

1 AN ACT concerning safety.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Safety Drill Act is amended by  
5 changing Sections 5, 10, 15, and 25 and by adding Section 65 as  
6 follows:

7 (105 ILCS 128/5)

8 Sec. 5. Definitions. In this Act:

9 "Emergency services and disaster agency" means an agency  
10 by the name "emergency services and disaster agency", by the  
11 name "emergency management agency", or by any other name that  
12 is established by ordinance within a political subdivision to  
13 coordinate the emergency management program within that  
14 political subdivision with private organizations, other  
15 political subdivisions, and the State and federal governments.

16 "First responder" means and includes all fire departments  
17 and districts, law enforcement agencies and officials,  
18 emergency medical responders, emergency medical dispatchers,  
19 and emergency management officials involved in the execution  
20 and documentation of the drills administered under this Act.

21 "Hazardous substance" has the meaning given to that term  
22 in Section 3.215 of the Environmental Protection Act, except  
23 that, as used in this Act, "hazardous substance" also includes

1 radioactive materials, hydrocarbons, petroleum, gasoline, and  
2 crude oil or any products, by-products, or fractions thereof.

3 "Local emergency planning committee" means the committee  
4 that is appointed for an emergency planning district under  
5 Section 301 of the federal Emergency Planning and Community  
6 Right-to-Know Act of 1986.

7 "School" means a public or private facility that offers  
8 elementary or secondary education to students under the age of  
9 21. As used in this definition, "public facility" means a  
10 facility operated by the State or by a unit of local  
11 government. As used in this definition, "private facility"  
12 means any non-profit, non-home-based, non-public elementary or  
13 secondary school that is in compliance with Title VI of the  
14 Civil Rights Act of 1964 and attendance at which satisfies the  
15 requirements of Section 26-1 of the School Code. While more  
16 than one school may be housed in a facility, for purposes of  
17 this Act, the facility shall be considered a school. When a  
18 school has more than one location, for purposes of this Act,  
19 each different location shall be considered its own school.

20 "School district" means any public school district  
21 established under the School Code, any program of a special  
22 education joint agreement established under Section 3-15.14,  
23 10-22.31, or 10-22.31a of the School Code, or any charter  
24 school authorized by the State Board of Education in  
25 accordance with Section 27A-7.5 of the School Code.

26 "School safety drill" means a pre-planned exercise

1 conducted by a school in accordance with the drills and  
2 requirements set forth in this Act.

3 (Source: P.A. 102-894, eff. 5-20-22; 102-1006, eff. 1-1-23;  
4 103-154, eff. 6-30-23; 103-175, eff. 6-30-23.)

5 (105 ILCS 128/10)

6 Sec. 10. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is (i) to  
7 establish minimum requirements and standards for schools to  
8 follow when conducting school safety drills and reviewing  
9 school emergency and crisis response plans and, beginning July  
10 1, 2027, hazardous substance release procedures and (ii) to  
11 encourage schools and first responders to work together for  
12 the safety of children. Communities and schools may exceed  
13 these requirements and standards.

14 (Source: P.A. 94-600, eff. 8-16-05.)

15 (105 ILCS 128/15)

16 Sec. 15. Types of drills. Under this Act, the following  
17 school safety drills shall be instituted by all schools in  
18 this State:

19 (1) School evacuation drills, which shall address and  
20 prepare students and school personnel for situations that  
21 occur when conditions outside of a school building are  
22 safer than inside a school building. Evacuation incidents  
23 are based on the needs of particular communities and may  
24 include without limitation the following:

- 1 (A) fire;
- 2 (B) suspicious items or persons;
- 3 (C) incidents involving hazardous materials,  
4 including, but not limited to, chemical, incendiary,  
5 and explosives; ~~and~~
- 6 (D) bomb threats; and -
- 7 (E) incidents involving the release or explosion  
8 of hazardous substances.

9 (2) Except as limited by subsection (b-5) of Section  
10 20 of this Act, bus evacuation drills, which shall address  
11 and prepare students and school personnel for situations  
12 that occur when conditions outside of a bus are safer than  
13 inside the bus. Evacuation incidents are based on the  
14 needs of particular communities and may include without  
15 limitation the following:

- 16 (A) fire;
- 17 (B) suspicious items; ~~and~~
- 18 (C) incidents involving hazardous materials,  
19 including, but not limited to, chemical, incendiary,  
20 and explosives; and -
- 21 (D) incidents involving the release or explosion  
22 of hazardous substances.

23 (3) Law enforcement drills, which shall address and  
24 prepare school personnel for situations calling for the  
25 involvement of law enforcement when conditions inside a  
26 school building are safer than outside of a school

1 building and it is necessary to protect building occupants  
2 from potential dangers in a school building. Law  
3 enforcement drills may involve situations that call for  
4 the reverse-evacuation or the lock-down of a school  
5 building. Evacuation or reverse-evacuation incidents shall  
6 include a shooting incident.

7 (4) Severe weather and shelter-in-place drills, which  
8 shall address and prepare students for situations  
9 involving severe weather emergencies or the release of  
10 external gas or chemicals. Severe weather and  
11 shelter-in-place incidents shall be based on the needs and  
12 environment of particular communities and may include  
13 without limitation the following:

14 (A) severe weather, including, but not limited to,  
15 shear winds, lightning, and earthquakes;

16 (B) incidents involving hazardous materials,  
17 including, but not limited to, chemical, incendiary,  
18 and explosives; ~~and~~

19 (C) incidents involving weapons of mass  
20 destruction, including, but not limited to,  
21 biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons; and ~~and~~

22 (D) incidents involving the release or explosion  
23 of hazardous materials.

24 (Source: P.A. 100-443, eff. 8-25-17.)

1           Sec. 25. Annual review.

2           (a) Each public school district, through its school board  
3 or the board's designee, shall conduct a minimum of one annual  
4 meeting at which it will review each school building's  
5 emergency and crisis response plans, protocols, and  
6 procedures, including procedures regarding the school  
7 district's threat assessment team, the school district's  
8 hazardous substance release procedures, procedures regarding  
9 the school district's cardiac emergency response plan, the  
10 efficacy and effects of law enforcement drills, and each  
11 building's compliance with the school safety drill programs.  
12 The purpose of this annual review shall be to review and update  
13 the emergency and crisis response plans, protocols, and  
14 procedures and the school safety drill programs of the  
15 district and each of its school buildings. This review must be  
16 at no cost to the school district. In updating a school  
17 building's emergency and crisis response plans, consideration  
18 may be given to making the emergency and crisis response plans  
19 available to first responders, administrators, and teachers  
20 for implementation and utilization through the use of  
21 electronic applications on electronic devices, including, but  
22 not limited to, smartphones, tablets, and laptop computers.

23           (b) Each school board or the board's designee is required  
24 to participate in the annual review and to invite each of the  
25 following parties to the annual review and provide each party  
26 with a minimum of 30 days' notice before the date of the annual

1 review:

2 (1) The principal of each school within the school  
3 district or his or her official designee.

4 (2) Representatives from any other education-related  
5 organization or association deemed appropriate by the  
6 school district.

7 (3) Representatives from all local first responder  
8 organizations to participate, advise, and consult in the  
9 review process, including, but not limited to:

10 (A) the appropriate local fire department or  
11 district;

12 (B) the appropriate local law enforcement agency;

13 (C) the appropriate local emergency medical  
14 services agency if the agency is a separate, local  
15 first responder unit; ~~and~~

16 (D) any other member of the first responder or  
17 emergency management community that has contacted the  
18 district superintendent or his or her designee during  
19 the past year to request involvement in a school's  
20 emergency planning or drill process; and ~~-~~

21 (E) the applicable emergency services and disaster  
22 agency or the applicable local emergency planning  
23 committee.

24 (4) The school board or its designee may also choose  
25 to invite to the annual review any other persons whom it  
26 believes will aid in the review process, including, but

1 not limited to, any members of any other education-related  
2 organization or the first responder or emergency  
3 management community.

4 (c) Upon the conclusion of the annual review, the school  
5 board or the board's designee shall sign a one page report,  
6 which may be in either a check-off format or a narrative  
7 format, that does the following:

8 (1) summarizes the review's recommended changes to the  
9 existing school safety plans and drill plans;

10 (2) lists the parties that participated in the annual  
11 review, and includes the annual review's attendance  
12 record;

13 (3) certifies that an effective review of the  
14 emergency and crisis response plans, protocols, and  
15 procedures and the school safety drill programs of the  
16 district and each of its school buildings has occurred;

17 (4) states that the school district will implement  
18 those plans, protocols, procedures, and programs, during  
19 the academic year; and

20 (5) includes the authorization of the school board or  
21 the board's designee.

22 (d) The school board or its designee shall send a copy of  
23 the report to each party that participates in the annual  
24 review process and to the appropriate regional superintendent  
25 of schools. If any of the participating parties have comments  
26 on the certification document, those parties shall submit

1 their comments in writing to the appropriate regional  
2 superintendent. The regional superintendent shall maintain a  
3 record of these comments. The certification document may be in  
4 a check-off format or narrative format, at the discretion of  
5 the district superintendent.

6 (e) The review must occur at least once during the fiscal  
7 year, at a specific time chosen at the school district  
8 superintendent's discretion.

9 (f) A private school shall conduct a minimum of one annual  
10 meeting at which the school must review each school building's  
11 emergency and crisis response plans, protocols, and  
12 procedures, including procedures regarding the school's  
13 cardiac emergency response plan, and each building's  
14 compliance with the school safety drill programs of the  
15 school. The purpose of this annual review shall be to review  
16 and update the emergency and crisis response plans, protocols,  
17 and procedures and the school safety drill programs of the  
18 school. This review must be at no cost to the private school.

19 The private school shall invite representatives from all  
20 local first responder organizations to participate, advise,  
21 and consult in the review process, including, but not limited  
22 to, the following:

23 (1) the appropriate local fire department or fire  
24 protection district;

25 (2) the appropriate local law enforcement agency;

26 (3) the appropriate local emergency medical services

1 agency if the agency is a separate, local first responder  
2 unit; and

3 (4) any other member of the first responder or  
4 emergency management community that has contacted the  
5 school's chief administrative officer or his or her  
6 designee during the past year to request involvement in  
7 the school's emergency planning or drill process.

8 (Source: P.A. 102-395, eff. 8-16-21; 103-608, eff. 1-1-25.)

9 (105 ILCS 128/65 new)

10 Sec. 65. Hazardous substance release guidance and  
11 procedures.

12 (a) By July 1, 2026, the Illinois Emergency Management  
13 Agency and Office of Homeland Security, in consultation with  
14 the State Board of Education, shall develop and provide  
15 guidance to all local emergency planning committees, emergency  
16 services and disaster agencies, and school districts in the  
17 State specifically related to the potential impact to school  
18 districts of a release or explosion of a hazardous substance  
19 resulting from storage or rail transport. This guidance shall  
20 also be made available to these entities on the website of the  
21 Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland  
22 Security.

23 (b) The guidance developed under subsection (a) shall  
24 include:

25 (1) a description of the methods and procedures to be

1 followed by school personnel in response to a release or  
2 explosion of a hazardous substance;

3 (2) a description of the federal, State, or local  
4 agencies, including first responders, responsible for  
5 identifying whether the release or explosion of a  
6 hazardous substance has occurred and how that information  
7 will be communicated to school personnel, including any  
8 appropriate precautions school districts should take to  
9 protect their students and staff and how the wind  
10 direction may impact their evacuation plans;

11 (3) recommendations for school evacuation plans,  
12 including recommendations for an alternative plan if  
13 advised by federal, State, or local agencies, including  
14 first responders, that one is needed due to the wind  
15 direction;

16 (4) a list of available training programs;

17 (5) a description of recommended communication  
18 protocols for school districts with first responders,  
19 local law enforcement agencies, and other local, State, or  
20 federal emergency management agencies; and

21 (6) a list of instructions for school districts on how  
22 to identify their applicable local emergency planning  
23 committee or emergency services and disaster agency.

24 (c) By July 1, 2027, each school district shall, in  
25 consultation with the applicable local emergency planning  
26 committee or emergency services and disaster agency, develop

1 procedures for each of its schools to address the release or  
2 explosion of a hazardous substance based on the guidance  
3 developed under subsection (a). However, a school district is  
4 not required to develop procedures until the guidance provided  
5 in subsection (a) is made available on the website of the  
6 Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland  
7 Security.

8 (d) Each school district shall make available to all  
9 school personnel relevant and appropriate information related  
10 to the procedures in subsection (c), including identified  
11 evacuation plans, as well as alternative evacuation plans,  
12 safe locations where student and staff can seek shelter, and a  
13 description of how that information will be communicated to  
14 school personnel in such an emergency.