



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

www.dpi.nc.gov

December 21, 2023

Dear Public-School Units,

As you already know, House Bill 605, which was signed into law this year, requires threat assessment teams at all North Carolina public-school units beginning in the 2024-25 school year.

The legislation mandates that the Center for Safer Schools (CFSS) develops guidance by collecting information and best practices from schools with existing threat assessment teams and consulting with relevant state government agencies. The deadline in HB 605 is 31 December 2023.

It is vital that we develop effective guidance and provide quality training opportunities, along with sufficient technical assistance, so PSUs can develop the best threat assessment teams. Therefore, I am writing to inform you that the Center for Safer Schools has officially informed legislative leaders that due to the timing of the certification of the budget and the legislative process, the CFSS will need additional time in preparing the guidance.

We thought this would be best given that the 2023-25 state budget was just certified a few days ago, and part of our plan to provide guidance and training included funding from the budget.

Without a technical correction bill considered in this calendar year, we have indicated to the legislature that to enact this law appropriately, the CFSS will need several additional weeks into the spring semester to bring forward any substantive guidance. Our goal is to get this right, and we know this delay might cause issues with your PSU to comply with your end of the law. So we will advocate for any additional time necessary for you too once the legislature is back in session.

It is our intent to have you prepared as soon as humanly possible, and we are working diligently to meet that goal. If you have questions or concerns, please send an email to cfss@dpi.nc.gov.

Thank you for all you do to help keep everyone in our schools safer.

Sincerely,

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Karen W. Fairley

CENTER FOR SAFER SCHOOLS

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