

SB 5097-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Declares that the legislature considers it to be a matter of public safety for public schools and staff to have current safe school plans and procedures in place, fully consistent with federal law. The legislature further finds and intends, by requiring safe school plans to be in place, that school districts will become eligible for federal assistance. The legislature further finds that schools are in a position to serve the community in the event of an emergency resulting from natural disasters or man-made disasters.

Requires each school district to adopt, no later than September 1, 2008, and implement a safe school plan consistent with the school mapping information system pursuant to RCW 36.28A.060.

Provides that educational service districts are encouraged to apply for federal emergency response and crisis management grants with the assistance of the superintendent of public instruction and the Washington emergency management division of the state military department.

Requires school districts to annually: (1) Review and update safe school plans in collaboration with local emergency response agencies;

(2) Conduct an inventory of all hazardous materials;

(3) Update information on the school mapping information system to reflect current staffing and updated plans, including: (a) identifying all staff members who are trained on the national incident management system, trained on the incident command system, or are certified on the incident command system; and (b) identifying school transportation procedures for evacuation, to include bus staging areas, evacuation routes, communication systems, parent-student reunification sites, and secondary transportation agreements consistent with the school mapping information system; and

(4) Provide information to all staff on the use of emergency supplies and notification and alert procedures.

Encourages school districts to work with local emergency management agencies and other emergency responders to conduct one tabletop exercise, one functional exercise, and two full-scale exercises within a four-year period.

Requires schools to conduct no less than one safety-related drill each month that school is in session. Schools shall complete no less than one drill using the school mapping information system, one drill for lockdowns, one drill for shelter-in-place, and six drills for fire evacuation in accordance with the state fire code. Schools should consider drills for earthquakes, tsunamis, or other high risk local events. Schools shall document the date and time of such

drills. This provision is intended to satisfy all federal requirements for comprehensive school emergency drills and evacuations.

Creates a task force on gangs in schools to examine current adult and youth gang activities that are affecting school safety. The task force shall work under the guidance of the superintendent of public instruction school safety center, the school safety center advisory committee, and the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs.

Requires the task force to be comprised of representatives, selected by the superintendent of public instruction, who possess expertise relevant to gang activity in schools. The task force shall outline methods for preventing new gangs, eliminating existing gangs, gathering intelligence, and sharing information about gang activities.

Provides that, beginning December 1, 2007, the task force shall annually report its findings and recommendations to the education committees of the legislature.