



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

December 30, 2021

RE: *Annual Report on School Safety Infrastructure Criteria, Pursuant to C.G.S. § 20-292r*

Dear Commissioner Rovella, Commissioner Russell-Tucker, Members of the School Building Projects Advisory Council, and the Chairs, Vice Chairs, Ranking Members, and Distinguished Members of the Public Safety and Education Committees:

I am writing to provide you with the annual report on the school safety infrastructure criteria ("Criteria"), required by section 10-292r of the Connecticut General Statutes.

C.G.S. section 10-292r establishes the School Safety Infrastructure Council ("Council") and provides for the development and annual review of the Criteria. The Council first created the Criteria in 2015, and included them as Appendix A to the *Report of the School Safety Infrastructure Council*, which can be found on the DAS website here: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DAS/Communications/Communications-List-Docs/Special-Reports/SSIC-Report-Nov-19-2015.pdf>.

The Council has not made any changes to the Criteria since that report was first issued, and likewise did not make any changes to the Criteria in 2021. For this reason, the Criteria listed in Appendix A of the *Report of the School Safety Infrastructure Council* remain in effect.

As Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services, Division of Real Estate and Construction Services, and Interim Director of the Office of School Construction Grants and Review, ensuring that the Criteria are updated is a priority of mine. In the years since the School Safety Infrastructure Criteria were first established, there have been a number of developments in the realm of school safety infrastructure that should be reflected in updated Criteria. In addition, it may be helpful for the Council to provide interpretative guidance on the Criteria's provisions in order to further assist those individuals charged with implementing them.

In order to make the required updates to the Criteria, it is imperative that the Council have a sufficient number of members in order to meet quorum requirements. Currently, five of the eleven seats on the Council are vacant. **I would respectfully request the assistance of this group to ensure that these seats are filled so that the Council can proceed with this important work.**

I look forward to continuing our work together to promote our shared goals of protecting the safety and well-being of Connecticut's children and ensuring that they are able to learn in safe and nurturing school facilities.

Sincerely,  
DocuSigned by:

Noel Petra  
59274C8DC51A41C

Noel Petra  
Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Real Estate and Construction Services  
Department of Administrative Services



**Connecticut General Statutes, Sec. 10-292r. School Safety Infrastructure Council. School safety infrastructure criteria.** (a) There is established a School Safety Infrastructure Council. The council shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of Administrative Services, or the commissioner's designee; (2) the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, or the commissioner's designee; (3) the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee; (4) one appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall be a person with expertise in building security, preferably school building security; (5) one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be a licensed professional engineer who is a structural engineer; (6) one appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be a public school administrator certified by the State Board of Education; (7) one appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a firefighter, emergency medical technician or a paramedic; (8) one appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be a school resource officer; (9) one appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a public school teacher certified by the State Board of Education; and (10) two appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a licensed building official and one of whom shall be a licensed architect. The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall serve as the chairperson of the council. The administrative staff of the Department of Administrative Services shall serve as staff for the council and assist with all ministerial duties.

(b) The School Safety Infrastructure Council shall develop school safety infrastructure criteria for school building projects awarded grants pursuant to this chapter and the school security infrastructure competitive grant program, pursuant to section 84 of public act 13-3\*. Such school safety infrastructure criteria shall conform to industry standards for school building safety infrastructure and shall address areas including, but not be limited to, (1) entryways to school buildings and classrooms, such as, reinforcement of entryways, ballistic glass, solid core doors, double door access, computer-controlled electronic locks, remote locks on all entrance and exits and buzzer systems, (2) the use of cameras throughout the school building and at all entrances and exits, including the use of closed-circuit television monitoring, (3) penetration resistant vestibules, and (4) other security infrastructure improvements and devices as they become industry standards. The council shall meet at least annually to review and update, if necessary, the school safety infrastructure criteria and make such criteria available to local and regional boards of education.

(c) Not later than January 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, the School Safety Infrastructure Council shall submit the school safety infrastructure criteria to the Commissioners of Emergency Services and Public Protection and Education, the School Building Projects Advisory Council, established pursuant to section 10-292q, and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.