

## Safe Schools Act – C.R.S. 22-32-109.1

The following is a checklist of the Colorado Safe Schools Act requirements. The checklist only provides brief descriptions of the required elements. CSI schools should review the relevant statute in its entirety to ensure compliance. The checklist is provided for informational purposes only and is not to be construed as legal advice. Legal advice regarding any issue should be obtained from your own attorney.

1.  **Mission Statement**

The school board must adopt a mission statement, which specifically includes making student and staff safety a priority. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(1.5).

2.  **Safe School Plan**

The school board must adopt and implement a safe school plan. Before adoption, relevant stakeholders must be consulted. These stakeholders must include the school accountability committee, parents, teachers, administrators, students, student councils where available, and when appropriate, community partners such as first responders and public and mental health entities. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2).

The Safe School Plan must, at a minimum, include the following:

a.  **Written Code of Conduct**

A conduct and discipline code that is to be uniformly, fairly, and consistently enforced for all students. Copies of the code must be provided to each student upon enrollment at the preschool, elementary, middle and high school levels and shall be posted or kept on file. The school should take reasonable measures to ensure each student is familiar with the code. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(a)(I), [CSI Board Student Conduct Policy](#).

The code must, at a minimum, include the following:

i.  **General Policies on Student Conduct, Safety and Welfare**

C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(a)(I)(A).

- ii.  **Policies and Procedures for Disruptive Students**  
Policies and procedures for dealing with students who cause disruptions on school grounds, in school vehicles, or at school activities or events. The code must specifically address the school's policy for allowing a teacher to remove a disruptive student from the teacher's classroom and must include procedures for developing and implementing a behavior plan, where applicable. The policy must conform with any state and federal due process protections. The policy must also conform with state and federal laws regarding students with disabilities. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2)(a)(I)(B).
- iii.  **Provisions for Suspension or Expulsion Proceedings for Habitually Disruptive Students**  
C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2)(a)(I)(C).
- iv.  **Guidelines for Physical Intervention**  
Policies and procedures for the use of acts of reasonable and appropriate physical intervention or force in dealing with disruptive students. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2)(a)(I)(D).
- v.  **Policies for Disciplinary Actions**  
Policies and procedures for determining the circumstances under and the manner in which disciplinary actions, including suspension and expulsion, are imposed in accordance with state law. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2)(a)(I)(E), [CSI Board Student Conduct Policy](#), [CSI Board Student Code of Conduct Policy](#).
- vi.  **Policy Concerning Gang-Related Activities**  
A policy concerning gang-related activities on school grounds, in school vehicles, and at school activities or sanctioned events. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(1)(2)(a)(I)(F).
- vii.  **Written Prohibition Against Weapons, Drugs, and Other Controlled Substances**  
Written prohibition of students from bringing or possessing dangerous weapons on school grounds, in school vehicles, or at any school activity or sanctioned event and from using drugs or other controlled substances at the same places, activities, or events. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2)(a)(I)(G), [CSI Board Weapons in School Policy](#).

- viii.  **Written Prohibition Against Tobacco**  
Written prohibition of students from using or possessing of tobacco products on school grounds, in school vehicles, or at school activity or sanctioned events. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2)(a)(I)(H).
- ix.  **Search Policy**  
A written policy concerning searches on school grounds, including student lockers. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2)(a)(I)(I).
- x.  **Dress Code Policy**  
A dress code policy that prohibits students from wearing apparel that is deemed disruptive to the classroom or to the maintenance of a safe and orderly school. Dress code policies should not have the effect of discriminating against students on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, ancestry, or need for special education services. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2)(a)(I)(J), C.R.S. 22-30.5-507, [CSI Board Nondiscrimination Policy](#).
- xi.  **Bullying Policy**  
A bullying prevention and education policy that sets forth appropriate disciplinary consequences for students who bully other students as well as for students who retaliate against others who report bullying. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2)(a)(I)(K), C.R.S. 22-30.5-521, [CSI Bullying Prevention and Education Policy](#).
- xii.  **Information on Restraints**  
Information concerning the school's policies for the use of restraint and seclusion on students, including a reference to C.R.S. 26- 20-111 and information about the process for filing a complaint regarding the use of restraint or seclusion. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2)(a)(I)(L), C.R.S. 26-20-111, C.R.S. 22-30.5-528.

b.  **Safe School Reporting Policy**

A policy describing the school's annual reporting of certain required information related to the learning environment in the school. The report must include: total enrollment for the school, the average daily attendance rate, dropout rate for grades seven through twelve (if applicable), the number of conduct and discipline code violations, average class size, the school policy concerning bullying prevention and education, and the number of different acts of sexual violence on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity or sanctioned event. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2)(b).

Please contact the CSI Data Team for more information about required reports.

c.  **Internet Safety Policy**

A policy describing the school plan to provide age-appropriate internet safety curriculum that teaches safety in working and interacting on the internet to students in grades kindergarten through twelve. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2)(c)(I), C.R.S. 22-87-104, [CSI Board Internet Safety Policy](#).

d.  **Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Plan**

Each school is encouraged, but not required, to adopt a child sexual abuse and assault prevention plan, which might include a plan to provide comprehensive, age-appropriate curricula for kindergarten through twelfth grade regarding child sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2.5)(a), C.R.S. 22-30.5-527.

3.  **School Response Framework**

The school must establish a school response framework that is consistent with the requirements outlined in state law and in CSI Board policy. These requirements include formally adopting the National Response Framework and the National Incident Management System (NIMS), institutionalizing the incident command system, and creating and implementing a School Safety, Readiness, and Incident Management Plan that meets established requirements. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(4), [CSI Board Safe Schools Policy](#), [CSI Safety Policy Supplement](#).

4.  **Safety and Security Policy**

The school must adopt a Safety and Security policy requiring annual school building inspections. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(5)

5.  **Information Sharing Policies**

The school must have policies related to sharing and releasing information directly related to a student consistent with provisions outlined in the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Sharing information concerning an out-of-home placement student who is being transferred to a public school must comply with the rules established by the state board. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(6), C.R.S. 24-72-204(3), C.R.S. 22-32-138, 12 CCR 2509-4-7.301-241 through 242.

6.  **Open School Policy**

The school board must adopt an open school policy to allow parents and members of the board reasonable access to school classes, activities, and functions upon reasonable notice to the school administrator's office. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(7).

7.  **Employee Screening Policy**

The school board must adopt a policy of screening employees' criminal history, which shall include screening upon good cause for new instances of criminal activity. C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(8), C.R.S. 22-30.5-511.5.

### **Other Safety-Related Requirements**

1.  **Access to Colorado's Sex Offender Registry**

All schools must provide parents with a statement explaining how to access the sex offender registry. Schools may elect to post the statement explaining how to access the registry on their websites. C.R.S. 22-1-124.

### **Additional Resources**

- [Colorado School Violence Prevention: A Legal Manual](#) (Colorado Attorney General's Office)
- [Safe School Act Resources and Checklist](#) (Colorado School Safety Resource Center)
- [School Safety, Readiness and Incident Management Plan Outline](#) (Colorado School Safety Resource Center)

Questions? Contact the CSI Legal and Policy Department at [legalandpolicy\\_csi@csi.state.co.us](mailto:legalandpolicy_csi@csi.state.co.us).