

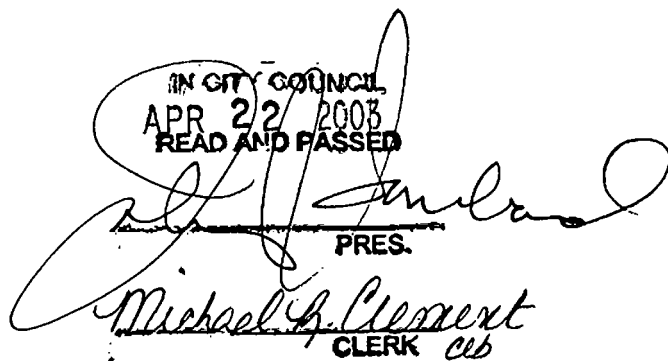
RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 328

Approved May 2, 2003

CITY PERMANENT
RECORDS
CITY CLERK
CITY CLERK

RESOLVED, That the City Council Endorses and Urges
Passage by the General Assembly of 2003-H 5919 An Act Relating
to Education – Health and Safety of Pupils.

IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 22 2003
READ AND PASSED

PRES.
Michael H. Clement
CLERK *ceb*

APPROVED

MAYOR 5/2/03

IN CITY COUNCIL
MAR 20 2003
FIRST READING
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON
STATE LEGISLATION

Michael R. Clement CLERK

Special
THE COMMITTEE ON
State Legislation
Recommendation - Approved
Ann M. Hester
4-7-03 CLERK

Council President Lombardi; Councilwoman Williams & Councilman Giggi (By Request)

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2003

03-H 5919

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Representatives Smith, Giannini, Lima, Handy, and Aubin

Date Introduced: February 12, 2003

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-21-24 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-21 entitled "Health
2 and Safety of Pupils" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 16-21-24. Requirements of school safety plans, school emergency response plans,
4 and school crisis response plans. -- (a) School safety plans, as required by this chapter, shall
5 include and address, but not to be limited to, the following policies and procedures:

6 (1) Policies and procedures for responding to violence by students, teachers, other school
7 personnel as well as visitors to the school;

8 (2) Policies and procedures for responding to acts of violence by students, teachers, other
9 school personnel and visitors to the school;

10 (3) Appropriate prevention and intervention strategies which are based on data to target
11 priority needs and which make use of effective actions based on currently accepted best practice;

12 (4) Collaborative arrangements with state and local law enforcement officials, designed
13 to ensure that school safety officers and other security personnel are adequately trained, including
14 being trained to de-escalate potentially violent situations, and are effectively and fairly recruited;

15 (5) Policies and procedures for contacting appropriate law enforcement officials and
16 EMS/Fire, in the event of a violent incident;

17 (6) Policies and procedures for notification and activation of the school crisis response
18 team;

19 (7) Policies and procedures for contacting parents, guardians, or persons in parental

1 relation to the students of the city, town, or region in the event of a violent incident;

2 (8) Policies and procedures relating to school building security, including where
3 appropriate the use of school safety officers and/or security devices or procedures;

4 (9) Policies and procedures for the dissemination of informative materials regarding the
5 early detection of potentially violent behaviors, including but not limited to, the identification of
6 family, community, and environmental factors, to teachers, administrators, school personnel.
7 persons in parental relation to students of the city, town, or region students and other persons
8 deemed appropriate to receive that information;

9 (10) Policies and procedures for annual school safety training and a review of the school
10 crisis response plan for staff and students;

11 (11) Protocols for responding to bomb threats, hostage-takings, intrusions, and
12 kidnappings;

13 (12) Strategies for improving communication among students and between students and
14 staff and reporting of potentially violent incidents, such as the establishment of youth-run
15 programs, peer mediation, conflict resolution, creating a forum or designating a mentor for
16 students concerned with bullying or violence. and establishing anonymous reporting mechanisms
17 for school violence; and

18 (13) A description of the duties of hall monitors and any other school safety personnel.
19 including the school crisis response team, and the training requirements of all personnel acting in
20 a school security capacity; and

21 (14) The policy shall specifically prohibit harassment, intimidation and bullying by
22 students at school and address prevention of and education about such behavior.

23 (b) School safety plans, as required by this chapter, shall further include school
24 emergency response plans specific to each school building contained within each city, town, or
25 regional school district. School emergency response plans shall include, and address, but not be
26 limited to, the following elements:

27 (1) Policies and procedures for the safe evacuation of students, teachers, and other school
28 personnel as well as visitors to the school in the event of a serious violent incident or other
29 emergency, which shall include evacuation routes and shelter sites and procedures for addressing
30 medical needs, transportation, and emergency notification to persons in parental relation to a
31 student. For purposes of this subdivision, "serious violent incident" means an incident of violent
32 criminal conduct that is, or appears to be, life threatening and warrants the evacuation of students
33 and/or staff;

34 (2) Designation of an emergency response team comprised of school personnel, local law

1 enforcement officials, and representatives from local regional and/or state emergency response
2 agencies, other appropriate incident response teams including a school crisis response team, and a
3 post-incident response team that includes appropriate school personnel, medical personnel,
4 mental health counselors, and others who can assist the school community in coping with the
5 aftermath of a violent incident;

6 (3) Procedures for assuring that crisis response and law enforcement officials have
7 access to floor plans, blueprints, schematics, or other maps of the school interior and school
8 grounds, and road maps of the immediate surrounding area;

9 (4) Establishment of internal and external communication systems in emergencies;

10 (5) Definition of the chain of command in a manner consistent with the national
11 interagency incident management system/incident command system;

12 (6) Procedures for review and the conduct of drills and other exercises to test
13 components of the emergency response plan; and

14 (7) Policies and procedures for securing and restricting access to the crime scene in order
15 to preserve evidence in cases of violent crimes on school property.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC01578
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03-H 5919

EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

1 This act would require schools to adopt policies that prohibit harassment, intimidation
2 and bullying by students at school.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC01578
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RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 188

Approved May 3, 2001

WHEREAS, School violence ending in the tragic death of young people is increasingly prominent nationwide, and

WHEREAS, Many experts believe a cause of school violence to be a reaction to bullying, and

WHEREAS, Several states, such as Colorado, Georgia, New Hampshire and Washington are enacting, or have enacted, legislation that requires local school districts to establish programs that address bullying, and

WHEREAS, Members of the Rhode Island General Assembly are considering sponsoring similar legislation, and

WHEREAS, The Providence School Department does not have a cohesive, structured and unified district-wide approach to address bullying, nor a formal anti-violence initiative or program in place, and

WHEREAS, The safety and protection of our students is of the utmost importance, and

WHEREAS, All our students have the need and right to attend a learning environment which is free from bullying, harassment and intimidation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the Providence City Council do hereby request that the Superintendent of the Providence School Department, along with the Chairperson and Members of the Providence School Board:

1. Assess the current anti-violence programs utilized by the various Providence schools.
2. Investigate and study programs used by other school districts nationwide that promote the prevention of bullying, harassment and intimidation.
3. Devise a district-wide program that will address the above-mentioned issues and includes teacher training and student curriculum.
4. Create a structured implementation plan and evaluation tool.

5.10.2001 08:50

Proposal seeks to curtail bullying

- The City Council president wants school officials to look at new approaches to preventing school violence.

BY KAREN A. DAVIS

Journal Staff Writer

PROVIDENCE – A proposal by City Council President John J. Lombardi urges school officials to investigate new approaches to preventing school violence, including programs designed to curtail bullying, harassment and intimidation.

The resolution, introduced by Lombardi at last week's council meeting, requests that Schools Supt. Diana Lam and members of the School Board initiate an "anti-bullying" violence-prevention program in local schools.

The proposal was prompted by a recent wave of school violence "ending in the tragic death of young people" nationwide, according to the resolution.

Noting that experts believe one of the causes of school violence to be a reaction to bullying, the resolution asks local school officials to review legislation considered by other states.

Lombardi said he believes the out-of-state legislation could be used as a model for "a structured, district-wide approach" to handle bullying.

The resolution notes the city school district does not have a cohesive, structured and unified approach to address bullying, nor does it have "a formal anti-violence initiative" in place.

"It's just another way of being proactive," Lombardi said of the resolution yesterday.

Even though city schools have not experienced the kinds of school violence seen in California and Colorado, having a program in place would serve to promote student safety, Lombardi said.

Several members of the state General Assembly are also considering sponsoring similar legislation to implement statewide, according to the resolution. Lombardi said state Rep. Anastasia Williams, D-Providence, has a copy of the council's proposed resolution.

The states that have violence-prevention legislation to be reviewed by the council are Colorado, Georgia, New Hampshire and Colorado.

Some initiatives are applied only to students in grades 6 through 12. The Georgia program establishes a "comprehensive character education program" for grades kindergarten through 12. New Hampshire's statutes concludes that "all pupils have the right to attend public schools that are safe, secure and peaceful."

Lombardi said he envisions the local ordinance will have bits and pieces of the various models incorporated in its final product.

His resolution asks Lam and the School Board to assess current anti-violence programs occurring at several schools, study other prevention programs being implemented in other districts and come up with a district-wide program, complete with teacher training and student curriculum.

The council resolution was referred to the council ordinance committee, which will review it, make recommendations and send it back to the entire council for final consideration.

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