

The Safe School Committee Law

Title 70 O.S. § 24-100, Section 487A, of the *School Laws of Oklahoma 2005* states that because of the growing concern of threats of violence in our children's schools, it is the intent of the legislature that local schools and families must work together to address this rising problem by developing safe school committees at each public school site no later than October 1, 1996, and every year thereafter. These Safe School Committees are to be composed of at least six (6) members.

“The Safe School Committee shall be composed of an equal number of teachers, parents of the children affected and students. The Safe School Committee shall study and make recommendations to the principal regarding: unsafe conditions, possible strategies for students to avoid harm at school, student victimization, crime prevention, school violence, and other issues which prohibit the maintenance of a safe school.”

For schools to be safe places, safety in communities and in families needs to be addressed. Schools are not inherently unsafe. Rather, schools are places where large numbers of young people congregate for learning and socializing, and where they may exhibit and seek solutions for problems that they bring to school from their homes and communities. It is for this reason administrators may want to expand the Safe School Committee to involve key community leaders to help address school safety in the context of a safer community. It is suggested that a school nurse, counselor, custodian, bus driver, and various community leaders also be included in your Safe School Committee membership.

Senate Bill 1627, signed by Governor Henry on May 20, 2004, allows a public school to combine the Healthy and Fit School Advisory Committee with its Safe School Committee.