

School Safety and Technical Assistance Council

DRAFT Statement of Operating Principles

July 14, 2015

Adopted:

PURPOSE

The School Safety and Technical Assistance Council (hereinafter referred to as the “Council”) was established by the Safe and Supportive Schools Act, to improve school climate and school safety so that all Minnesota students in prekindergarten through grade 12 attending school in public school districts, charter schools, and higher education institutions have a safe and supportive learning environment in order to maximize each student's learning potential.

VISION

Every student will learn in environments that are safe and supportive every day.

MISSION

To reduce and to eliminate occurrences of bullying amount Minnesota’s children and adolescents through school-wide bullying prevention and intervention policies, programs, and practices.

GOALS

The goals of the Council are to:

1. Be a strong voice in support of the development and implementation of bullying prevention and intervention policies, programs and practice.
2. Ensure that districts and schools have the information they need about effective bullying prevention and intervention policies, programs and practices.
3. Be viewed as a leading resource for districts and schools on bullying prevention and intervention policies, programs and practices.
4. Ensure that districts and schools have access to training and professional development so they have the capacity to create and sustain positive safe and supportive school learning environments.

FUNCTION

Functions include providing leadership for:

1. Establishment of norms and standards for prevention, intervention and support around prohibited conduct.
2. Advancement of evidence-based policy and best practices to improve school climate and promote safety.

3. Development and dissemination of resources and training for schools and communities about issues of prohibited conduct and other school climate safety-related issues, and
4. Development of policies and procedures for services provided by the School Safety Technical Assistance Center (Center).

MEMBERSHIP

The council shall consist of:

1. The commissioners or their designees from the Departments of Education, Health, Human Rights, Human Services, Public Safety, and Corrections, and the Office of Higher Education.
2. One representative each from the Minnesota Association of School Administrators, Minnesota School Boards Association, Elementary School Principals Association, Association of Secondary School Principals, and Education Minnesota as selected by each organization.
3. Two representatives each of student support personnel, parents, and students as selected by the commissioner of education.
4. Two representatives of local law enforcement as selected by the commissioner of public safety.
5. Two representatives of the judicial branch as selected by the chief justice of the Supreme Court; and
6. One charter school representative selected by the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools.

A member serves at the pleasure of their appointing authority and continues to serve until their successor is appointed. Council members are not eligible for compensation or reimbursement for expenses related to council activities.

MEETINGS

The council must meet at least one time per year. The council does not need a quorum to conduct its meetings. Most business and communication with the Council shall be on-line or at designated program meetings. The agenda for the meetings shall be developed by the Leadership Team with input from the council.

GOVERNANCE

Leadership Team:

The Council is guided by a Leadership Team made up of a Chair, the Center Director and other appointees the Chair deems necessary. The Chair may appoint a Co-Chair and or Working Chair. The Leadership Team will enact the functions of the Council.

Duties:

Responsibilities of the leadership team include, but not limited to:

1. Maintaining membership in the Council.
2. Attending Leadership Team meetings.
3. Developing Council meeting agendas.
4. Leading Council meetings.
5. Implementing all Council policies and procedures.
6. Submitting annual report in a timely manner.
7. Orienting new Council members and successors to the role.

Leadership Team Meetings:

The Leadership Team will meet as often as it deems necessary to fulfill its responsibilities.

COMMITTEES

Committees are formed to carry out the work of the Council in fulfilling its mission and goals. The Committees are made up of members of the Council who volunteer during Council meetings. Committees are either chaired by a member of the Leadership Team or a member of the Committee appointed by the Council.

WORKGROUPS

Workgroups are formed to advise the Council. Each Workgroup is comprised of Council members, content experts, practitioners, students and parents. Workgroups operate and governed by the Workgroup Charter approved by the Council.