



School Safety

Providing students with a safe and secure learning environment is one of the most important responsibilities of a school district. Now more than ever, school boards and other district leaders are evaluating their current resources and plans to determine if there are additional or different programs, policies or resources needed to keep our students and staff safe.

Our communities, including school districts, parents, law enforcement, students and other stakeholders all have ideas about the best ways to ensure that our school buildings are safe places for our students and staff. Consensus in one community may also be different than consensus among stakeholders in a neighboring community.

NYSSBA does not believe there is a single right answer to address these important issues. One size or style does not fit all. Therefore, we recommend the following provisions be included in the 2019-20 budget:

- Adopt the establishment of extreme risk protection orders, otherwise known as the “red flag” bill through legislation or as a part of the final budget.
 - This provision would allow the courts to intercede and prevent individuals who have been proven to be a risk to themselves or others from purchasing or possessing a firearm.
 - School district officials would be among those permitted to petition for such an order.
- Include dedicated resources in the 2019-20 budget to support locally determined school safety measures.
- Ensure that any resources provided can be used flexibly and are available to all school districts and BOCES.
- Ensure that school districts maintain control over who enters their buildings by allowing them to decline to use instructional buildings for voting.

As discussions on school safety continue, NYSSBA encourages state policymakers to ensure that school districts have the resources and supports they need to provide students the sound basic education they are entitled to, in a safe and secure environment.

For additional information, please contact NYSSBA Governmental Relations at 518-783-0200.