
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1941

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representative Walen)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to prohibiting active shooter scenarios for
2 school safety-related drills; and amending RCW 28A.320.125.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.320.125 and 2021 c 223 s 1 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature considers it to be a matter of public safety
7 for public schools and staff to have current safe school plans and
8 procedures in place, fully consistent with federal law. The
9 legislature further finds and intends, by requiring safe school plans
10 to be in place, that school districts will become eligible for
11 federal assistance. The legislature further finds that schools are in
12 a position to serve the community in the event of an emergency
13 resulting from natural disasters or human-induced disasters.

14 (2) Schools and school districts shall consider the guidance and
15 resources provided by the state school safety center, established
16 under RCW 28A.300.630, and the regional school safety centers,
17 established under RCW 28A.310.510, when developing their own
18 individual comprehensive safe school plans. Each school district
19 shall adopt and implement a safe school plan. The plan shall:

20 (a) Include required school safety policies and procedures;

1 (b) Address emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and
2 recovery;

3 (c) Include provisions for assisting and communicating with
4 students and staff, including those with special needs or
5 disabilities;

6 (d) Include a family-student reunification plan, including
7 procedures for communicating the reunification plan to staff,
8 students, families, and emergency responders;

9 (e) Use the training guidance provided by the Washington
10 emergency management division of the state military department in
11 collaboration with the state school safety center in the office of
12 the superintendent of public instruction, established under RCW
13 28A.300.630, and the school safety and student well-being advisory
14 committee, established under RCW 28A.300.635;

15 (f) Require the building principal to be certified on the
16 incident command system;

17 (g) Take into account the manner in which the school facilities
18 may be used as a community asset in the event of a community-wide
19 emergency; and

20 (h) Set guidelines for requesting city or county law enforcement
21 agencies, local fire departments, emergency service providers, and
22 county emergency management agencies to meet with school districts
23 and participate in safety-related drills.

24 (3) To the extent funds are available, school districts shall
25 annually:

26 (a) Review and update safe school plans in collaboration with
27 local emergency response agencies;

28 (b) Conduct an inventory of all hazardous materials;

29 (c) Update information to reflect current plans, including:

30 (i) Identifying all staff members who are trained on the national
31 incident management system, trained on the incident command system,
32 or are certified on the incident command system; and

33 (ii) Identifying school transportation procedures for evacuation,
34 to include bus staging areas, evacuation routes, communication
35 systems, parent-student reunification sites, and secondary
36 transportation agreements; and

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

39 (4) School districts are encouraged to work with local emergency
40 management agencies and other emergency responders to conduct one

1 tabletop exercise, one functional exercise, and two full-scale
2 exercises within a four-year period.

3 (5) (a) Due to geographic location, schools have unique safety
4 challenges. It is the responsibility of school principals and
5 administrators to assess the threats and hazards most likely to
6 impact their school, and to practice three basic functional drills,
7 shelter-in-place, lockdown, and evacuation, as these drills relate to
8 those threats and hazards. Some threats or hazards may require the
9 use of more than one basic functional drill.

10 (b) Schools shall conduct at least one safety-related drill per
11 month, including summer months when school is in session with
12 students. These drills must teach students three basic functional
13 drill responses:

14 (i) "Shelter-in-place," used to limit the exposure of students
15 and staff to hazardous materials, such as chemical, biological, or
16 radiological contaminants, released into the environment by isolating
17 the inside environment from the outside;

18 (ii) "Lockdown," used to isolate students and staff from threats
19 of violence, such as suspicious trespassers or armed intruders, that
20 may occur in a school or in the vicinity of a school. Lockdown drills
21 may not include live simulations of or reenactments of active shooter
22 scenarios that are not trauma-informed and age and developmentally
23 appropriate; and

24 (iii) "Evacuation," used to move students and staff away from
25 threats, such as fires, oil train spills, lahars, or tsunamis.

26 (c) The drills described in (b) of this subsection must
27 incorporate the following requirements:

28 (i) A pedestrian evacuation drill for schools in mapped lahars or
29 tsunami hazard zones; and

30 (ii) An earthquake drill using the state-approved earthquake
31 safety technique "drop, cover, and hold."

32 (d) Schools shall document the date, time, and type (shelter-in-
33 place, lockdown, or evacuate) of each drill required under this
34 subsection (5), and maintain the documentation in the school office.

35 (e) This subsection (5) is intended to satisfy all federal
36 requirements for comprehensive school emergency drills and
37 evacuations.

38 (6) Educational service districts are encouraged to apply for
39 federal emergency response and crisis management grants with the
40 assistance of the superintendent of public instruction and the

1 Washington emergency management division of the state military
2 department.

3 (7) The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules to
4 implement provisions of this section. These rules may include, but
5 are not limited to, provisions for evacuations, lockdowns, or other
6 components of a comprehensive safe school plan.

7 (8) (a) Whenever a first responder agency notifies a school of a
8 situation that may necessitate an evacuation or lockdown, the agency
9 must determine if other known schools in the vicinity are similarly
10 threatened. The first responder agency must notify every other known
11 school in the vicinity for which an evacuation or lockdown appears
12 reasonably necessary to the agency's incident commander unless the
13 agency is unable to notify schools due to duties directly tied to
14 responding to the incident occurring. For purposes of this
15 subsection, "school" includes a private school under chapter 28A.195
16 RCW.

17 (b) A first responder agency and its officers, agents, and
18 employees are not liable for any act, or failure to act, under this
19 subsection unless a first responder agency and its officers, agents,
20 and employees acted with willful disregard.

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