

## **POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **STUDENT PHYSICAL SAFETY WORKING GROUP**

#### **RECOMMENDATION #1: STUDY ARMED SECURITY OPTIONS FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS**

The working group finds that nonpublic schools have limited options for providing security on their campuses, and that new options should be explored. The working group further finds that in many cases, these schools operate on property owned by religious organizations, limiting the options these religious organizations have for security during non-educational hours.

The working group recommends that the General Assembly allow nonpublic schools to develop protection policies in cooperation with law enforcement. The full committee should study training and safety requirements that should be in place in order to allow nonpublic schools to provide armed security options. The full committee should further hear from local sheriffs and chiefs of police on how to best coordinate school safety for private institutions. Finally, the working group notes that the House of Representatives has passed House Bill 174, allowing all places of religious worship that are housed on private property to have the same rights for concealed carry permit holders, and urges final passage of this legislation.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #2: STUDY EXPANSION AND REQUIREMENTS OF VOLUNTEER SRO PROGRAM**

The working group finds that the authorization for voluntary school safety resource officers in G.S. 160A-288.4 and G.S. 162-26 has not been used due to limitations on volunteers and uncertainty about training and education requirements.

The working group recommends that the full committee study how best to modify the statutory requirements in order to expand the potential eligible volunteers and provide more security in the public schools, while ensuring appropriate training and education for volunteers in the program.

### **RECOMMENDATION #3: EXTEND MANDATORY SAFETY PLAN AND DRILL REQUIREMENT TO ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ENCOURAGE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL PARTICIPATION**

The working group recommends that charter schools, regional schools, and UNC laboratory schools be required to develop a school risk management plan, hold school safety exercises, and provide safety information to local law enforcement and the Division of Emergency Management. The working group also recommends that nonpublic schools be encouraged to participate in these same activities. The recommendations of the working group are presented specifically in the attached draft legislation 2017-SAz-26.

### **RECOMMENDATION #4: IMPLEMENT TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SROs**

The working group recommends that all school safety resource officers receive appropriate training and be required to comply with continuing education requirements appropriate to their role as school safety resource officers. The working group recommends that the North Carolina Criminal Justice Training and Standards Commission and the North Carolina Sheriffs' Training and Standards Commission be directed to work with the Center for Safer Schools to develop appropriate training and continuing education courses and materials. The recommendations of the working group are presented specifically in the attached draft legislation 2017-BQz-8A.

### **RECOMMENDATION #5: APPROPRIATE AN ADDITIONAL \$1.8 MILLION TO FUND GRANTS FOR SROs**

The working group recommends that an additional \$1.8 million be appropriated for use for grants for school safety resource officers in elementary and middle schools. The recommendations of the working group are presented specifically in the attached draft legislation 2017-BQza-9.

### **RECOMMENDATION #6: REQUIRE FACILITY VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS FOR EACH SCHOOL BUILDING**

The working group recommends that the Center for Safer Schools collaborate with the Department of Public Instruction to develop a facility vulnerability assessment tool for use by each local school administrative unit. The working group recommends that each local school administrative unit be required to use the assessment tool to complete a facility vulnerability assessment of each school building at least once per year. The recommendations of the working group are presented specifically in the attached draft legislation 2017-BNz-6.

**RECOMMENDATION #7: REQUIRE LEAs TO REPORT ANNUALLY ON SROs**

The working group recommends that local boards of education be required to report annually to the Center for Safer Schools on the number and placement of school safety resource officers (SRO), including the funding method and employment method for each SRO in the local school administrative unit. The working group recommends that the Center for Safer Schools be required to report annually to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee with an executive summary of the reported information along with the disaggregated data for each local school administrative unit. The recommendations of the working group are presented specifically in the attached draft legislation 2017-BNz-7.