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A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 school safety and security; to create the School Security Program to require periodic inspections of school security of public K-12 schools and facilities; to require the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) and the State Fire Marshal, to adopt rules to administer and implement the program and rate local boards of education based on compliance with school security criteria; to create the School Security and Fire Safety Fund; to provide for grants for qualifying local boards of education; to establish the School Mapping Data Program and require ALEA to adopt rules to administer and implement that program; to provide criteria for school maps; to provide for the distribution of school mapping data to certain law enforcement and public safety agencies; to require each local board of education to designate an employee as a district safety coordinator; and to provide for the duties of the district safety coordinator.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:



29 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as
30 the School Security Act.

31 Section 2. For the purposes of this act, the following
32 terms have the following meanings:

33 (1) ALEA. The Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency.

34 (2) BOARD. The State Board of Education, in
35 consultation with the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency
36 (ALEA) and the State Fire Marshal.

37 (3) DEPARTMENT. The State Department of Education.

38 (4) SCHOOL. Any public K-12 school.

39 (5) SCHOOL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN. The plan adopted
40 by each local board of education pursuant to Section 16-1-44,
41 Code of Alabama 1975.

42 (6) SCHOOL FACILITY. Any building operated in
43 connection with a school, including, but not limited to, those
44 housing classrooms, administration, or athletic facilities.

45 Section 3. (a) (1) There is established the School
46 Security Program. The board shall adopt rules to implement and
47 administer the program pursuant to this act.

48 (2) The board shall require that at least once every
49 five years, the school facilities under the jurisdiction of
50 each local board of education shall be inspected by at least
51 one school security inspector to determine the compliance of
52 the school facility and the local board of education with the
53 school security criteria established pursuant to subsection
54 (b).

55 (b) (1) The board shall establish criteria for school
56 security inspections. The criteria shall be established in



57 consultation with the department's regional school safety
58 coordinators and any other entities or individuals as
59 determined by the board. The criteria shall include a rubric
60 that school security inspectors must use to evaluate each
61 school facility during an inspection. The rubric shall
62 include, but not be limited to, standards for each of the
63 following:

- 64 a. Security cameras.
- 65 b. Alarm systems.
- 66 c. Locks on exterior and interior doors.
- 67 d. Emergency escapes.
- 68 e. Fire extinguishers.
- 69 f. Intercoms and communications equipment.
- 70 g. Panic buttons.
- 71 h. Any other physical measures used to strengthen the
72 security of school facilities, school buses, and school
73 grounds, including, but not limited to, criteria related to
74 intrusion detection, fencing, and windows.

75 (2) The board shall periodically review and update the
76 criteria and rubric to ensure that both accurately reflect
77 current best practices relating to school security.

78 (c) Inspections under this chapter shall be completed
79 by one or more school security inspectors. The board shall
80 adopt rules relating to the selection of school security
81 inspectors. School security inspectors shall be neutral and
82 nonbiased individuals with some background experience relating
83 to school security or school facilities, as determined by the
84 board. Each school security inspector shall be certified



85 through a state, federal, or other industry professional
86 course relating to physical security. Upon request, the school
87 security inspector must provide proof of his or her
88 certification to the department, ALEA, and the State Fire
89 Marshal. A regional school safety coordinator may not be a
90 school security inspector but may attend school security
91 inspections for the purposes of reviewing the accuracy and
92 currentness of school security criteria and rubric.

93 (d) (1) Following an inspection, the school security
94 inspector who conducted the inspection shall provide each
95 school facility with a school security rubric rating. The
96 school security inspector shall also provide each local board
97 of education that he or she inspects with the school security
98 rubric rating for each school facility and recommendations to
99 improve school security.

100 (2) A school security rubric rating may be assigned the
101 color green, yellow, or red. A "green" rating shall indicate
102 the highest level of compliance with the school security
103 criteria, a "red" rating shall indicate serious needs, and a
104 "yellow" rating shall indicate minor needs.

105 (e) (1) The School Security and Fire Safety Fund is
106 created within the State Treasury.

107 (2)a. The board may award grants to local boards of
108 education to assist those local boards in complying with the
109 school security criteria established pursuant to subdivision
110 (b).

111 b. The board may award grants to local boards of
112 education to assist those local boards in complying with fire



113 safety recommendations made by the state Fire Marshal or his
114 or her assistants, as defined by Section 36-19-3, Code of
115 Alabama 1975.

116 (3) A local board of education that receives a grant
117 from the fund shall ensure that the expenditure of any grant
118 funds will be used to improve school facilities in compliance
119 with the state building code and rules adopted by the board,
120 including rules related to school facilities.

121 (4) The board shall develop an application form and
122 adopt procedures for the administration of the fund, including
123 for the development of application criteria. The board shall
124 prioritize schools with the most need as demonstrated through
125 the school security inspection rubric rating and local boards
126 of education that have completed a facilities assessment
127 through the department's regional school safety training
128 program.

129 (5) Any monies appropriated shall be budgeted and
130 allotted pursuant to the Budget Management Act in accordance
131 with Article 4, commencing with Section 41-4-80 of Chapter 4
132 of Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975, and only in the amounts
133 provided by the Legislature in the general appropriations act
134 or other appropriations act.

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

140 (b) (1) ALEA shall collaborate with local boards of



141 education to produce accurate mapping data for each school in
142 this state, subject to the appropriation of funds for this
143 purpose. School mapping data shall include accurate floor
144 plans of each school overlaid on current, verified aerial
145 imagery of the campus and shall meet all of the following
146 requirements:

147 a. Be oriented true north.

148 b. Be verified by the entity producing the data for
149 accuracy by a walk-through of school buildings and grounds.

150 c. Contain site-specific labeling that matches the
151 structure of school buildings, including room labels, hallway
152 names, and external door or stairwell numbers and locations of
153 hazards, critical utility locations, key boxes, automated
154 external defibrillators, and trauma kits.

155 d. Contain site-specific labeling that matches the
156 school grounds, including parking areas, athletic fields,
157 surrounding roads, and neighboring properties.

158 e. Be overlaid with gridded x and y coordinates.

159 (2) Updates to school mapping data shall be completed
160 as deemed necessary by ALEA, in consultation with the State
161 Board of Education and the applicable local board of
162 education. Any updates to school mapping data shall be
163 accessible within software platforms used by the local,
164 county, state, and federal public safety agencies that provide
165 emergency services to the specific school.

166 (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to
167 require the distribution of school mapping data to anyone
168 other than local, county, state, and federal public safety or



169 education agencies.

170 (c) School mapping data shall be provided to each local
171 board of education, local law enforcement agency, and public
172 safety agency for use in response to emergencies. For the
173 purposes of this section, emergencies include, but are not
174 limited to, any event in which one or more law enforcement
175 officers, firefighters, rescue squads, emergency medical
176 services providers, public safety telecommunications, or other
177 emergency management provider may respond.

178 (d) (1) School mapping data shall be compatible with
179 software platforms used by local, county, state, and federal
180 public safety agencies that provide emergency services to the
181 school for which the data is provided. School mapping data
182 shall be compatible with security software platforms in use by
183 the public K-12 school for which the data is provided.

184 (2) School mapping data shall be available in a
185 printable format and, if requested by a public safety agency,
186 local law enforcement agency, or local board of education, be
187 in a digital format that may be integrated into interactive
188 mobile platforms in use.

189 (e) No entity, including, but not limited to, a law
190 enforcement agency, local board of education, or public safety
191 agency, may be required to purchase additional software or pay
192 a fee to view or access school mapping data through the School
193 Mapping Data Program.

194 Section 5. (a) Each local board of education shall
195 designate an employee in the district's central office as the
196 district safety coordinator. Each district safety coordinator



197 must have direct access to the local superintendent of
198 education and must have prior experience in crisis response.

199 (b) Within one year of designating an employee as the
200 district safety coordinator, each local superintendent of
201 education shall ensure that the district safety coordinator
202 completes training related to:

- 203 (1) Emergency operation plan implementation;
- 204 (2) Lockdown best practices;
- 205 (3) Relocation, evacuation, and reunification;
- 206 (4) Weather and sheltering;
- 207 (5) Behavioral threat assessment; and
- 208 (6) Facility security.

209 (c) Each district safety coordinator shall:

210 (1) Annually attend at least four safety training
211 sessions, with no more than one credit granted for attending a
212 vendor-based training session. Acceptable training includes
213 programming by the department, the Alabama Homeland Security
214 Office, the Alabama Emergency Management Agency, the National
215 Incident Management System, the Partnership Alliance for Safe
216 Schools, the Alabama School Resource Officer Association, the
217 Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National School Resource
218 Officer Association, or other governmental agency or
219 nonprofit organization focusing on relevant school safety best
220 practices.

221 (2) Organize, administer, and attend at least one
222 school-based lockdown drill and one other safety drill per
223 semester and review the implementation of those drills with
224 the building-level administrator.



225 (3) Annually organize and oversee a meeting with school
226 administrators and local public safety officials at each
227 school in the local school district in order to familiarize
228 the local officials with each school, its respective school
229 emergency operating plan, and its school mapping data. The
230 district safety coordinator shall ensure that each of the
231 following local public safety officials attend the meeting:

- 232 a. At least one local law enforcement officer.
- 233 b. At least one local firefighter.
- 234 c. At least one representative of the local emergency
235 management agency office.
- 236 d. The school mental health coordinator.
- 237 e. Any other local public safety officials, as
238 determined by the district safety coordinator.

239 (4) Collaborate with the local board of education to
240 adopt policies relating to the sharing of camera data and
241 remote access control with appropriate local, state, and
242 federal law enforcement agencies.

243 (d) (1) Each district safety coordinator shall annually
244 review the school emergency operation plan of each school
245 local in his or her local school district.

246 (2) No later than September 1 of each year, each
247 district safety coordinator shall notify his or her
248 superintendent of education of any building-level
249 administrator or school that fails to have a current,
250 up-to-date school emergency operation plan.

251 (3) Upon receiving a notice under subdivision (2), a
252 local superintendent of education shall ensure that the school



253 emergency operation plan is updated within 30 days of his or
254 her receipt of notice.

255 (e) The board shall adopt rules to implement and
256 administer this section, including rules relating to the
257 qualification of district safety coordinators and training
258 requirements for district safety coordinators.

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

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

267 Section 7. This act shall become effective on October
268 1, 2024.