Navigating School Safety Issues

Key Resources

  

- “School Security Guard Frequently Asked Questions” from the Department of Consumer Affairs
  
  http://www.bsis.ca.gov/consumers/faqs/school_security_guard.shtml

- “School Security Guard Training Syllabus” from the Department of Consumer Affairs
  
  http://www.bsis.ca.gov/industries/syllabus.shtml

Safety and Security Issues Include:

☐ Applicable Legislation
☐ School Security Services
☐ Workplace Violence
☐ State and Federal Statues, such as Cal/OSHA
☐ Student Behavior
☐ Disaster Preparedness
School Security Personnel

Discussion of school security training mandated by SB1626 and Education Code section 38001.5:

Which personnel must be trained?

- Personnel working 20 hours or more per week as a school security officer.

- School security must be a primary job function. These functions are defined as: providing security services as a watchperson, security guard, or patrolperson, on or about premise owned or operated by a school district to protect persons or property, to prevent theft or unlawful taking of district property of any kind, or to report any unlawful activity to the district and local law enforcement agencies.

- Applicable to school security personnel hired on or after July 1, 2000. (Must have the training prior to their employment)

- Applicable to school security personnel employed before July 1, 2000. (Training must be completed by July 1, 2002)

What qualifications are required for an individual to conduct the training?

- SB 1626 does not establish criteria for instructors of the course. Any person designated by a school district may teach the course. It is recommended that school districts use POST-certified instructors or trainers from local law enforcement academies and police agencies, i.e. a School Resource Officer provided to the District by a local law enforcement agency.

Which, if any, regulatory agency enforces the training requirement?

- Currently we are unaware of any regulatory agency overseeing the training requirement.
- The Department of Education is currently not enforcing the training requirement.
- Currently, the California Department of Consumer Affairs, Bureau of Security and Investigative Services, lacks the authority to regulate school districts.
SAFETY AND SECURITY BARGAINING

**DOS AND DON’TS**

Don’t initiate negotiation on these issues, but be prepared to respond to union proposals.

- While there has been a lot of media attention surrounding school security, workplace violence, and safety issues, we are currently unaware of a great deal of interest by unions to negotiate these issues into collective bargaining agreements.

If a safety/security issue is initiated by a union at the District, make sure that District negotiators:

- Have a thorough understanding of the issue, including whether the issue is within the scope of bargaining.
- Have a thorough understanding of the legal requirements that the District must comply with regarding the issue.
- Have a thorough understanding of the cost of any negotiated requirement and what, if any, funding is available from the state and/or federal government to pay for the requirement.
- If these conditions are not satisfied, the District is not ready to negotiate. Try to table the issue so that the District can gain a thorough understanding of the issue, then negotiate with the union.

If an issue related to safety/security arises, try to negotiate a general statement regarding a safe and secure work place, rather than specific mandates.

If a safety or security issue is mandated by statute, try to avoid including it in the collective bargaining agreement, since this only gives bargaining unit members an additional issue to grieve.

If specific security/safety issues are to be included in the collective bargaining agreement, attempt to exempt the provision from the grievance procedure.