed implementation plan for the Alabama Sentry Program in the upcoming days.



Governor Ivey will craft a legislative request to implement SAFE Council recommendations 1 through 4.



Governor Ivey will transfer emergency funds for the immediate implementation of recommendations 5 through 10 in the upcoming days.

Questions?

