



DRAFT: Version 1.0

LONG-TERM OPERATIONAL SAFETY PLAN DEVELOPMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Denver Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and welcoming learning environment for our students, families and educators throughout the school district. Safety is paramount. DPS is focused on maintaining learning environments that center our students, elevate the experience of our adults, and turn our vision that Every Learner Thrives into a reality.

In order for the school district to fulfill the goal of maintaining a safe and welcoming learning environment, DPS implements comprehensive policies, procedures and protocols that focus on safety issues. The primary objective of these district-wide and school-specific safety policies is to establish, promote, and maintain the physical and psychological safety policies of our students, staff, families and other members of the Denver community who visit our schools and campuses.

In response to recent incidents of violence throughout the Denver metro area, district leadership has worked to revise the district-wide safety policies. We recognize that school safety is a community issue which requires collaboration throughout our community. To that end, this work is being done in partnership with industry professionals, along with input from students, employees and community members. It is intended to provide guidance and resources to prevent violence and crises as well as to provide direction in a variety of emergency situations. The plan encompasses each of our schools, every campus, and our Central Office building. The final version of this new district-wide safety plan will be comprehensive, concise and specific.

In keeping with the policy of the Board of Education, the purpose of this new district-wide safety plan is to maximize the safety of every student, educator and visitor of Denver Public Schools. Once implemented, these new policies, procedures and protocols, which include guidelines for managing emergencies along with basic procedures to implement the school district's safety plan, will be evaluated routinely and revised as needed.

Developing the Plan

On March 23, 2023, the Board of Education charged the Superintendent to develop a comprehensive long-term Operational Safety Plan that prioritizes student and adult physical and psychological safety. The district committed to developing a draft version of the plan to be



shared broadly for feedback with the community by May 1st. This initial draft, Version 1.0, was created based on feedback received from community organizations, DPS advisory councils and committees, and student, staff, family, and community survey data.

Between May 1st and May 20th, there will be a variety of opportunities to provide feedback on the full version 1.0. The topics covered in detail in Version 1.0 are outlined below.

Legislation: Federal and State

Executive Limitations and DPS Policies

Equity Statement

Personal Conditions

Mental Health: Student Safety

- Behavior and Emotional Screening System (BESS)
- Bully Prevention
- Non-Suicidal Self-Injury (NSSI)
- Suicide Prevention to Postvention
- Threat Response Process

Mental Health: Adult Safety

- Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Supports
- Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)
- Health Promotion Activities
- Telehealth Supports

School Conditions

School/Building Safety

- School/Building Safety Audits
- Standard Response Protocol

Safe and Welcoming Building Plans

- Safe and Welcoming School Environment
- Safety Operational Plans
- School Emergency Teams (E-Team)



- Student Enrollment
 - Student Alternative Placement Process and Options
 - Student Transfers From Other Districts
- Student Searches
- Student Support Plan Tracking

System Conditions

DPS Driven

- Academic: Advanced Educational Opportunities
- Climate and Safety Staff
- Communication Protocols and Timelines
- Community Connections and Supports
 - Career Development Opportunities
 - Community Hubs
- Culturally Responsive Education
- Discipline Policies and Practices
- District Crisis Response Team
- Incident Command
- Online School Expansion
- Out of School Time
- School Resource Officers
- Student Support Plan
- Transformative Social Emotional Academic Learning
- Weapon Detection System
- Youth Violence and Prevention at Elementary Schools

Not Driven by DPS

- Employment and Economic Stability
- Holistic Safety
- Housing: Stable and Affordable
- Legislation: Federal and State
- Mental and Health Care: Access and Affordable
- Policy Change

Appendix

- Plan Development Inputs
 - Board Memo Directive
 - Legislation: Federal and State



- Student, Parent, Staff, and Community Survey Results
- SRO Engagement Information
- City's 2023 Youth Violence Prevention Plan
- U.S. Department of Education: Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center
- DAC School Safety Statement
- BFAC Safety Data & Solutions & BFAC School Safety
- East High School Themes & P-SAG (4/17 media release)
- Feedback from Deans
- Principal Meeting 4/24
- DSL A School Safety Statement
- DSL A Survey Data
- Mental Health team report

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