

CHAPTER 38

(SB 39)

AN ACT relating to school safety.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. KRS 158.162 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) As used in this section:
 - (a) "Emergency management response plan" or "emergency plan" means a written document to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies; and
 - (b) "First responders" means local fire, police, and emergency medical personnel.
- (2) (a) Each local board of education shall require the school council or, if none exists, the principal in each public school building in its jurisdiction to adopt an emergency plan to include procedures to be followed in case of fire, severe weather, or earthquake, or if a building lockdown as defined in KRS 158.164 is required.
 - (b) Following adoption, the emergency plan, along with a diagram of the facility, shall be provided to appropriate first responders.
 - (c) The emergency plan shall be reviewed following the end of each school year by the school council, the principal, and first responders and shall be revised as needed.
 - (d) The principal shall discuss the emergency plan with all school staff prior to the first instructional day of each school year and shall document the time and date of any discussion.
 - (e) The emergency plan and diagram of the facility shall be excluded from the application of KRS 61.870 to 61.884.
- (3) Each local board of education shall require the school council or, if none exists, the principal in each public school building to:
 - (a) Establish primary and secondary evacuation routes for all rooms located within the school and shall post the routes in each room by any doorway used for evacuation;
 - (b) Identify ***the best available*** severe weather safe zones , ***in consultation with local and state safety officials and informed by guiding principles set forth by the National Weather Service and the Federal Emergency Management Agency,*** ~~to be reviewed by the local fire marshal or fire chief~~ and post the location of safe zones in each room of the school;
 - (c) Develop practices for students to follow during an earthquake; and
 - (d) Develop and adhere to practices to control the access to each school building. Practices may include but not be limited to:
 1. Controlling outside access to exterior doors during the school day;
 2. Controlling the front entrance of the school electronically or with a greeter;
 3. Controlling access to individual classrooms. If a classroom is equipped with hardware that allows the door to be locked from the outside but opened from the inside, the door should remain locked during instructional time;
 4. Requiring all visitors to report to the front office of the building, provide valid identification, and state the purpose of the visit; and
 5. Providing a visitor's badge to be visibly displayed on a visitor's outer garment.
- (4) Each local board of education shall require the principal in each public school building in its jurisdiction to conduct, at a minimum, emergency response drills to include one (1) severe weather drill, one (1) earthquake drill, and one (1) lockdown drill within the first thirty (30) instructional days of each school year and again during the month of January. Required fire drills shall be conducted according to administrative regulations promulgated by the Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction. Whenever possible, first responders shall be invited to observe emergency response drills.

- (5) No later than November 1 of each school year, a local district superintendent shall send verification to the Kentucky Department of Education that all schools within the district are in compliance with the requirements of this section.

Signed by Governor March 20, 2015.