

**CHINA'S RECENT EFFORTS TO
CONFRONT THE EVOVLING
SAFETY AND SECURITY
CHALLENGES ON CAMPUS**

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Executive Summary

1. China is no exception to the growing incidents of violence in campus, schools and kindergartens faced by educators and states worldwide. These incidents have caught public, local and international media attention and put school safety in the spotlight in China.
2. Campus safety and security covers virtually all aspects of school operation, including violent attack, bullying, school building and bus safety, and features that pertain to the drastic socioeconomic-cultural transformation in Chinese society.
3. The Chinese government and ministries are swift in reacting to the growing campus safety and security issue, in both rhetoric and policies. In 2016, “safety” was unprecedentedly added to the chapter under education in Premier Li Keqiang’s Government Work Report at the National People’s Congress. The Ministry of Education has since launched campaigns and training programmes to promote awareness of a safe campus.
4. The focus is primarily on the prevention of safety incidents. Aside from the general guideline such as “Safety Instruction for Campus Students”, the Ministry of Education and the State Council have enacted a series of laws, administrative regulations and rules to guide the prevention of safety incidents on campus.
5. Despite the Chinese government’s fervour to deal with campus safety and its impressive effects, China’s basic education system faces various new challenges in tackling safety and security issues.
6. To date, the most vital issue is the lack of a national law on the protection of students’ safety and security on campus. The Ministry of Education is working on drafting an administrative rule titled “Regulation on Campus Safety” and the National Congress is considering initiating a formal law once this regulation takes effect.

7. Along with the absence of a national law, there is a significant lack of transparency in data collection on campus safety issues. Detailed statistics on campus safety incidents are generally not available to the public. No national level analyses have been conducted to examine the scale and scope of campus safety incidents.
8. Accountability is an issue. Schools have to assume major responsibility for safety incidents. The lack of clear legal definition of obligation has severely impeded school administrators' ability to implement safety measures or ensure the proper education of these measures.
9. Campus safety has gradually shifted to safety issues in daily operation, most notably school bullying. Primary and middle schools now face special challenges when handling campus bullying given the lack of a widely accepted definition of "school bullying" in China.
10. The issue of campus safety is unlikely to fade away from public view. The prevention, post-management and handling of safety incidents have also emerged as a major issue. More specific regulations are necessary to delineate the accountability. A more transparent approach is needed in data collection and research.