

William S. Hart Union High
School District

**POMS RISK CONTROL
SERVICES PROPOSAL
SITE SECURITY ASSESSMENTS**

Respectfully Submitted by

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Director of Risk Control Services

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ABOUT POMS & ASSOCIATES

Poms Risk Control and Insurance (Poms) was established in 1991 by David Poms, a specialist in public agency risk management services for over two decades. With a background in underwriting, Mr. Poms joined a top ten brokerage firm in 1980 and developed a regional Risk Management Sales Unit that achieved success in attracting and retaining public entity clients. He was instrumental in the formation of two of the largest school district pools in the United States: The Alliance of Schools for Cooperative Insurance Programs (ASCIP) and the New Mexico Public Schools Insurance Authority (NMPSIA). In creating Poms Risk Control and Insurance, Mr. Poms was determined to emphasize consulting services to self-insured's, with the underlying philosophy that public entities should assume greater control over their risk management concerns. The goal of Poms Risk Control and Insurance is to assist public entities in achieving a level of self-reliance and to insulate them from the harsh extremes of the legal and insurance industry environments.

In September 2020, Poms won the Silver International Stevie Award in the "Most Valuable Corporate Response to COVID-19" category at the 17th Annual International Business Awards (IBA). Poms responded to the unprecedented challenge for businesses created by COVID-19 by creating a weekly series of more than 20 free educational webinars about business insurance, security, risk management, loss prevention, and "ergonomics while working from home" topics.

THE RISK CONTROL CONSULTING SERVICES DIVISION

Our risk control consultants are highly qualified and accomplished individuals and have built an impressive skill set specifically geared towards school risk. The majority hold multiple designations such as Certified Safety Professional (CSP), Associate in Risk Management for Public Entities (ARM-P), Certified Ergonomic Assessment Specialist (CEAS), and Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI). Our security consultants are former law enforcement and school resources officers. They have also held positions of responsibility within Southern California local chapters of the American Society of Safety Professionals, including two past presidents, and are frequent presenters at national conferences and seminars.

Our Risk Control Services department has been responsible for many innovative training programs, including the PRIMA award-winning Rent-A-Risk Manager Program and various online and in-person training seminars. Most recently, Poms has developed an innovative web-based software system known as *Poms Risk Organizer: PRO, Loss Control Survey and Abatement System*. William S. Hart UHSD will be able to access the PRO client portal online system, which will be made available to key stakeholders at no additional charge.



WHY POMS IS THE RIGHT CHOICE

Risk Control Approach

Poms & Associates' approach to risk control is innovative, visionary, and effective. Our experienced risk control consultants are noted for their knowledge of regulations, employment issues, security, current litigation and liability trends, as well as the behavioral aspects of loss control and accident prevention. We have the capacity to develop comprehensive safety and security programs or focus on specific areas of concern for each specified client. We believe that identifying facility and procedural loss exposures is the first step toward mitigation. We conduct safety, security, and compliance assessments to ensure that your organization is following internal and external regulatory mandates and effectively using industry best practices.

Communication, Philosophy & Goals

Poms & Associates was created out of the understanding that our clients have the need for risk control-related services, support, and analysis, but typically have limited risk control resources of their own. Our strengths are in the proactive services we provide to public entities. Our goal is to assist and support our clients through personal, dedicated service while educating and communicating options to our clients, enabling them to make informed choices.

Our Most Noteworthy Qualifications

Our knowledge of school risk is unique and extensive. That has given us the edge in providing innovative training solutions, services, and proprietary risk management programs and technology designed to meet the unique requirements of educational entities.

We know that risk control is more service industry than commodity. Our independence has allowed us to structure ourselves in a way that enhances our ability to spend more time providing proactive services and sophisticated technology.

What distinguishes Poms from our competitors, who in the public entity arena are usually the mega-brokers, is our commitment to service. William S. Hart UHSD is a highly valued client of Poms, to which we are offering award-winning risk management and security services.



Site Security Assessments - Scope of Work

Our Site Security Assessments are designed to assist facility management and staff with the identification of site and area-specific threats and hazards, while also assessing their vulnerabilities and weaknesses as well as their response and recovery capabilities. The goal of these assessments is to create a safe school climate in which all staff and students feel safe, secure, and able to learn and work.

The primary focus of our Security Assessment is to observe, evaluate, and test physical and human security measures present at a given facility while also comparing existing policy with the facility's current practices. We use this data to offer recommendations to improve or "harden" identified weaknesses.

While no security assessment or subsequent recommendations can completely stop all criminal activity, threats, hazards, or crisis events, by implementing some or all of the recommended measures a facility will increase its overall security profile while also empowering staff with the capability of identifying threats before they escalate.

To this end, any security or vulnerability assessment should be considered a living document and part of a larger Emergency Operation Plan that requires regular review and updating to incorporate current trends, practices, and technologies to ensure this facility can respond to changing threats and hazards.

Assessment Scheduling & Procedures

The proposed Security Assessments will be conducted yearly at 17 District schools. Pre-assessment notification will only be provided to the designated school principal; staff should not receive advance notification of our visit to allow the consultant to better observe normal workday actions/behaviors. As part of each Security Assessment, the consultant will walk throughout the campus (while school is in session) to observe and photograph physical security features/strengths and weaknesses while also subtly "testing" staff response to a stranger on their campus. The school sites are as follows:

Academy of the Canyons
Arroyo Seco Junior High School
Bowman High School
Canyon High School
Castaic High School
Golden Oak Adult School
Golden Valley High School
Hart High School
La Mesa Junior High School
Learning Post Academy
Placerita Junior High School
Rancho Pico Junior High School
Rio Norte Junior High School
Saugus High School
Sierra Vista Junior High School
Valencia High School
West Ranch High School



Security Assessment Reports

Upon completion of the on-site security assessment, a report outlining identified vulnerabilities, recommendations, and applicable regulations and/or standards will be prepared and distributed to the appropriate Hart Risk Management team.



POMS RISK CONTROL CONSULTING TEAM

The Poms Project Team includes Risk Control staff members with extensive experience and security knowledge.

The Project Team will consist of the following members:

Maria Brunel, CSP, Senior Vice President, Director of Risk Control Consulting Services (Team Member)

Maria is a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) and oversees the Poms Risk Control Consulting Services department. Maria will provide executive leadership oversight of the Poms Project Team and will be available for consultation.

James Vautier, ARM, CPS, CSS, ICPS – Senior Manager/Risk Control Consulting Services

James has more than 30 years of professional experience in law enforcement and security consulting in the public, private non-profit, and private for-profit sectors. Currently, Mr. Vautier is a Senior Risk Services Consultant in Safety and Security Matters with Poms & Associates, providing training, consulting, and information services for its clients and other businesses and organizations. He specializes in all areas of security assessment, emergency management, and training & development. James has assisted with planning and implementation of organizational security projects for public, non-profit, and private sector organizations. His clients have included the New Mexico Public Schools Insurance Authority, the New Mexico Charter School Association, the New Mexico Municipal League, Adelante Development Center, and the New Mexico Department of Workforce.



PRICING

Scope of Work: Conduct yearly site security assessments for the following schools:

Academy of the Canyons
Arroyo Seco Junior High School
Bowman High School
Canyon High School
Castaic High School
Golden Oak Adult School
Golden Valley High School
Hart High School
La Mesa Junior High School
Learning Post Academy
Placerita Junior High School
Rancho Pico Junior High School
Rio Norte Junior High School
Saugus High School
Sierra Vista Junior High School
Valencia High School
West Ranch High School

Estimated Annual Cost: Between \$17,000 to \$22,500 but will not exceed \$22,500.

The estimated annual cost includes routine travel, preparation, on-site assessment, and report writing.



REFERENCES

Available upon request.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Poms & Associates Risk Services carries Workers' Compensation, General Liability, Auto Liability, and Errors and Omissions insurance with reputable insurers and with substantial limits. We will provide proof of insurance in a format acceptable to William S. Hart UHSD.

CONCLUSION

We appreciate the opportunity to present William S. Hart UHSD with our qualifications and the types of services that we are able to provide. We believe that our experience, diligent work ethic, and references provide compelling reasons to choose Poms & Associates. We would be honored to have the opportunity to work with you to enhance the safety and security of your schools.