



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

WWW.DPI.NC.GOV

1 September 2022

RE: School Risk Management Plan & SY 2021-22 School Safety Grant Program Updates

Dear School Superintendents,

First, please allow me to introduce myself to those who may not know me, I am Karen W. Fairley the executive director of the NC Center for Safer Schools (CFSS). Next, let me say as we start a new school year, I look forward to supporting your district, as you continue to provide a safer school environment conducive for learning for the students of North Carolina. We have had many challenges in the last few years, but North Carolinians are resilient, and we are proactive.

Since starting my tenure in February 2021 as the executive director of CFSS, I have worked hard to secure as many resources as possible to support schools. Some of our accomplishments working hand in hand with the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and under the leadership of NC DPI includes securing a high school building to conduct interactive trainings, securing more than \$40M in school safety grants, lowering the match ratio for low wealth districts to secure SROs, and implementing threat assessment team trainings in schools, to name a few.

Now I come to you for your assistance, pursuant to GS 115C-105.49A and GS 115C-105.54, it is required that schematic and comprehensive school safety plans be submitted into the NC Emergency Management School Risk and Response Management System, a law enacted in 2015. I have been asked to report to legislators in October 2022 the status of public-school units in compliance with this law...with that being said, I am respectfully requesting that all plans be submitted by 30 September 2022, allowing me time to prepare my report.

If technical assistance is needed, the CFSS in conjunction with NCEM will be hosting virtual trainings and technical assistance sessions. A list of dates and times for these sessions will be sent out to principals and district safety directors. As this may seem like a short deadline, the CFSS has sent out numerous communiques since August 2021 indicating a need for plans to be submitted, along with numerous training/technical assistance opportunities.

CENTER FOR SAFER SCHOOLS

Karen W. Fairley, *Executive Director* | karen.fairley@dpi.nc.gov
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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Next, I was advised this week that the General Assembly released language permitting DPI to carry forward unexpended nonrecurring funds that were included in the FY 2022 budget passed in November 2021. DPI was able to carry forward the unexpended nonrecurring funds from last year, which includes the School Safety Grant funding. Thus, DPI was able to include the unexpended School Safety Grant funds in its carryforward request to OSBM, which has now been approved. As such, PSUs that had remaining PRC 039 funds are now able to utilize them.

Finally, thank you for your support in advance and if you have any questions please do not' hesitate to contact me, as we will do what we can to continue to support you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen".

Karen W. Fairley, JD
Executive Director

cc: Catherine Truitt, State Superintendent
Robert Taylor, Deputy Superintendent of District & School Support Services