



## COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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**ZACHARY PARKER**  
COUNCILMEMBER, WARD 5

**COMMITTEE MEMBER**  
Facilities and Family Services  
Health  
Hospital and Health Equity  
Housing  
Transportation and the Environment

March 24, 2023

Nyasha Smith, Secretary  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Secretary Smith,

Today, I am introducing the School Safety Enhancement Amendment Act of 2023. Please find enclosed a signed copy of the legislation, which is co-introduced by Councilmembers Anita Bonds, Janeese Lewis George, Kenyan R. McDuffie, Brianne K. Nadeau, and Robert C. White, Jr.

This legislation would enhance school safety by:

- Directing the Office of the State Superintendent for Education (OSSE) to convene stakeholders—including key education agencies and student advocates—to create guidelines that would be used to review and enhance district school safety plans;
- Providing schools additional resources for school safety by establishing a new position of School Safety Director at every school in the District, as well as an additional new position—School Safety Assistant Director—at every high school;
- Establishing procedures for school safety teams to coordinate with MPD, including by recognizing and delineating circumstances in which police involvement is appropriate, such as when a school reports a crime of violence, dangerous crime, use or possession of a firearm or destructive device on school campus or at a school event, a parental kidnapping, or the violation of a restraining order; and
- Requiring the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice and the Deputy Mayor for Education to create a more robust system for emergency response agencies to share critical information about ongoing safety incidents with schools and child development centers.

I understand that there is an ongoing debate about the future of School Resource Officers (SROs) in District schools. This legislation does not amend current law regarding SROs; instead, it

focuses on delivering to school leaders what they have long requested: new resources to prevent and respond to school safety incidents. Whether or not we move forward with the ongoing drawdown of SROs, this legislation is necessary.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the council and in the executive to meeting the safety needs of our school communities, reducing the number of District students who become justice involved, and improving our ability to respond in a coordinated and thoughtful manner to safety incidents at District schools.

Please contact my Deputy Chief of Staff, Conor Shaw, at [cshaw@dccouncil.gov](mailto:cshaw@dccouncil.gov) if you have any questions about this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zachary Parker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "Z".

Zachary Parker  
Ward 5 Councilmember

1 *Janeese Lewis George*

2  
3 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

*Zachary Parker*

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6 Councilmember Zachary Parker

7 *Brianne K. Nadeau*

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9 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

*K. R. McDuffie*

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11 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

12 *R. C. White, Jr.*

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14 Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

*A. Bonds*

15  
16 Councilmember Anita Bonds

17  
18 A BILL

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22 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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27 To enhance school safety in the District of Columbia by providing District schools with new full-  
28 time school safety staff; supporting that staff with appropriate training to prevent and  
29 respond to safety incidents; and improving the ability of schools and child education  
30 centers to receive timely information about ongoing emergencies from law enforcement  
31 and emergency response agencies.

32  
33 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
34 act may be cited as the “School Safety Enhancement Amendment Act of 2023.”

35 **TITLE I. SCHOOL SAFETY COORDINATION**

36 Sec. 101. Definitions.

37 For purposes of this title, the term:

38 (1) “Destructive device” shall have the same meaning as provided in section  
39 101(7) of the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975, effective September 24, 1976 (D.C.  
40 Law 1-85; D.C. Official Code § 7-2501.01(7)).

41 (2) “Circumstances appropriate for police involvement” means:

42 (A) A report of a “crime of violence” as that term is defined in D.C.  
43 Official Code § 23-1331(4);

44 (B) A report of a “dangerous crime” as that term is defined in D.C.  
45 Official Code § 23-1331(3);

46 (C) A report of a “parental kidnapping” pursuant to D.C. Official Code §  
47 16-1022;

48 (D) The use or possession of a firearm or destructive device on school  
49 property or at a school event;

50 (E) A credible threat to commit a crime of violence, a dangerous crime, or  
51 an act of parental kidnapping on school property or at a school event; or

52 (F) The presence of a person on school property or at a school event who  
53 is subject to:

54 (i) A temporary protection order or civil protection order;

55 (ii) A temporary or final anti-stalking order; or

56 (iii) An extreme risk protection order issued pursuant to Title X of  
57 the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975, effective May 10, 2019 (D.C. Law 22-314; D.C.  
58 Official Code § 7-2510.01 *et seq.*).

59 (G) any other circumstance identified in the school safety coordination  
60 guidelines.

61 (3) “Exclusion” shall have the same meaning as provided in section 201(6) of the  
62 Attendance Accountability Amendment Act of 2013, effective August 25, 2018 (D.C. Law 22-  
63 157; D.C. Official Code § 38-236.01(6)).

64 (4) “Firearm” shall have the same meaning as provided in section 101(9) of the  
65 Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975, effective September 24, 1976 (D.C. Law 1-85; D.C.  
66 Official Code § 7-2501.01(9)).

67 (5) “Local education agency” shall have the same meaning as provided in section  
68 201(11) of the Attendance Accountability Amendment Act of 2013, effective August 25, 2018  
69 (D.C. Law 22-157; D.C. Official Code § 38-236.01(11)).

70 (6) “Racial equity” means the elimination of racial disparities such that race no  
71 longer predicts opportunities, outcomes, or the distribution of resources for residents of the  
72 District, particularly for persons of color and Black residents;

73 (7) “School safety employee” means a school employee who is assigned to the  
74 school safety team and who is tasked with responding to safety incidents within the school  
75 community. A school safety employee may provide care, counseling, coaching, relationship  
76 building, violence interruption and prevention, de-escalation and mediation services. A school  
77 safety employee shall not be a librarian or teacher with classroom, special education, or similar  
78 responsibilities.

79 (8) “School safety assistant director” means a school employee whose primary  
80 role and responsibility is the safety of students and educators at a District high school. A school  
81 safety director shall not be a security guard, school resource officer, or law enforcement officer.  
82 A school safety assistant director shall report to the school safety director.

83 (9) “School safety director” means a school employee whose primary role and  
84 responsibility is the safety of students and educators at a District school. A school safety director  
85 shall not be a security guard, school resource officer, or law enforcement officer.

86 (10) “School safety coordination guidelines” means the guidelines established  
87 pursuant to section 103.

88 (11) “School safety team” means the school safety director and school safety  
89 employees at a school and includes, in the case of a high school, the assistant school safety  
90 director. The term shall not include security guards, school resources officers, or law  
91 enforcement officers.

92 (12) “Trauma informed services” means a service delivery approach that  
93 recognizes and responds to the impacts of trauma with evidence-based supports and intervention,  
94 emphasizes physical, psychological, and emotional safety for both providers of services and  
95 survivors of trauma, and creates opportunities for survivors of trauma to rebuild a sense of  
96 healing and empowerment.

97 (13) “Law enforcement officer” means:

98 (A) An officer or member of the Metropolitan Police Department  
99 (“MPD”) or of any other police force operating in the District;

100 (B) An investigative officer or agent of the United States, including an  
101 officer or agent of the Department of Homeland Security;

102 (C) An on-duty civilian employee of the MPD;

103 (D) An on-duty licensed special police officer;

104 (E) An on-duty licensed campus police officer;

105 (F) An on-duty employee of the Department of Corrections or Department  
106 of Youth Rehabilitation Services; or

107 (G) An on-duty employee of the Court Services and Offender Supervision  
108 Agency, Pretrial Services Agency, or Family Court Social Services Division.

109 (14) “Restorative justice” means the use of reconciliation to build community,  
110 manage conflict, and resolve tensions by repairing the harm caused by individuals toward  
111 another and restoring their relationships.

112 (15) “Transformative justice” means a political framework and approach for  
113 responding to violence, harm, and abuse. At its most basic, it seeks to respond to violence  
114 without creating more violence and/or engaging in harm reduction to lessen the violence.

115 Sec. 102. School safety committee.

116 (a) The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (“OSSE”) shall establish a school  
117 safety committee to develop evidence-based guidelines for re-envisioning school safety in the  
118 District’s public and public charter schools and implementing the requirements of this act.

119 (b) The school safety committee shall be comprised of:

120 (1) A representative designated by the Deputy Mayor for Education;

121 (2) A representative designated by the State Board of Education;

122 (3) A representative designated by the Chancellor of the District of Columbia  
123 Public Schools;

124 (4) A representative designated by the Public Charter School Board;

125 (5) A representative designated by the Washington Teachers’ Union;

126 (6) A representative designated by the Office of the Ombudsman for Public  
127 Education;

128 (7) A representative designated by the Office of the Student Advocate;  
129 (8) Six representatives designated by the Chair of the Council committee with

130 jurisdiction over OSSE as follows:

131 (A) Four youth representatives affiliated with a student-led advocacy  
132 organization who shall represent students living in each geographic quadrant in the District;

133 (B) One representative who shall be affiliated with a parent-led advocacy  
134 organization; and

135 (C) One representative who shall be affiliated with an organization with  
136 expertise relating to mental or behavioral health.

137 (c) The school safety committee shall be staffed by at least one full-time OSSE employee  
138 and shall be charged with convening, managing, facilitating, and helping to execute the work of  
139 the committee.

140 (d) OSSE may reconvene the school safety committee to consider and develop revisions  
141 to the school safety coordination guidelines established pursuant to section 103.

142 Sec. 103. School safety coordination guidelines.

143 (a) By July 15, 2023, OSSE and the school safety committee shall promulgate school  
144 safety coordination guidelines that shall establish requirements for a school safety plan,  
145 including:

146 (1) A school building security and emergency operations plan;

147 (2) Evidence-based and trauma-informed approaches to achieve school safety that  
148 improve student learning, safety, and wellbeing for students that can be executed by a member of  
149 the school safety team, including:

150 (A) School-wide positive behavior interventions and supports;

151 (B) Restorative justice programs and interventions;

152 (C) Violence interruption;

153 (D) Mediation; and

154 (E) Social and emotional learning programs.

155 (3) Methods of prevention and intervention that the school safety teams may  
156 employ to minimize and respond to school safety incidents;

157 (4) Recommended approaches to student discipline that minimize reliance on  
158 exclusion from school and law enforce response to student behavior, are aimed at addressing the  
159 root causes of behavioral issues, and that ensure that students have access to appropriate mental  
160 health, counseling, nutrition, and other services;

161 (5) Procedures for contacting and engaging with the Metropolitan Police  
162 Department in circumstances appropriate for police involvement that ensure the physical safety,  
163 mental health, and well-being of all students and school employees;

164 (6) Procedures for enhancing campus security without compromising the privacy  
165 of students, including appropriate uses of security cameras and related technology to monitor and  
166 respond to campus threats;

167 (7) Descriptions of the roles, responsibilities, and hiring qualifications of a school  
168 safety director, a school safety assistant director, and a school safety employee as well as  
169 standards for evaluating the performance of all individuals serving on a school safety team; and

170 (8) Policies and practices that promote racial equity and ensure equal access to  
171 safe learning environments;

172 (9) Best practices for engaging students and parents in each school community  
173 about safety needs, a school’s response to an incident handled by a school safety team, and a  
174 school’s response to a circumstance appropriate for police involvement;

175 (10) Requirements for reporting safety incidents to OSSE;

176 (11) Protocols for increasing school and community safety during and after school  
177 dismissal, including plans and personnel to address traffic safety and pick-up procedures in  
178 coordination with the safe routes to school division of the District Department of Transportation  
179 and improvements needed to safe passage programming affiliated with a local education agency.

180 (b) The school safety committee shall consult with the following District agencies to  
181 establish guidelines relating to school building security, traffic safety plans, pickup and dismissal  
182 safety, emergency operations plans, and procedures for circumstances appropriate for police  
183 involvement:

184 (1) Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice;

185 (2) Metropolitan Police Department;

186 (3) Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency;

187 (4) Department of Health;

188 (5) Department of Behavioral Health; and

189 (6) Department of Transportation.

190 (c) OSSE may identify, in writing, material deficiencies with a local education agency’s  
191 school safety plan by referencing specific aspects of the school safety coordination guidelines  
192 that have not been adequately implemented. OSSE shall notify the Mayor, the Chair of the  
193 Council, and the Chair of the Council committee with jurisdiction over OSSE if a local education  
194 agency fails to cure a materially deficient school safety plan within 60 calendar days.

195           Sec. 104. School safety plans.

196           (a) By August 15, 2023, each local education agency shall develop a school safety plan in  
197 coordination with each constituent school and in coordination with each school’s educators,  
198 students, and parents by August 15, 2023. Each school safety plan shall meet the requirements of  
199 the school safety coordination guidelines.

200           (b) Within 60 calendar days of any update to the school safety coordination guidelines, a  
201 local education agency shall make conforming updates to its school safety plan.

202           (c) A local education agency shall update a School Safety Plan within 60 calendar days of  
203 receiving notice of a material deficiency from OSSE.

204           (d) A local education agency shall implement the school safety plan in their constituent  
205 schools. Implementation shall be coordinated with each constituent school.

206           (e) A local education agency and its constituent schools shall post, advertise, and hire  
207 school safety directors for each campus after creating a school safety plan. A local education and  
208 its constituent high schools shall post, advertise, and hire school safety assistant directors for  
209 each campus after creating a school safety plan. A local education agency and its constituent  
210 schools may designate additional personnel as school safety employees who shall serve on the  
211 school safety team.

212           (f) Within 10 calendar days of establishing or modifying a school safety plan, a local  
213 education agency shall transmit an electronic copy of its school safety plan to OSSE.

214           (g) Each local education agency shall be responsible for school safety team members  
215 within their schools and shall:

216 (1) Be responsible for issuing any Requests for Proposals (“RFPs”) for any school  
217 safety-related contracts as well as for awarding, executing, administering, and funding any  
218 contracts resulting from an RFP issued under this title;

219 (2) Oversee the hiring or contracting of school safety directors and school safety  
220 assistant directors and the identification of other members of the school safety team;

221 (3) Provide ongoing professional development plans and support for school safety  
222 directors, school safety assistant directors, school safety employees, their supervisors, and other  
223 on-site personnel to ensure they are equipped with appropriate training and resources to fulfill  
224 their responsibilities, including:

225 (A) Child and adolescent development;

226 (B) Cultural and linguistic competency in the cultures reflected in a local  
227 education agency’s population;

228 (C) Effective communication skills;

229 (D) Behavior management;

230 (E) Conflict resolution, including restorative and transformative justice  
231 practices;

232 (F) De-escalation techniques;

233 (G) Behavioral health issues for youth and families;

234 (H) Child sexual abuse prevention, identification, and response;

235 (I) Availability of social services and community resources, including  
236 mutual aid, for youth;

237 (J) District laws and regulations;

238 (K) Constitutional standards for searches and seizures conducted by  
239 school personnel on school grounds;

240 (L) Violence interruption and prevention, including gang and crew  
241 dynamics;

242 (M) Childhood trauma and trauma-responsive care; and

243 (N) Non-discrimination related to protected classes established under  
244 section 241 of the District Human Rights Act of 1977 (D.C. Official Code § 2–1402.41).

245 (4) Conduct performance reviews for school safety directors, school safety  
246 assistant directors and administer disciplinary actions, including suspension and termination.

247 **TITLE II. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS**

248 Sec. 201. Section 2401(b)(3) of the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995  
249 (110 Stat. 1321; D.C. Official Code § 38-1804.01(b)(3)), is amended by adding a new  
250 subparagraph (C-1) to read as follows:

251 “(C-1) **Adjustment for School Safety Coordination Plan.** –

252 Notwithstanding paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Mayor and the Council, in consultation  
253 with the State Board of Education and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, shall  
254 adjust the amount of the annual payment under paragraph (1) of this subsection to ensure that  
255 each District of Columbia Public School and public charter school can implement a school safety  
256 plan as provided for in Title I of the School Safety Enhancement Amendment Act of 2023, as  
257 introduced on March 24, 2023 (Bill 25-\_\_\_).”.

258 Sec. 202. Section 3022(c) of the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and  
259 Justice Establishment Act of 2011, effective September 14, 2011 (D.C. Law 19-21; D.C. Official  
260 Code § 1-301.191(c)), is amended as follows:

261 (a) Paragraph (6)(G)(viii) is amended by striking the phrase “; and” and inserting a  
262 semicolon in its place.

263 (b) Paragraph (7) is amended by striking the period and inserting a semicolon in its  
264 place.

265 (c) New paragraphs (8) and (9) are added to read as follows:

266 “(8)(A) By September 1, 2023, establish a single point of contact or emergency  
267 notification system to ensure that vital information about public safety emergencies is shared  
268 with impacted schools and child development centers in a timely and reliable manner.

269 “(B) For the purposes of this paragraph, a public safety emergency  
270 include:

271 “(i) The discharge of a firearm or destructive device on or near a  
272 school or child development facility;

273 “(ii) The discovery of a firearm or destructive device on or near a  
274 school or child development facility;

275 “(iii) A fire or medical emergency occurring on or near a school or  
276 child development facility;

277 “(iv) A homeland security matter or emergency city operation that  
278 may impact a school or child development center’s operations;

279 (v) A report of a “parental kidnapping” pursuant to D.C. Official  
280 Code § 16-1022; and

281 “(vi) A behavioral health crisis that presents a risk to a school or  
282 child development facility.

283                   “(9) By September 1, 2023, establish in coordination with the Deputy Mayor for  
284 Education guidelines for the Metropolitan Police Department, the Homeland Security and  
285 Emergency Management Agency, the Office of Unified Communications, and the Fire and  
286 Emergency Medical Service Department to share timely and reliable information about ongoing  
287 emergencies with:

288                                 “(A) A principal of a District of Columbia Public School, Public Charter  
289 School, or private educational facility;

290                                 “(B) An individual designated as a school safety director, school safety  
291 assistant director, or school safety employee established pursuant to Title I of the School Safety  
292 Enhancement Amendment Act of 2023, as introduced on March 24, 2023 (Bill 25-\_\_\_); or

293                                 “(C) A child development center program director or in-home care owner  
294 or operator.

295                   Sec. 203. Section 202(a)(2) of the Attendance Accountability Amendment Act of 2013,  
296 effective June 23, 2015 (D.C. Law 21-12; D.C. Official Code § 38-236.09), is amended as  
297 follows:

298                   (a) Subparagraph (H) is amended to read as follows:

299                                 “(H) A description of the conduct that led to or reasoning behind each  
300 suspension, involuntary dismissal, emergency removal, disciplinary unenrollment, voluntary  
301 withdrawal or transfer, referral to law enforcement, calls for service to law enforcement,  
302 involvement of law enforcement for any reason, school-based arrest, recovery of weapons,  
303 recovery of contraband, recovery of controlled dangerous substance, and, for students with  
304 disabilities, change in placement;”.

305                   (b) New subparagraphs (I) and (J) are added to read as follows:

306                   “(I) The date, time, duration, and details of incidents in which law  
307 enforcement presence occurred or was requested; and

308                   “(J) The date, time, duration, and details of incidents and resolutions  
309 surrounding each incident of a school lockdown; and”

310 **TITLE III. FISCAL IMPACT; EFFECTIVE DATE**

311           Sec. 301. Fiscal impact statement.

312           The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal  
313 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,  
314 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

315           Sec. 302. Effective date.

316           This act shall take effect after approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
317 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
318 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
319 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
320 Columbia Register.