

Wisconsin Act 309

“Helping to Keep our Schools and
Students...Safe”



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School Safety in Wisconsin: A brief history



- **“Safe and Drug Free Schools” (1987-2011)**
- **Gun Free Schools Act of 1994 (The onset of “Zero Tolerance” Policies)**
- **Act Against Violence/Safe Night Wisconsin**
- **Attorney General’s/State Superintendent’s Safe Schools Task Force**
- **“Sticks and Stones” anti-bullying Curricula**
- **Homeland Security Funding for “Center on Citizen School and Youth Preparedness”**
- **Legislative Counsel Study Committee on Safe Schools**

Act 309 of 2009 (passed and signed in May, 2010)



- **Part I: Anti-Bullying Efforts**
- **Part II: School Safety Plans**
- **Part III: School Safety Drills**
- **Part IV: Sharing Information Across Systems**

Part I- No More Bullying!



- Required all school districts to adopt a policy that:
 - ✓ Prohibits bullying by pupils
 - ✓ Is provided annually to all pupils enrolled in the district, as well as their parents or guardians
 - ✓ Is provided to other persons that request it
 - ✓ Is in place by August 15, 2010

Part I-No More Bullying!



- Required the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to develop a **model school policy on bullying** that includes the following:
 - ✓ A definition of bullying
 - ✓ A prohibition on bullying
 - ✓ A procedure for reporting bullying confidentially



- ✓ A prohibition on pupil retaliation for reporting an incident of bullying
- ✓ A procedure for investigating reports of bullying
- ✓ A requirement that school officials report incidents of bullying, and identify the persons to whom the reports must be made
- ✓ A list of disciplinary alternatives for pupils that engage in bullying or retaliate against a reporter of the same



- ✓ **An identification of the school-related events at which the policy applies**
- ✓ **An identification of the property owned, leased, or used by the school district on which the policy applies**
- ✓ **An identification of the vehicles used for pupil transportation on which the policy applies**

Part I-No More Bullying!



- In addition to the model policy, the Department of Public Instruction was also required to do the following:
 - ✓ Develop a model education and awareness program on bullying
 - ✓ Post the model policy and the model program on the department's website

Part I-Resources to Address Bullying



- The model policy and program are located at:
<http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sspw/safeschool.html>
- ✓ The model policy can be adopted to meet the district's requirement to have a policy on bullying
- ✓ The program can be used in grades 3-8, and can be led by anyone from the school
- ✓ Sample lesson- “The Bully Bowl”

Part II- “Plan Your Work”



- *“A School Safety Plan shall be created with the active participation of appropriate parties, as specified by the school board or governing body of the private school”*
- Appropriate Parties may include:
 - ✓ Law enforcement officers
 - ✓ Fire fighters
 - ✓ School administrators
 - ✓ Teachers
 - ✓ Pupil services professional
 - ✓ Mental health professionals

Part II- “Plan Your Work”



- *“A school safety plan shall include general guidelines specifying procedures for:*
 - ✓ *Emergency prevention and mitigation*
 - ✓ *Preparedness*
 - ✓ *Response*
 - ✓ *Recovery*

Part II- “Plan Your Work”



- *“A school board or governing body of the private school shall determine which persons are required to receive school safety training”*
- *“Each school board and the governing body of the private school shall review the school safety plan at least once every 3 years after the plan goes into effect”*

Part III- “Work Your Plan”



- Section 118.07(2)(a) of the Wisconsin Statutes continues to require:
 - ✓ Monthly drills for pupils on proper evacuation methods in case of a fire,
 - ✓ Twice annual evacuation drills for pupils in the event of a tornado or other hazard

Part III- “Work Your Plan”



- The section was revised to add the following:
 - ✓ Twice annually pupils shall be drilled in the proper method of evacuation, **or other appropriate action in case of a school safety incident.**
 - ✓ These drills shall be based on the procedures outlined in the school safety plan
 - ✓ **A safety drill may be substituted for any other drill required under this section.**

Part IV- “Sharing Information Across Systems”



- *“Pupil records shall be made available to”...*
 - ✓ *...law enforcement officers who are individually designated by the school board and assigned to the school district...*
 - ✓ *...for any purpose concerning the juvenile justice system and the system’s ability to effectively serve a pupil, prior to adjudication...*