



Dear Parent:

Who Cares? You Care is a grass roots group of parents who care about the safety of our schools. By downloading this document, you have taken the first steps to improving the safety and security of your child's school. Simply put, mobilizing parents in small school groups can change current policies that put our kids in harm's way. Join us by taking these next steps:

**Step 1** – Review the attached documents to understand what needs to change and who has the legislative power to make these changes.

**Step 2** – Go to [www.WhoCaresYouCare.org](http://www.WhoCaresYouCare.org) enter your zip code and locate someone in your school or area that has created a Facebook Group and join the group.

**Step 3** – If there isn't a We Care Facebook Group, create one. (Example: Who Cares Bowie HS), register the Facebook page at [www.WhoCaresYouCare.org](http://www.WhoCaresYouCare.org) and invite other parents to join your group.

**Step 4** – Have a meeting of the We Care School group and decide what changes you want to make in the school, using the [www.ParentsActionPlan.org](http://www.ParentsActionPlan.org), as a guide to implementing change.

For more information contact us at: [ContactUs@whocaresyoucare.org](mailto:ContactUs@whocaresyoucare.org).

Alvin Butler  
Executive Director

## **Who Cares? You Care**

### **Recommended Changes to Existing School Safety Policy**

Here are some recommended changes that our experience has shown, will improve the safety of your school:

**Complete Resolution of Issues** – Many times when, and if, schools “deal with” the reported situation, it amounts to talking to the bully and student and then they considered it resolved. However, in many cases the bullying and harassment takes on new forms, such as stares and being called “a snitch”. Schools must insure that the student and parents feel that the situation is resolved and not just “dealt with”.

**Revise Antique Reporting Methods** - Demand an end to antiquated reporting procedures that hinder a student’s ability to come forward. Today almost every student has an iPhone or access to a computer. This gives them the ability to report issues, anonymously, without having to resort to forms, counselor meetings and other methods that are intimidating to students. Schools must allow reporting of issues via anonymous electronic media, such as texting, web chat, mobile apps and or online report forms that don’t require the student to provide their name.

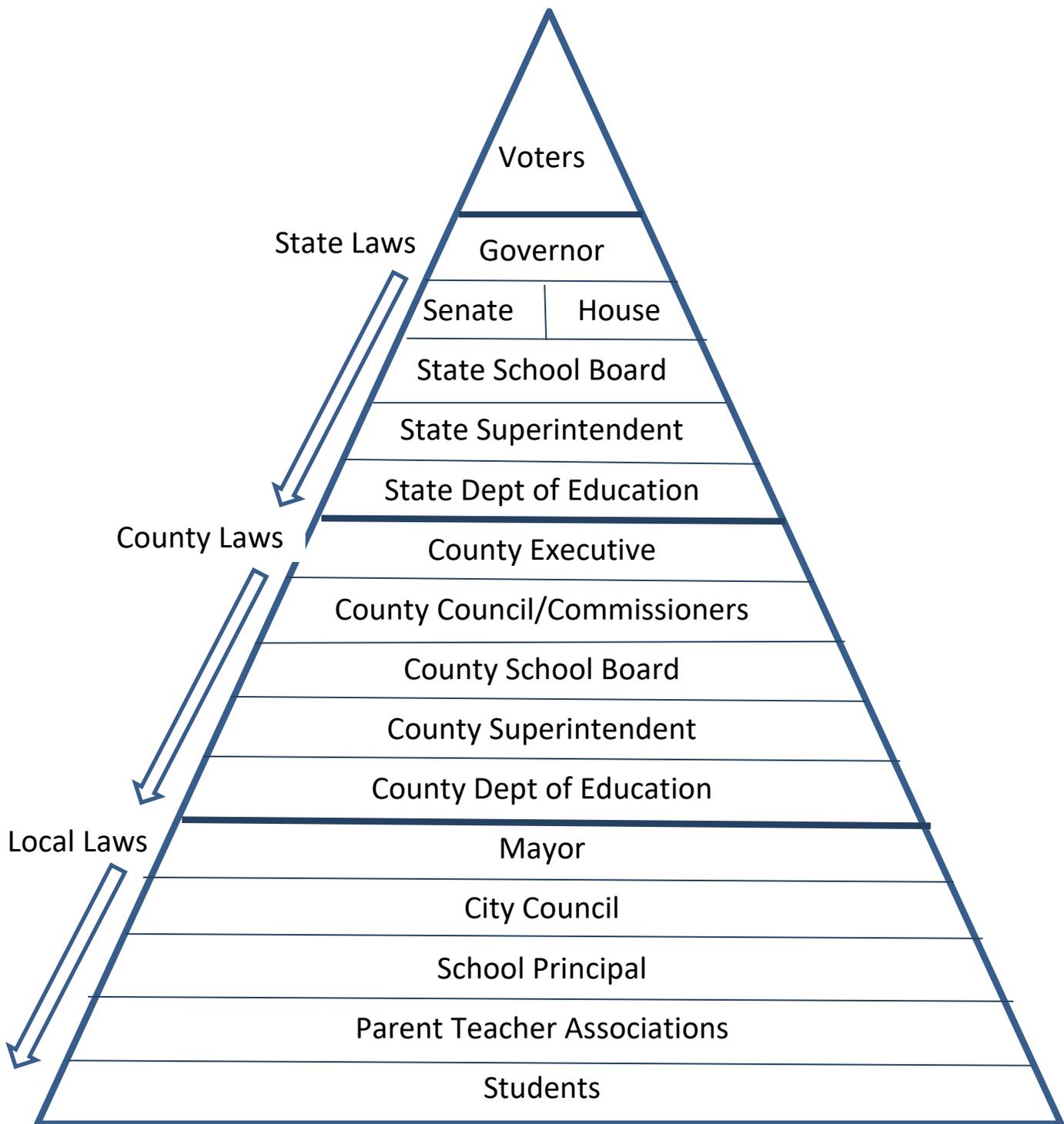
**Report Transparency** – All too often bullying, drugs, weapons, suicides, staff abuse, threats to the school and other harmful activities that are uncovered in schools are withheld from parents and even law enforcement. While most schools make bullying statistics available in most school districts, reports on drugs, weapons and other harmful acts are not made available to parents. These this leaves parents in the dark as to how safe or unsafe their child’s school really is. We demand that policies be reviewed to insure procedures and their handling is transparent to parents and students. All schools must report incidences of bullying, drugs and weapons on a monthly or annual basis.

**Encourage Students to Come Forward** – Students ALWAYS know a problem exists in the school, long before the school system or parents. Unfortunately, many students are not aware of how or if they should report issues like bullying, drugs, suicidal concerns, weapons, threats to the school and other harmful activities in their schools. While most schools have this procedure in their student handbooks, or on their websites, most students remain unaware of the procedure. Posters, announcements, and other procedures must be used to ensure that every student is aware that the school not only wants them to come forward but also encourages them to do so.

**Mental Health Training and Protocols:** Students with mental health concerns are most likely to bully, use drugs, alcohol, attempt suicide and are likely to become violent to other students and to themselves. While the home is always the first place to determine these issues, the school administration is in a unique position to compare a student’s attitude, social ability and study patterns to what is deemed “normal” for that student’s peer groups, as opposed to being just a phase the child is going through. There are trauma and depression screenings and protocols that allow for screening and risk assessments/threat assessments where professionals can make a determination as to whether a child is a threat to harm his/herself or others. All schools should train teachers and staff to recognize behavioral concerns in students and have written protocols in place help the parent and student towards a healthy solution for the student.

**Expulsion of Problem Students** While mental health screenings are the first step in determine if a student’s behavior is correctable, in some cases, it may be necessary to remove the problem student from the school in order to protect the body as a whole. Acceptable protocols must be in place to determine what conditions warrant removing the student both temporarily and permanently.

# Legislative Power in the Educational System



# Know your Legislators

<b>Elected/Appointed School Official</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>
<b>Governor</b>				
<b>Senate</b>				
<b>House</b>				
<b>State School Board</b>				
<b>State Superintendent</b>				
<b>State Dept of Education</b>				
<b>County Executive</b>				
<b>County Council/Commissioners</b>				
<b>County School Board</b>				
<b>County Superintendent</b>				
<b>County Dept of Education</b>				
<b>Mayor</b>				
<b>City Council</b>				
<b>School Principal</b>				
<b>Parent Teacher Assoc. (PTA/PTO)</b>				

