

Update on Act 55 Training for School Employees and School Safety and Security Coordinators

[Act 55 of 2022](#) updated the training requirements related to school safety and security for both school employees and School Safety and Security Coordinators (Coordinators). In accordance with the Act, on September 30, 2022, the School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC), housed at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), approved [training standards for all school employees](#) and [training criteria for Coordinators](#).

On March 29, 2023, the SSSC selected a training partner and awarded funding to Risk and Strategic Management Corporation (RSM) to develop and deliver training that meets the Act 55 standards for both school employees and Coordinators. RSM has begun work to develop training modules that meet the standards adopted by the SSSC and PCCD hopes this guidance will serve as an update to administrators and Coordinators who are preparing for the upcoming school year.

Update on Employee Training Topics

Informed by PCCD's recent needs assessment (widely distributed and open to school employees between April 20 and May 11, 2023), RSM has begun development of the employee training modules that will be offered by PCCD/RSM free of charge. **It is anticipated that this free in-person training for some of the employee topics/modules will be available beginning in August 2023, with asynchronous online modules being developed as rapidly as possible to follow.** While we do not expect that every topical module will be available by August, we do anticipate that there will be multiple options for school employees to choose from. PCCD will provide additional details as production of the training modules continues.

While RSM/PCCD are currently developing training modules that comply with the standards and will be available free of charge, PCCD will also launch an application process for other training providers who are interested in providing training on one or more of the mandated employee topics. Beginning in July 2023, as training providers self-certify that their curricula meet the Act 55 standards, PCCD will update and post a list of self-certifying providers on a webpage dedicated to Act 55 training. By law, employees shall receive Act 48 credit for trainings that meet the standards approved by the SSSC whether that training is provided by PCCD/RSM or a different provider selected by the school.

According to Act 55, the employee module focusing on emergency drills and related topics (e.g., active shooter drills, bomb threats, etc.) **must be** conducted in-person and PCCD/RSM's goal is to begin providing "train the trainer" sessions (locations TBD) for this particular module by fall of 2023.

PCCD is aware that administrators may have already completed or will be planning for continuing education for school employees in the upcoming months and will continue to communicate with the field regarding updates to the employee training modules as they are developed. Should administrators find themselves in need of Act 55 training for employees prior to the launch of any of the initiatives mentioned above, they should consult with their solicitor to ensure the selected training meets the standards approved by the SSSC.

Update on Coordinator Training

The full-day (7-hour) Coordinator training is anticipated to launch regionally (locations TBD) by January 2024. Once the training is developed and available, PCCD will post that information on its Act 55 training website and use existing communication channels to disseminate the training information. **Once the training is posted, existing Coordinators will have one year from the posting date to complete the training. Coordinators hired/appointed after the date of posting, will have one year from the date of appointment to complete the training.**

PCCD's recent needs assessment survey reiterated the need for high-quality training for school employees and Coordinators in the realm of school safety. Given the gravity of these topics, we feel it is important to ensure that the training offered meets the needs of school entities, and aligns with the approved standards. We are diligently working to ensure that free, high-quality training is available to school employees and Coordinators during the 2023-24 school year, and beyond. We appreciate your patience as we continue this important work.

Please continue to check PCCD's [website](#) for regular updates, and refer to [these FAQs](#) for additional information.