

**Purpose**

To provide safe, orderly and caring learning environments in which all students feel comfortable in adherence to the Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018.

**Definitions**

**School Resource Officer** – A law enforcement officer as defined under §3-101(e) of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland code who has been assigned to a school in accordance with a memorandum of understanding between the chief of a law enforcement agency as defined under §3-101(b) of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Code and the Board of Education of Allegany County.

**School Security Employee** – An individual who is not a school resource office and is employed by the Board of Education of Allegany County to provide safety and security-related services at a public school.

**Policy Statement**

All members of the educational community share the responsibility for maintaining a positive and secure school setting. To this end, the Board of Education of Allegany County is authorized and empowered to employ School Safety Employees to work in cooperation with system administrators, and in conjunction with the existing School Resource Officers, employed through other local law enforcement agencies, to enhance the day to day safety and security of all school facilities, faculty, staff and students.

Below are two areas of responsibility required by the Maryland Safe to Learn Act 2018, which the Board of Education of Allegany County will incorporate into school safety and security:

I. **Mental Health Coordinator**

The superintendent shall appoint a Mental Health Coordinator, whose duties shall include:

1. Coordinating existing mental health services and referral procedures for mental health services within the local school system;
2. Working in collaboration with the local health department, the local department of social services, and other local entities that provide mental health services, ensure that a student who is referred for mental health services obtains the necessary services;
3. Maximizing external funding for mental health and wraparound services; and
4. Developing plans for delivering behavioral health and wraparound services to students who exhibit behaviors of concern.

II. **School Safety Coordinator**

The superintendent shall appoint a School Safety Coordinator, whose duties shall include:

1. Serving as a liaison between Board of Education of Allegany County, all local law enforcement agencies, and the Maryland Center for School Safety;
2. Assisting the Board of Education of Allegany County to meet the requirements of the Act;
3. Supervising School Security Employees; and
4. Executing other duties directly related to the provision of school security.

Pursuant to the Act, the School Safety Coordinator shall be certified by the Maryland Center for School Safety.

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| <b>Legal Reference</b> |                |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <b>Policy History</b>  | <b>Adopted</b> | <b>Reviewed</b> | <b>Revised</b> Oct. 8, 2013, 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading<br>Nov. 12, 2013, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading<br>March 26, 2019, 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading<br>April 23, 2019, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading (Tabled)<br>Sept. 24, 2019, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading |