



International Association of Campus
Law Enforcement Administrators

The Leading Authority for Campus Public Safety

IACLEA Public Policy Statement

About IACLEA

The International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) is the largest professional organization committed to excellence in campus public safety and law enforcement. IACLEA members are police chiefs, public safety directors, law enforcement officers, and security personnel at higher education institutions both nationally and across the globe.

For over 60 years, IACLEA has been, and continues to be, the leading authority in campus public safety by advancing training, research, advocacy, accreditation, education, and professional services at higher education institutions. IACLEA's global network of 4200+ public safety experts share best practices, solve problems, and set standards for professionalism and accountability across the field.

Introduction

The IACLEA Government Relations Committee has created this document to inform national legislative and executive bodies and agencies on important issues and initiatives concerning campus safety across the nation. Although part of the law enforcement family, campus public safety offers a higher level of service and campus police departments exist as part of a network of support on their campuses.

IACLEA understands and embraces the unique nature of campus life and the campus public safety profession. It further promotes policies and programming to enhance the safety of the millions of students, faculty, staff, and visitors on our campuses every year. Finally, IACLEA is committed to ensuring the security of campus critical infrastructure and research facilities.

Improving Campus Public Safety Resources and Training

Statement:

Campus public safety agencies have seen a reduction in funding, resources, and officer personnel. The negative effects of these reductions were significantly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. As campuses locked down during the pandemic, campus public safety professionals assisted students with moving off campus, increased patrols of nearly empty campuses, monitored access to mostly closed campuses, and most importantly, provided emergency medical responses to suspected and actual COVID-19 positive patients.

IACLEA and the public safety professionals it represents are committed to making sure safety on our campuses remains a priority as the pandemic wanes and campuses return to full capacity. In addition to assisting in the management of institutional reopening efforts, officers continue their primary functions to reduce crime and violence, ensure safety during civil unrest and protests, coordinate with campus partners to address student mental health concerns and work to reduce and eliminate sexual assault and harassment in campus communities. Sustaining a vibrant, engaging community in higher education requires a commitment to safety and security and to the public safety personnel who make it possible.

What Is Needed:

- Increase in funding sources geared toward campus law enforcement and campus public safety agencies.
- Improved funding to support technology, training, and personnel.
- Funding that supports purchases of needed technology, communications, and systems to protect students and property.
- Best practices between local law enforcement and campus law enforcement.

Reducing Risks of Mass Violence on College and University Campuses

Statement:

IACLEA recognizes the threat of active shooters and violent intruders and the risks they pose to soft targets like higher educational institutions. As campuses reopen and classrooms fill with students, the risk of an active shooter and violent intruders returns as well. The patchwork of state laws regulating military style weaponry and the ease of portability of such weapons require comprehensive studies to improve safety and federal legislation and regulation narrowly tailored to protect not only students, faculty, and staff, but also the public safety professionals sworn to protect them.

What Is Needed:

- Policies and training focused on threat assessment and risk management.
- Improved access to mental health service for students and employees.
- Legislation and regulation focusing on deterring gun violence.
- Comprehensive studies on gun-related violence including suicide.
- Support for the policies and legislation that protect law enforcement from gun violence.

Improving Officer Wellness and Safety

Statement:

Campus public safety professionals face enormous pressures and threats and place themselves in harm's way to serve and protect the nation's campus communities. The enormous physical and emotional demands of the job, without proper interventions, increase the threat of mental and

physical health crises during or following an officer's career. Campus public safety personnel are routinely exposed to high-stress situations. To protect the long-term health of campus public safety professionals, agencies must adopt a culture of proper stress management and critical incident debriefing.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the effects of an already stressful line of work. As front-line workers on the nation's campuses, campus officers responded directly to COVID-19 health calls, and in some case contracted and succumbed to the disease. Campus police and public safety departments have been required to institute new approaches when responding to calls for service, handling medical emergencies, interacting with individuals, and engaging individuals who may need to be restrained, arrested, or assisted. Unfortunately, there are colleges and universities that have lost officers to this deadly disease. Throughout the pandemic, campus safety officers have continued their work tirelessly, and in close contact with the public, to ensure the health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

What Is Needed:

- Policies and procedures that support officer wellness and mental health.
- Training and systems within agencies and the campus community to promote officer physical and mental health wellness.
- Training and systems within agencies and the campus community to respond to officer mental health concerns.
- Provide the same policies, protections, benefits, and treatment toward sworn officers serving at private universities that are afforded to sworn officers serving at public universities.

Addressing Mental Health Resources for Community Members

Statement:

Mental health crises are becoming more and more common on campus. Campus public safety personnel encounter persons exhibiting signs of mental health distress more frequently and during hours when mental health staff members are off-site or unavailable. Proper training in recognizing and responding to mental health calls and crises is vital to ensuring the safety of potential patients, bystanders, and to responding public safety personnel. Furthermore, proper management of mental health calls by public safety personnel encourages community members to think of campus safety professionals as a vital resource during such crises.

What Is Needed:

- Training and systems within agencies and the campus community to respond to and address community mental health concerns.
- Crisis Intervention training and additional support from federal agencies.
- Access to 24-hour mental health resources for community members as well as resources to advise campus public safety professionals during acute mental health situations.

Rebuilding Trust and Demanding Accountability

Statement:

IACLEA is leading the discussion and supporting members' efforts to engage in police reform discussions both within the campus and with outside municipal and state counterparts. The murder of George Floyd is a catalyst for law enforcement to begin the process of rebuilding relationships with all people, especially underrepresented and marginalized groups. IACLEA knows the importance of building and rebuilding lasting relationships. Because of the unique nature of campus public safety, our communities change every year. Every year trust and understanding must be built anew.

Through IACLEA's accreditation process, campus safety departments can demonstrate their own commitment to these ideals. IACLEA and its member departments value the advancement of learning, fostering acceptance and respect and cultivating a community of trust, care and understanding. When officers anywhere misuse their authority, the effects are felt everywhere, both within law enforcement and, most importantly, in the communities that feel victimized by this injustice. IACLEA values the need for accountability and maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and integrity.

What Is Needed:

- Policies implemented on the value of Community Oriented Policing Standards.
- Expansion of and access to training on community policing and community engagement.
- Best practices for building and maintaining relationships between campus and local/municipal police departments.
- Acknowledged standards and best practices for maintaining and updating policies and procedures.
- Best practices for promoting officer accountability and the use of officer discipline when necessary.
- Voluntary Accreditation based on these standards.
- Incentives for collaboration between traditionally underrepresented groups and persons on campus.
- Improved transparency and communications with students and all campus stakeholders.
- Increased funding and access to training and field training, especially in areas requested by community members (i.e., duty-to-intervene and de-escalation tactics).

Ongoing Compliance Clarification and Facilitation

Statement:

IACLEA supports the important missions behind Title IX and the Clery Act and their roles in improving safety, promoting transparency and guaranteeing the fundamental rights of equal access to education. Under the Trump Administration, Title IX implementation requirements were revised by the U.S. Department of Education.

IACLEA strongly supports due process rights. These rights should not come at the expense of any victim. IACLEA believes that the regulations must be constructed in a manner that avoids negative impacts to reporting on potential Title IX cases or that lead to the needless re-traumatization of victims.

IACLEA members and the broader campus public safety community value the importance of the Clery Act and look forward to supporting improvements to the Act during President Biden's administration. IACLEA is committed to working with other organizations to include the Clery Center and the National Association of Clery Compliance Officers and Professionals (NACCOP), to find productive measures to improve the Clery Act training, reporting and compliance.

What Is Needed:

- A thorough review and reformation of the amended Title IX regulations which took effect on August 14, 2020.
- Recommended improvements to the Clery Act to promote an efficient reporting process.