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**April 2018 Special Edition**

WSSCA Newsletter

The "news you can use" periodical for Wisconsin's school safety and security professionals



## Unraveling 2017 Wisconsin Act 143

Act 143 has all of us scrambling to make sure we can get full advantage of the eventual school safety grants that will be awarded through the Department of Justice. Districts have jumped on the initial process of submitting letters of interest, and per a press release on April 12, 2018, Attorney General Brad Schimel announced additional details about the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of School Safety (OSS) and the formal grant application process. That process will be announced next week.

Here, in a bulleted list, are the main points of Act 143 that we need to know and understand:

- An “Office of School Safety,” with a full-time Director position is created within DOJ.
- That office is tasked with:
  -

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- Creating and sharing model practices for school safety **in conjunction with WSSCA** and the Wisconsin Safe and Healthy Schools Training and Technical Assistance Center.  
*(Yes, WSSCA is specifically named in the legislation)*
  - Compiling school blueprints and GIS maps along with the Dept of Administration.
  - Offering training to school staff on school safety offered by DOJ or a contracted party.
- Requires schools to submit specific information to the Office of School Safety:
    - - Blueprints of each school and facility to the Office of School Safety and local law enforcement by July 1, 2018.
      - By January 1, 2019:
        - - A copy of each school's safety plan.
          - The dates of required annual safety drills held the previous year.
          - Assurance that the school board or governing body has reviewed a written evaluation of safety drills.
          - Date(s) of most recent school training on school safety and the number of attendees.
          - Date(s) of most recent consultation between school board/governing body regarding required on-site safety assessments.
- School Safety Grants for improving school safety to fund certain eligible expenditures:
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- Compliance with DOJ model practices for school safety.
  - School safety training.
  - Safety-related upgrades to facilities.
  - Compliance with requirements to submit school blueprints.
- Requirements to submit grant applications:
    - - A school safety plan.
      - Blueprints as described previously.
      - Proposed plan for expenditures.
- School Safety Plan Requirements:
    - - Required for every individual school in district / organization.
      - Created with active participation of law enforcement, fire service, administration, staff, pupil services, and mental health professionals.
      - Reviewed, updated, and endorsed by board / governing body every three years.
      - Prohibition on requiring school employees to contact administration or other officials before calling “911,” or contacting law enforcement directly to report violence, threats, or suspicious activities.

Executive Director  
Edward L. Dorff  
Green Bay

Assistant Executive  
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Stacy Washington  
Green Bay

- On-site assessments required of each school building, site, athletic field, playground, and facility regularly occupied by students prior to creating and / or updating school safety plans.
- Requires schools to conduct annual drills in the proper responses to a school violence event in accordance with the school's safety plan. A written evaluation of the drill is to be submitted to and reviewed by the board / governing body within 30 days of the drill.
- Mandatory reporting of school violence and threats. Similar to the requirement to report child abuse and neglect. Basically, anyone already identified as a mandatory reporter must inform law enforcement of any good faith belief that there is a serious threat of violence to a student, employee or the public that has been made anyone seen in the course of their professional duties.

Good luck with your planning. Let us know how WSSCA can help.

## Secondary Locking Devices

### The Definitive Answer from DSPTS



**Question:** Are door security or barricade devices, that are separate devices from the typical door hardware and latching mechanism, permitted to be used to secure doors in public buildings and places of employment, particularly classrooms in educational occupancies, during lockdown events?

**Answer:** No. SPS 361.03(13), SPS 314.001(1), NFPA 1 s. 14.4.1, IBC s.1008.1.9

While there are many innovative devices currently on the market for securing doors, if they operate independently of the typical door hardware and latch, they are likely not permitted by Wisconsin Building and Fire Codes. SPS 361.03(13) requires existing public buildings and places of employment to be maintained in compliance with the building code provisions that applied when the building was constructed or altered except when required by subsequent editions of the building code.

The building code has a long history of consistent requirements for exit or exit access door hardware.

For example, the 1970 Wisconsin Commercial Building Code contained the following requirement in s. 51.15(3) for door hardware. "A standard exit door shall have such fastenings or hardware that it can be opened from the inside without using a key, by pushing against a single bar or plate, or turning a single knob or handle. It shall not be barred or bolted at any time while the building is occupied."

The current Wisconsin Commercial Building Code which adopts the 2009 edition of the International Building Code requires the following in s. 1008.1.9.5, "The unlatching of any door or leaf shall not require more than one operation." and in s. 1008.1.9, "Except as specifically permitted by this section egress doors shall be readily openable from the egress side without the use of a key or special knowledge or effort."

The Wisconsin Fire Prevention Code, SPS 314, contains requirements for the operation, maintenance, and use of public buildings and places of employment. SPS 314.001(1) adopts the National Fire Protection Association, NFPA 1, Fire Code 2012 edition. NFPA 1 s. 14.4.1 requires "Means of egress shall be continuously maintained free of all obstructions or impediments to full instant use in the case of fire or other emergency. "There are many unintended consequences that might occur from barricading egress doors serving occupied rooms and therefore such devices are generally prohibited by Wisconsin Building and Fire Prevention Codes. There are code compliant door hardware solutions, such as a classroom security lockset, that will allow egress doors to be locked from the classroom side, while at the same time allowing egress through normal operation of the door hardware on the classroom side, which will automatically release the latch and any accompanying dead bolt in a single operation.

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School Safety Certification  
2017 Course Schedule

Modules	Course Titles	Dates	Location
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3 & 8	Environmental, Safety & Health Compliance and School Threat & Vulnerability Assessment	April 25, 2018	Madison, WI
4 & 8	Playground Maintenance and Supervision, Bloodborne Pathogens, Ergonomics, Safety codes regarding drills, fire extinguishers and evacuations & School Threat and Vulnerability Assessment	October 2018	Madison, WI
5 & 9	Sound Risk Management Practices & School Post Incident Recovery and Planning	February 2019	Wisconsin Dells, WI
6 & 10	General Aspects of Crisis and Emergency Management for Schools & Putting it all together, Emergency Response Table Top and Exercise Practicum	April 2019	Madison, WI

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