

SCHOOL SECURITY ACT

SB98, ACT #2024-356



SUPPORT SERVICES SCHOOL SAFETY TEAM



SCHOOL FACILITIES AND SAFETY



ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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School Security Act Introduction

Sections 1 and 2
SB98, ACT #2024-356



Terminology of the Law

- The official name of the act is the **School Security Act**
- **ALEA**- Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency
- **Board**- The State Board of Education
- **Department**- The State Department of Education
- **School**- Any public Alabama K-12 school
- **School Emergency Operations Plan**- The plan adopted by each local board of education pursuant to Section 16-1-44
- **School Facility**- Any building operated in connection with a school, inclusive of housing classrooms, administration or athletic facilities

**Key
Components
of the Law**

- **Require periodic inspections of school security of public K-12 schools and facilities**
- **Establish the school mapping program with ALEA**
- **To provide for grants**
- **Designate an employee as District Safety Coordinator**

School Security Act Rubric & Assessment

Section 3

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43 (2) The board shall require that at least once every
44 five years, the school facilities under the jurisdiction of
45 each local board of education shall be inspected by at least
46 one school security inspector to determine the compliance of
47 the school facility and the local board of education with the
48 school security criteria established pursuant to subsection

- The board shall establish criteria for school security inspections
- The criteria shall include a rubric to be used to evaluate the school facility
- The board shall review and update the criteria and rubric to reflect best practices relating to school security

Requirements of the Rubric

- Security Cameras
- Alarm Systems
- Locks on exterior and interior doors
- Emergency escapes
- Fire extinguishers
- Intercoms and communication equipment
- Panic buttons
- Any other physical measures used to strengthen the security of school facilities, school buses, and school grounds

73 (c) Inspections under this chapter shall be completed
74 by one or more school security inspectors. The board shall
75 adopt rules relating to the selection of school security
76 inspectors. School security inspectors shall be neutral and
77 nonbiased individuals with some background experience relating
78 to school security or school facilities, as determined by the

- **School inspectors shall be nonbiased, with some background experience relating to school security**
 - **Retired SRO**
 - **Retired School Administrator**
 - **Retired Safety Coordinators**

School Security Inspection Reports

Each school facility shall receive a rating

Along with the rating, recommendations to improve school security shall be provided to each local board of education

Each rating may be assigned the color: green, yellow, or red

School Inspection Rubric			Compliant	Minor Needs	Needs Support
School: Multi-Story:	Principal: Multi-Building:	Grades: Enrollment:			
School Resource Officer					
There is a School Resource Officer (SRO) on site.					
The SRO has an office with a view of the school entrance or main hallway.					
The SRO has a defined role in the school's emergency operations plan.					
Alarm Systems					
All alarms are functional and tested regularly.					
Alarm controls are accessible only to authorized personnel.					
Building Access					
All exterior doors and windows are locked and secure.					
All visitor points are marked, monitored and controlled.					
Visitor sign-in procedures are in place.					
Intercom and Communication Systems					
The intercom system is functional in all areas of the school.					
Communication devices (radios, phones) are available and operational.					
The school can communicate with buses directly.					
There is a communication system available between the front office and the nurse's office.					
Panic Buttons					
Panic buttons are installed in key locations (main office, classrooms).					
Panic buttons are tested regularly for functionality.					
Surveillance Cameras					
All cameras are operational and cover all critical areas (entrances, exits, hallways, parking lots).					
Video recordings are stored securely and accessible to authorized personnel.					
Mental Health					
There is a school counselor on site.					
A mental health counselor is available.					
Mental health resources and support are accessible to students.					
Nurse					
The school has a nurse on site.					
The school nurse has a defined role in the school's emergency operation plan.					
Locks					
Locks on all interior and exterior doors are functional.					
Classrooms are equipped with locks that can be secured from the inside.					
Emergency Exits					
All emergency exits are clearly marked and unobstructed.					
All exit signs are illuminated and visible.					
Evacuation Routes					
Emergency evacuation routes are posted in classrooms.					

Green - Highest Level of Compliance
Yellow - Minor Needs
Red - Serious Needs/Needs Support

School Security Act School Mapping

Section 4

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School Mapping Program will be established within ALEA

130 Section 4. (a) A School Mapping Data Program is
131 established within ALEA to provide accurate maps of each
132 school in the state for use in the case of an emergency. ALEA
133 shall adopt rules to implement and administer the program
134 pursuant to this act.

135 (b) (1) ALEA shall collaborate with local boards of
136 education to produce accurate mapping data for each school in
137 this state, subject to the appropriation of funds for this

- Mapping data shall be accessible within software platforms used by agencies that provide emergency services to the specific school
- It shall be compatible with the school security software platform in use by the public K-12 school
- Shall be printable and in digital format
- No entity may be required to purchase additional software or pay a fee to view or access school mapping data

School Security Act: District Safety Coordinators

Section 5
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District Safety Coordinator

189 Section 5. (a) Each local board of education shall
190 designate an employee in the district's central office as the
191 district safety coordinator. Each district safety coordinator
192 must have direct access to the local superintendent of
193 education and must have prior experience in crisis response.

- Required to complete a multitude of trainings, drills, and other duties throughout the year
- Collaborate with the local board of education to adopt policies relating to the sharing of camera data
- Review the EOP by September 1 of each year and report to the superintendent of any administrator that does not have a current, up-to-date EOP

Required Trainings for District Safety Coordinator

Within ONE year of being designated, the following trainings shall be completed:

- 1. Emergency operation plan implementation;**
- 2. Lockdown best practices;**
- 3. Relocation, evacuation, and reunification;**
- 4. Weather and sheltering;**
- 5. Behavioral threat assessment;**
- 6. Facility security.**

ANNUAL

Required Trainings for District Safety Coordinator

- At least **FOUR** safety training sessions must be attended annually
- No more than one credit can be granted for attending a vendor-based session

There are multiple opportunities from **ALSDE** for training along with various agencies that offer trainings throughout the year that may be acceptable.

School Security Act Checklist

Organize, administer, and attend at least one school-based lockdown drill and one other drill

Organize and oversee the school safety meeting AT each school with, at minimum the following public safety officials attend:

- Law enforcement officer
- Local firefighter
- EMA
- School mental health coordinator

Organize and oversee the school safety meeting at each school. Include Sign In Sheet & Agenda.

Date of Meeting:	Link to Agenda & Sign-In:
Required Attendees	
<input type="checkbox"/> School Principal	<input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Principal
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Law Enforcement Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Firefighter
<input type="checkbox"/> DSC	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Coordinator	

Review EOP and notify the Superintendent if the EOP is not up-to-date by September 1 of each year

	Date of EOP Review	Up-to-Date	Action Plan/Notes:
By September 1		<input type="checkbox"/>	
After September 1		<input type="checkbox"/>	
After 30 days with Superintendent		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Assure that each school provides required training to personnel annually

Required Training	Alabama Code	Training Complete
Mandatory Reporter Training	<u>AL Code § 26-14-3</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Started
Erin's Law – Child Sexual Abuse	<u>AL Code § 16-40-9</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Started
Jamari T. Williams Act – Cyberbullying	<u>AL Code § 16-28B-1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Started
Suicide Prevention	<u>AL Code § 16-28B-8</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Started
Annalynn's Law – Juvenile Sex Offender	<u>AL Code § 16-1-51.1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Started
School Emergency Operation Plan	<u>AL Code § 16-1-44</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Started
Mental Health Awareness	<u>AL Code § 16-1-44</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Started
School Safety Audit – Hazard Assessment	<u>AL Code § 16-1-44</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Started

Assure that each school conducts, at minimum, an emergency drill per month & documents in nSide

Drill	Minimum Requirements by Law	Date(s) of Drill
Severe Weather	At least 1 during September through November & January through March	
Fire Drill	Can be any month	
Intruder Drill	One within 1 st 6-weeks of each Semester, but not limited to two	

School Security Act: Confidentiality

Section 6

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CONFIDENTIALITY

254 Section 6. (a) School security rubric ratings and
255 school mapping data, including any information or records used
256 to determine a rating or develop mapping data, are
257 confidential and shall not be considered public records under
258 Article 3 of Chapter 12 of Title 36, Code of Alabama 1975.

259 (b) This act may not be considered as creating a
260 private right of action against a local board of education or
261 its officials or employees.

DATA

2024-2025

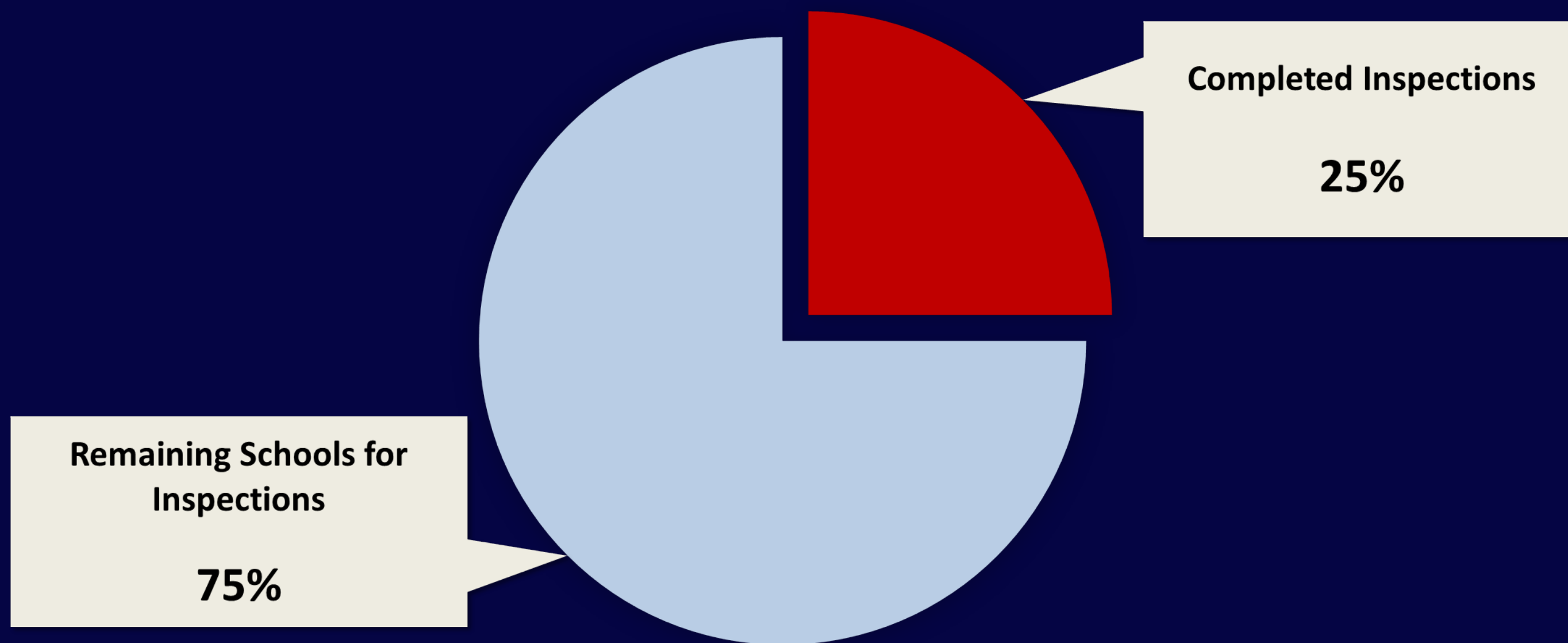
- 45 School Inspections Completed between November and May
- Schools were randomly selected

2025-2026

- 59 School Inspections Completed since August



Percentage of Schools on Compliance Monitoring Schedule with Completed Inspections as of October 31, 2025



Number of Schools with Completed Inspections in 2025	Total Number of Schools on Compliance Monitoring Schedule
59	235

QUESTIONS?



WE TEACH ALABAMA



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