The California Education Code (sections 32280-32288) outlines the requirements of all public school districts operating any schools (including charter schools) serving grades kindergarten through 12, inclusive, to write and develop a Comprehensive School Safety Plan (CSSP) that include strategies aimed at the prevention of, and education about, potential incidents involving crime and violence on the school campus.

For school districts such as FUESD with an enrollment of 2,501 and more students, each school in the district must have a completed Safe School Plan in place that is reviewed, updated, and approved annually.

As of fall 2019, CSSPs are required to assess the current status of school crime committed on school campuses and at school-related functions and identify appropriate strategies and programs that will provide or maintain a high level of school safety and address the school’s procedures for complying with existing laws related to school safety, which shall include, at a minimum, the development of all of the following TEN elements:

(A) Child abuse reporting  
(B) Emergency/disaster preparedness (crisis response plan)  
(C) School suspension/expulsion policies  
(D) Procedures to notify teachers of dangerous pupils  
(E) Discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying policies  
(F) School-wide dress code  
(G) Safe ingress and egress  
(H) Maintaining a safe and orderly environment  
(I) Rules and procedures on school discipline  
(j) Tactical responses to criminal incidents

Development

School Safety Plans must be developed by a School Site Council (SSC) or Safety Planning Committee, comprised of a minimum of the school principal (or designee), certificated staff, classified staff, and a parent(s) of a current student(s).

The plan must also be developed in consultation with law enforcement, a fire agency, and other first responders.

Timeline and approval

The SSC or Safety Committee must review and update and submit the plan to the District Office for approval before March 1 each year. A public meeting where the public can provide comments/opinions before adoption must be held. The Board shall review the comprehensive school safety plans in order to ensure compliance with state law, Board policy, and administrative regulation. Board approval of the plan shall occur at a regularly scheduled meeting.