



Campus Safety and Security - A Message From Secretary of Education Aimee R. Guidera

1 message

Kent, Nicholas (GOV) <[REDACTED]>

Thu, Aug 8, 2024 at 8:55 PM

Please see the below message from Secretary of Education Aimee R. Guidera.

Dear Governing Board Members of University of Mary Washington:

As we prepare for students' return to our college and university campuses, I want to emphasize the importance of every institution strengthening campus safety and security measures ahead of the fall semester.

The Governor and Council of Presidents, who are copied on this mail, have dedicated significant time over the last several months to discussing the responsibility of our higher education institutions in creating safe, secure, and vibrant learning environments. Considering the challenges faced on college and university campuses last academic year and [reports that the fall will be even more chaotic](#), we have asked each institution take proactive steps to update policies and improve communication channels before students return this fall.

During last week's Council of Presidents meeting, each president shared with the Governor the progress made in revising campus codes of conduct. Presidents also shared their plans to ensure all community members—students, faculty, and staff—are informed about these rules and the consequences of non-compliance. ***I cannot overemphasize the critical importance of completing this necessary work within the next couple of weeks before students return to campus.***

At a minimum, institutions should update their codes of conduct in five key areas: (a) disruptions of school functions; (b) violations of federal, state, and local laws and ordinances, (c) unlawful masking; (d) erection of encampments/tents; and (e) facility usage by affiliated and non-affiliated persons/groups. On July 31st, the Attorney General sent a memo to your university counsel with proposed language that the Governor has asked each institution to adopt. If not already done, your university counsel will share this memo with Rector Murray, who will share it with each board member.

As we enter a new school year, it is critical for all of us to maintain open lines of communication. Our education team will continue to work in partnership with the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security and the Attorney General's team to provide campus leaders and boards with up-to-date information and tools to support you. In this spirit of open communication and partnership, the Governor encouraged the presidents to invite the campus chief of police to board meetings to provide regular written and in-person updates to the board on campus safety and security.

My team stands ready to support you. Please reach out to me at [REDACTED], Deputy Secretary Nicholas Kent at [REDACTED], or Assistant Secretary Zach Jacobs at [REDACTED] any time we can provide information or assistance.

Thank you for your ongoing collaboration and partnership as we strive to strengthen and support the nation's greatest higher education system.

With best wishes,

Aimee

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