



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

August 15, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education
FROM: Eric G. Mackey
State Superintendent of Education
RE: School Safety Update

School safety is a range of campus conditions, including safety, relationships, and engagement. A positive school climate that provides students with ready access to safe environments can affect the capacity of students and staff to prevent, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

With the start of the 2023-2024 school year just weeks away, the Alabama State Department of Education, School Safety Section, wants to remind you of school safety requirements. Please ensure district-level administrators make certain that these safety measures are addressed in schools through the Emergency Operations Planning (EOP) platform in nSide. These are listed below for your convenience:

A. nSide Emergency Operations Plan Core Planning Components - 16-1-44(a)(b)(c)(1)

The Board shall adopt, incorporate, and update the Emergency Operations Plan to address serious threats to the safety of school property, students, and employees.

1. School Safety Committee
2. District Emergency Telephone List
3. Incident Command System Roles
4. List of Materials and Equipment
5. Hazard-Specific Annexes Annual School Safety Audit
6. Functional Annexes Emergency Procedures
7. Annual Multi-Drill Report
8. Annual Trainings for School Personnel
9. School Floor Plans/School Mapping to Include Staging Areas, Emergency Equipment and Utility Lines for all school buildings and central office locations

B. School Safety Trainings (Required)

1. **Mental Health Awareness-16-1-44(a)(b)(c)(1)**
The Board shall provide Mental Health Awareness training to all employees.
2. **Reporting of Child Abuse/Neglect - 26-14-3**
According to the laws of Alabama, when a child is known or suspected to be a victim of child abuse or neglect, it shall be required to report orally, either by telephone or direct communication immediately, followed by a written report, to a duly constituted authority.

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3. **Jamari Terrell Williams Act** - *Code of Alabama* 1975 Section 16-28B
The local board has a policy for *Cyber Bullying-Jamari Terrell Williams Act*. The local board has in place a clearly defined procedure for a student, or the parent or guardian of the affected student, to report bullying on a form authorized by the local board of education.
4. **Suicide Prevention Programs** -*Alabama Code* Section 16-28B-8
This law requires the implementation of comprehensive programs of suicide prevention that is designed for all students and employees. It also requires training, and implementation of local school board policies.
5. **Erin's Law (Child Sexual Abuse)-Act** 2015-456, HB 197
This law requires all K-12 public schools to establish a child sexual abuse prevention instructional program for students in Grades K-12 that includes at least four developmentally appropriate lessons building on skills learned in the previous years.
6. **Annalyn's Law** - 16-1-51.1
This law requires the Alabama State Board of Education to develop and each local school board to adopt a policy for the supervision and monitoring of students identified as juvenile sex offenders.

**LEA Safety Coordinators must attend at least two comprehensive training on school safety planning.

C. School Safety Drills (One drill is required per month when students are on school grounds)

1. **Fire Drills** - Section 36-19-10
2. **Severe Weather** - 16-1-44 (September, October, or November) and (January, February, or March)
3. **Lockdown/Intruder Drills** -16-1-44 (First 6 weeks of 1st Semester) and (First 6 weeks of 2nd Semester)

Please look for future communications about our summer and fall safety professional learning. If you have any questions regarding these requirements, please contact Ms. Ayanna Long by email at along@alsde.edu or Dr. Autumm Jeter by email at autumm.jeter@alsde.edu.

EGM/AJ/AL

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