

Fire & Life Safety Educator Task Force

During October 1999, seventy-two hundred school officials were mailed a *Safety Education Inquiry* on behalf of the Secretary of State's Fire and Life Safety Educator Task Force. The Task Force thanks the New York State Department of Education for their mailing assistance and the 1640 school officials who graciously responded to our request for information. The enclosed information reflects the item responses received. Analysis of this important information will greatly assist Task Force endeavors and ultimately the safety education of teachers and students.

Safety Education Inquiry

Regulations of the Education Commissioner, Section 155.13 requires the board of education of each school district (having less than 1 million inhabitants) to annually, by October 1st prepare a "school emergency management plan" as prescribed in that section "to insure the safety and health of children and staff and to insure integration and coordination with similar emergency planning efforts at the municipal, county and state levels". In addition to an instructional component in the form of "written materials to students and staff regarding emergency procedures", a drill which tests specific aspects of the school emergency management plan is to be carried out some time during the school year.

From your perspective, what is the value of the school emergency planning process on:									
1) Student & Teacher Safety?			2) Teacher & Student Education?			3) Program Implementation?			
	#	%		#	%		#	%	
a) substantial value	984	74	a) substantial benefit	684	51	a) fully implemented	418	31	
b) moderate value	257	19	b) moderate benefit	439	33	b) substantially implemented	535	40	
c) limited value	74	6	c) limited benefit	166	12	c) moderate implementation	275	21	
d) no value	5	0.4	d) no benefit	26	2	d) limited implementation	87	7	
e) value unknown	16	1	e) benefits unknown	21	2	e) implementation unfeasible	15	1	

Education Law 803-a indicates that schools provide the means for instructing students in child abduction prevention practices.

To what extent has such instruction benefited your school district in terms of :									
4) Student Safety?			5) Teacher & Student Education?			6) Program Implementation?			
	#	%		#	%		#	%	
a) substantial benefit	573	43	a) substantial benefit	458	35	a) fully implemented	379	28	
b) moderate benefit	406	31	b) moderate benefit	493	37	b) substantially implemented	463	35	
c) limited benefit	160	12	c) limited benefit	202	15	c) moderate implementation	256	19	
d) no benefit	22	2	d) no benefit	24	2	d) limited implementation	114	9	
e) benefits unknown	169	12	e) benefits unknown	150	11	e) no current program	115	9	

Education Law 804 directs schools to provide students instruction geared to prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco usage.

To what extent has such instruction benefited your school district in terms of :									
7) Student & Teacher Safety?			8) Teacher & Student Education?			9) Program Implementation?			
	#	%		#	%		#	%	
a) substantial benefit	639	48	a) substantial benefit	658	49	a) fully implemented	646	49	
b) moderate benefit	445	33	b) moderate benefit	456	34	b) substantially implemented	441	33	
c) limited benefit	158	12	c) limited benefit	150	11	c) moderate implementation	160	12	
d) no benefit	12	1	d) no benefit	10	1	d) limited implementation	54	4	
e) benefits unknown	80	6	e) benefits unknown	60	5	e) no current program	29	2	

Education Law 806 and 806-a directs schools to provide safety education that addresses such areas as: A) highway and traffic safety; B) bicycle safety; C) home safety; D) recreational safety; E) industrial safety and occupational safety; and F) school safety.

To what extent has instruction in the following subjects been implemented and otherwise benefited the safety and education of students and teachers in your school:								
<i>-Highway and Traffic Safety-</i>								
10) Student & Teacher Safety?			11) Teacher & Student Education?			12) Program Implementation?		
	#	%		#	%		#	%
a) substantial benefit	396	30	a) substantial benefit	335	25	a) fully implemented	298	23
b) moderate benefit	484	37	b) moderate benefit	525	40	b) substantially implemented	416	31
c) limited benefit	242	18	c) limited benefit	264	20	c) moderate implementation	327	25
d) no benefit	36	3	d) no benefit	49	4	d) limited implementation	157	11
e) benefits unknown	160	12	e) benefits unknown	145	11	e) no current program	127	10
<i>-Bicycle Safety-</i>								
13) Student Safety?			14) Student Education?			15) Program Implementation?		
a) substantial benefit	486	37	a) substantial benefit	418	32	a) fully implemented	337	26
b) moderate benefit	372	28	b) moderate benefit	409	31	b) substantially implemented	347	26
c) limited benefit	231	18	c) limited benefit	257	19	c) moderate implementation	284	22
d) no benefit	53	4	d) no benefit	62	5	d) limited implementation	161	12
e) benefits unknown	175	13	e) benefits unknown	172	13	e) no currently program	189	14
<i>- Home Safety-</i>								
16) Student Safety?			17) Student Education?			18) Program Implementation?		
a) substantial benefit	388	30	a) substantial benefit	343	26	a) fully implemented	258	19
b) moderate benefit	467	36	b) moderate benefit	497	38	b) substantially implemented	405	31
c) limited benefit	224	17	c) limited benefit	266	20	c) moderate implementation	357	27
d) no benefit	37	2	d) no benefit	38	3	d) limited implementation	149	11
e) benefits unknown	198	15	e) benefits unknown	175	13	e) no currently program	155	12
<i>-Recreational Safety-</i>								
19) Student Safety?			20) Student Education?			21) Program Implementation?		
a) substantial benefit	390	29	a) substantial benefit	343	26	a) fully implemented	271	20
b) moderate benefit	486	37	b) moderate benefit	501	38	b) substantially implemented	409	31
c) limited benefit	248	19	c) limited benefit	283	21	c) moderate implementation	339	26
d) no benefit	34	3	d) no benefit	40	3	d) limited implementation	172	13
e) benefits unknown	165	12	e) benefits unknown	156	12	e) no currently program	137	10
<i>-Occupational Safety-</i>								
22) Student & Teacher Safety?			23) Student Education?			24) Program Implementation?		
a) substantial benefit	331	25	a) substantial benefit	265	20	a) fully implemented	241	18
b) moderate benefit	387	30	b) moderate benefit	391	30	b) substantially implemented	322	25
c) limited benefit	284	21	c) limited benefit	322	25	c) moderate implementation	312	24
d) no benefit	61	5	d) no benefit	75	6	d) limited implementation	187	14
e) benefits unknown	244	19	e) benefits unknown	254	19	e) no currently program	249	19
<i>-School Safety-</i>								
25) Student & Teacher Safety?			26) Student & Teacher Education?			27) Program Implementation?		
a) substantial benefit	843	64	a) substantial benefit	782	59	a) fully implemented	611	46
b) moderate benefit	345	26	b) moderate benefit	389	29	b) substantially implemented	455	34
c) limited benefit	76	6	c) limited benefit	95	7	c) moderate implementation	181	14
d) no benefit	8	0.6	d) no benefit	10	0.7	d) limited implementation	52	4
e) benefits unknown	54	4	e) benefits unknown	53	4	e) no currently program	29	2

Education Law Section 808: Instruction in Fire and Arson Prevention-

1. The commissioner [of education] is hereby directed to provide and prescribe a course of instruction in fire and arson prevention relating to the protection of life and property against loss or damage as a result of criminally initiated or other preventable fire, for use in the schools of the state as prescribed by this section. Such course of instruction shall include materials to educate children on the dangers of falsely reporting a criminal incident or impending explosion or fire emergency involving danger to life or property or impending catastrophe.*

2. The board of education, trustees, principal or other person in charge of every public, private and parochial school in the state shall arrange for giving such course of instruction in every school under its control or direction. Such instruction shall be given to all of the pupils in every school for a period of not less than forty-five minutes in each month during which such school is in session.

* Amended in accordance with Section 4 of Chapter 207 of the Laws of New York, 1999.

Education Law 808 indicates that schools monthly provide students 45 minutes of instruction in “fire and arson prevention” principles and “the dangers of falsely reporting a criminal incident, impending explosion or fire emergency”.

To what extent has such instruction been implemented and benefited the safety and education of students and teachers in your school:								
28) Student & Teacher Safety?			29) Teacher & Student Education?			30) Program Implementation?		
	#	%		#	%		#	%
a) substantial benefit	536	41	a) substantial benefit	479	36	a) fully implemented	379	29
b) moderate benefit	380	29	b) moderate benefit	428	33	b) substantially implemented	361	27
c) limited benefit	193	15	c) limited benefit	215	16	c) moderate implementation	278	21
d) no benefit	33	3	d) no benefit	33	3	d) limited implementation	168	13
e) benefits unknown	171	12	e) benefits unknown	160	12	e) no current program	132	10

Education Law 3004 indicates that teachers receive training in “identification and reporting of suspected child abuse or maltreatment”.

To what extent has such training been received and of what benefit has that instruction been to your school district in terms of :								
31) Student Safety?			32) Teacher Education?			33) Program Implementation?		
	#	%		#	%		#	%
a) substantial benefit	893	67	a) substantial benefit	891	67	a) fully implemented	841	64
b) moderate benefit	279	21	b) moderate benefit	302	23	b) substantially implemented	277	21
c) limited benefit	86	6	c) limited benefit	83	6	c) moderate implementation	131	10
d) no benefit	7	0.5	d) no benefit	7	0.5	d) limited implementation	39	3
e) benefits unknown	60	5	e) benefits unknown	42	3	e) no current program	35	2

Education Law 3623 indicates that three times yearly, schools carry out instruction and drills relevant to “school bus safety” including information concerning emergency exits, fire extinguishers, first aid equipment, safe boarding, riding, and disembarking.

To what extent has “school bus safety” instruction been implemented and what benefits have your students and teachers realized from the safety and education provided:								
34) Student & Teacher Safety?			35) Teacher & Student Education?			36) Program Implementation?		
	#	%		#	%		#	%
a) substantial benefit	833	63	a) substantial benefit	768	58	a) fully implemented	897	68
b) moderate benefit	275	21	b) moderate benefit	325	25	b) substantially implemented	204	16
c) limited benefit	93	7	c) limited benefit	107	8	c) moderate implementation	95	7
d) no benefit	20	2	d) no benefit	21	2	d) limited implementation	44	3
e) benefits unknown	95	7	e) benefits unknown	94	7	e) no current program	75	6

***Which of the following fire and life safety programs are currently used in your school?**

	#	%
37) Drug & Alcohol Resistant Education, (D.A.R.E.)	922	69
38) NY Board of Fire Underwriters/NYC Board of Education "Fire Prevention Program"	398	29
39) National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), " <u>Risk Watch</u> "	49	4
40) NFPA, " <u>Learn Not To Burn</u> "	296	22
41) NYS/DOS or NFPA, " <u>Fire Safety for the Rest of Your Life</u> "	63	5
42) Phoenix Associates & J. P Sroka Associates, " <u>Challenge For Life</u> "	7	0.5
43) National Fire Service Support Systems, " <u>Fireproof Children</u> "	24	2
44) BIC Children's Fire Safety Education Program "Play Safe! Be Safe!"	163	12
45) State Farm Insurance, "The Smoke Detectives"	135	10
46) Children's Television Workshop, "Sesame Street Fire Safety Station"	97	7
47) Oklahoma State Univ. Fire Protection Publications, "Fire & Life Safety Educator's Resource Kit"	12	1
48) The CLMB Foundation Children's Educational Program, "Know CO"	0	0
49) Local Program delivered by Fire or Police Department.	779	58
50) Other Program _____	121	9

*Calculations based on 1340 responses received from 7200 school administrators, October 1999.

Any questions regarding this inquiry may be directed to the attention of Fred Richards, Chief, Fire and Life Safety Education Bureau, New York State Department of State, Office of Fire Prevention and Control, 41 State Street, Albany, New York 12231, (518)474-6746 or frichard@dos.state.ny.us