

REFERENCE TITLE: school safety; plans; task force

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-fourth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2019

## **HB 2597**

Introduced by  
Representatives Hernandez D: Biasiucci, Blackman, Blanc, Campbell,  
DeGrazia, Engel, Fillmore, Hernandez A, Longdon, Rodriguez, Shah, Toma,  
Udall, Senator Brophy McGee

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY  
ADDING SECTION 15-119; RELATING TO SCHOOL SAFETY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 1, article 1, Arizona Revised  
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-119, to read:

4 15-119. Safe schools plans; models; task force; required  
5 posting

6 A. BEGINNING IN THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
7 SHALL ADOPT A SAFE SCHOOLS PLAN TO PROVIDE RECOGNITION, INITIAL SCREENING  
8 AND RESPONSES TO EMOTIONAL OR BEHAVIORAL DISTRESS IN STUDENTS, INCLUDING  
9 INDICATORS OF POSSIBLE SUBSTANCE ABUSE, VIOLENCE AND YOUTH SUICIDE.

10 B. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL ANNUALLY PROVIDE THE SAFE SCHOOLS  
11 PLAN TO ALL PERSONS EMPLOYED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

12 C. AT A MINIMUM, EACH SAFE SCHOOLS PLAN SHALL DO ALL OF THE  
13 FOLLOWING:

14 1. IDENTIFY POSSIBLE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN RECOGNITION,  
15 SCREENING AND REFERRAL THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOL STAFF.

16 2. INCLUDE EFFORTS TO USE THE EXPERTISE OF CURRENT SCHOOL STAFF WHO  
17 HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN RECOGNITION, SCREENING AND REFERRAL.

18 3. DESCRIBE HOW STAFF SHOULD RESPOND TO SUSPICIONS, CONCERNS OR  
19 WARNING SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL OR BEHAVIORAL DISTRESS IN STUDENTS.

20 4. IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS  
21 AND AGENCIES FOR REFERRAL OF STUDENTS TO HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE  
22 ABUSE AND SOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES, INCLUDING DEVELOPING AT LEAST ONE  
23 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND AN APPROPRIATE  
24 ENTITY IN THE COMMUNITY.

25 5. INCLUDE PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES FOR COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS.

26 6. DESCRIBE HOW STAFF SHOULD RESPOND TO A CRISIS SITUATION IN WHICH  
27 A STUDENT IS AN IMMINENT DANGER TO THAT STUDENT OR TO OTHER PERSONS.

28 7. DESCRIBE HOW THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL PROVIDE SUPPORT TO  
29 STUDENTS AND STAFF AFTER AN INCIDENT OF VIOLENCE OR YOUTH SUICIDE.

30 D. THE SAFE SCHOOL PLAN DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MAY BE A  
31 SEPARATE PLAN OR A COMPONENT OF A BROADER PLAN OR POLICY.

32 E. ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 2020, THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC  
33 INSTRUCTION SHALL DEVELOP AND POST ON THE WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
34 EDUCATION A MODEL SAFE SCHOOLS PLAN ALONG WITH RELEVANT RESOURCES AND  
35 INFORMATION TO SUPPORT SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A  
36 SAFE SCHOOLS PLAN.

37 F. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION SHALL ANNUALLY POST ON  
38 THE WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION A LIST OF STATEWIDE RESOURCES,  
39 INCLUDING COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, THAT PROVIDE SUPPORT TO YOUTH WHO  
40 HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO SCHOOL-BASED DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT,  
41 INTIMIDATION OR BULLYING. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ALSO POST A LIST OF  
42 STATEWIDE RESOURCES FOR YOUTH WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY GANGS, GUN  
43 VIOLENCE AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA CAUSED BY VIOLENCE AT HOME, AT SCHOOL  
44 AND IN THE COMMUNITY. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION SHALL

1 ANNUALLY UPDATE THE INFORMATION PRESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION AND SHALL  
2 ANNUALLY POST THE UPDATED INFORMATION.

3 Sec. 2. Safe schools plan task force; duties; report; delayed  
4 repeal

5 A. The superintendent of public instruction shall establish a safe  
6 schools plan task force within the department of education to identify  
7 best practices, model programs and successful strategies for school  
8 districts to form partnerships with qualified health, mental health and  
9 social services agencies in the community to coordinate and improve  
10 support for youth in need.

11 B. The task force shall:

12 1. Identify and develop resource documents to be posted on the  
13 website of the department of education.

14 2. Explore the potential use of advanced online youth emotional  
15 health and crisis response systems that have been developed for use in  
16 other states and countries.

17 3. On or before December 1, 2022, submit a report to the governor,  
18 the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of  
19 representatives that includes the findings, conclusions and  
20 recommendations of the task force. The task force shall provide a copy of  
21 this report to the secretary of state.

22 C. This section is repealed from and after December 31, 2022.