

MASC Policy Newsletter

Michael J Gilbert, Field Director – Policy Development

August 2015

This policy newsletter will cover a number of topics resulting from recent legislation in Massachusetts. **All policies are posted as Word documents on the “Updated/New Policies” page on the MASC website** and in the MASC Policy Reference Manual.

Updated Physical Restraint Policy JKAA

As the result of a DESE regulatory review, the regulations regarding Physical Restraint (603 CMR 46.00) have been rewritten and the new regulations will go into effect on January 1, 2016. Recognizing the fact that many districts will want to follow the new regulations as the 2015-16 school year begins, MASC has updated policy JKAA to comply with the new regulations.

Security Cameras in Schools - ECAF

MASC staff have increasingly seen requests for a sample policy on the deployment of security cameras on school district property. We have added this new policy to our reference manual for your use should you so desire. MASC thanks Attorney Liz Valerio of Deutsch, Williams for the initial draft of this policy.

Emergency Plans – EBC

MASC has made changes to the policy on emergency response plans to ensure compliance with 2014 statutory changes to Chapter 69 Section 8A requiring the inclusion of local police and fire authorities in plan development and response evaluation. Emergency response plans are also now required to be shared with these local authorities whenever plans change and they must be reviewed with them at least annually. Emergency Response Plans are also required to be drilled with students annually in the fall.

Technology Policies IJND-IJNDC

MASC had not done a major review of the technology policies since they were initially put in place. As time has passed, more and different technologies have been integrated into the education environment. As a result, MASC has rewritten these policies and removed exhibits and regulations, which are no longer relevant, from the MASC Policy Reference Manual. The newer policies also align with a more thoughtful approach to the use of technology in schools. MASC thanks the Groton Dunstable School District whose policies and approach are the basis for these policy changes. Districts adopting these policies should also remove IJNDB–E, IJNDB-R, and IJNDC-R from their manuals (these can be maintained elsewhere in the district if they are still relevant but they are not policy).