



Dear Superintendents,

As you may be aware, on July 11, 2024, [Senate Bill 700](#) was signed into law as Act 55 of 2024. It amended Article XIII-C of the Pennsylvania Public School Code by adding section 1316-C (relating to school security personnel). The following guidance explains the new requirements in this section:

New Requirements for School Districts (Act 55 of 2024)

Section 1316-C of the Pennsylvania Public School Code requires all school districts to have at least one full-time school security personnel who has completed their requisite training on duty during the school day beginning with the 2024-25 school year unless the district has been granted a waiver from the School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC) at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).¹ Please note that the new law applies only to school districts.

School districts must certify to the SSSC that they have hired or contracted with a school security personnel that satisfies the requirements of Article XIII-C. To ascertain the level of need for waivers, PCCD intends to ask school districts about their personnel status within the FY24-25 School Safety and Mental Health Grant application. **An official waiver process will be adopted on September 11, 2024, at the Commission's quarterly meeting, and information will be conveyed to school districts following this meeting about the waiver process.**

Per the law, if a school district does not meet the personnel requirement, they will have the option of requesting a waiver from the SSSC, which will ask the district to provide an attestation that it acted in good faith and met at least one of the following criteria under section 1315-C(5):

- Documentation that the school district does not have a municipal police department or law enforcement agency that can provide a school resource officer.
- Documentation that the school district has been unable to hire or contract with a school police officer.
- Documentation that the school district has been unable to hire or contract with a school security guard.
- Documentation that the school district has been unable to hire or contract with a police officer from an accredited police force.

Waivers approved by the SSSC shall expire one year after its approval.

Please note that Section 1316-C also allows for the district's school board to decide to have school security personnel on duty in a school building (i.e., a building owned or under the control of the school district where classes are taught or extracurricular activities are

¹ School districts are not required to have school security personnel in place PRIOR to the start of the 2024-25 school year to meet this requirement; however, at some point during the 2024-2025 school year, it is expected that they meet this requirement and/or apply and receive a waiver.

conducted on a regular basis) or on school premises during extracurricular activities that occur outside of the school day (i.e., the hours between the morning opening of a school building and the afternoon dismissal of students on a day which classes are in session), or assign other duties to those personnel in addition to their powers granted under Article XIII-C.

School districts may use School Safety and Security Grant Program funding to pay for costs associated with the training and compensation of school security personnel. Please note that while Act 55 of 2024 did establish a School Security Personnel Restricted Account for the purpose of making reimbursements to school districts for the costs associated with school security (at an amount not to exceed \$50,000 per school district to support one school security personnel that has completed their requisite training), this fund is subject to the availability of funds – which have not yet been appropriated – and does not begin until July 1, 2025. More information about the reimbursement process will be provided in 2025 if allocations are made to that account during FY25-26.

Requirements for School Security Personnel Training & Other Considerations

Per Act 55 of 2024, all school security personnel employed or contracted by school entities in Pennsylvania must meet the following training requirements depending on the category of personnel they fall under²:

- **School Police Officers (SPOs)** must meet training requirements under [section 1305-C](#), including:
 - Successful completion of basic training as required by the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) or graduation from the Pennsylvania State Police Academy, have been employed as a state trooper with the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) and have separated from that service in good standing;
 - Successful completion of the Basic School Resource Officer (Basic SRO) course offered by the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) or an [equivalent training approved by PCCD](#); and
 - Attended annual in-service training approved by MPOETC.
- **School Resource Officers (SROs)** must meet training requirements under [section 1313-C\(A.1\)](#), including:
 - Successful completion of the Basic SRO course offered by NASRO or an equivalent course approved by PCCD.
- **School Security Guards** must meet training requirements under [section 1314-C](#), including:
 - Successful completion of the Basic SRO course offered by NASRO or an equivalent course approved by PCCD; and
 - If armed, meet the following:

² While the trainings mentioned in this section are specifically referenced in Act 55 in 2024, school districts should be mindful that whomever they hire or employ as a school resource officer, school police officer, or school security guard should meet all requirements of Article XIII-C and any prerequisite background or training requirements those individuals should meet if appointed or employed in those respective positions (e.g., an SRO is first and foremost a law enforcement officer, and should meet all background or training requirements to be a law enforcement officer prior to consideration as an SRO).

- Be licensed under [18 Pa.C.S. Ch. 61](#), the Uniform Firearms Act;
- Complete and hold a certification under [Act 235 of 1974](#), the Lethal Weapons Training Act³; and

All individuals must meet requirements under [Section 111](#) (relating to Criminal History of Employees and Prospective Employees), [Section 111.1](#) (relating to Employment History Review), and [23 Pa.C.S. §6344](#) (relating to employees having contact with children; adoptive and foster parents).

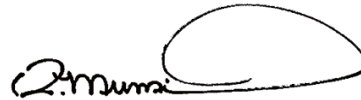
On behalf of our agencies, thank you for the work you do to support Pennsylvania's students, school employees, and communities.

If you have any questions regarding these new or existing requirements related to school security personnel, please contact PCCD's School Safety team at RA-CD-SSSC@pa.gov.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Pennington
Executive Director
PCCD



Khalid N. Mumin, Ed.D.
Secretary
PA Department of Education

³ NOTE: Active law enforcement officers are not required to be licensed under the Uniform Firearms Act and be certified under the Lethal Weapons Training Act if they can present evidence of their successful completion of training requirements under [53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 21 Subchap. D](#) (relating to municipal police education and training). Retired law enforcement officers are not required to be licensed under the Uniform Firearms Act and be certified under the Lethal Weapons Training Act if they comply with [section 8.1 of Act 235 of 1974](#) or have been issued a firearm training and qualification card under section 5 of the act of December 13, 2005, known as the [Retired Law Enforcement Identification Act](#).