

By: Zaffirini, Campbell

S.B. No. 57

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to provisions and plans by public schools to ensure the safety of individuals with disabilities or impairments during a mandatory school drill or a disaster or emergency situation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.0052 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.0052. INCLUSION OF ACCOMMODATIONS DURING MANDATORY SCHOOL DRILLS IN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM OR SECTION 504 PLAN. (a) In this section:

(1) "Committee" means a committee established under Section 29.005(a).

(2) "Section 504 plan" means a plan created under Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Section 794).

(3) "Team" means a team established for a student under Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Section 794).

(b) In developing or modifying an individualized education program or a Section 504 plan for a student, the student's committee or team, as applicable, shall consider whether the student's disabilities or impairments would require the school district to provide any specific accommodations for the student during a mandatory school drill required under Section 37.114. If the student's committee or team determines that the student would

1 require a specific accommodation, the committee or team shall:

2 (1) identify each disability or impairment that
3 requires accommodation; and

4 (2) for each disability or impairment identified under
5 Subdivision (1), specify the required accommodations for that
6 disability or impairment.

7 (c) In making considerations and specifying required
8 accommodations under Subsection (b), a committee or team must
9 follow the guidelines established by the commissioner under Section
10 [37.1086](#).

11 (d) A student's committee or team shall provide to each
12 administrator with emergency planning responsibilities at the
13 school district and campus at which the student is enrolled the
14 information described by Subsections (b)(1) and (2).

15 (e) A committee or team may invite school district and
16 campus administrators with emergency planning responsibilities to
17 assist the committee or team in making the considerations and
18 specifying the required accommodations described by Subsection
19 (b).

20 SECTION 2. Section [37.108](#)(f), Education Code, is amended to
21 read as follows:

22 (f) A school district shall include in its multihazard
23 emergency operations plan:

24 (1) a chain of command that designates the individual
25 responsible for making final decisions during a disaster or
26 emergency situation and identifies other individuals responsible
27 for making those decisions if the designated person is unavailable;

1 (2) provisions that address physical and
2 psychological safety for responding to a natural disaster, active
3 shooter, and any other dangerous scenario identified for purposes
4 of this section by the agency or the Texas School Safety Center;

5 (3) provisions for ensuring the safety of students in
6 portable buildings;

7 (4) provisions for ensuring that students and district
8 personnel with disabilities are provided equal access to safety
9 during a disaster or emergency situation based on the guidelines
10 established by the commissioner under Section [37.1086](#);

11 (5) provisions for providing immediate notification
12 to parents, guardians, and other persons standing in parental
13 relation in circumstances involving a significant threat to the
14 health or safety of students, including identification of the
15 individual with responsibility for overseeing the notification;

16 (6) provisions for supporting the psychological
17 safety of students, district personnel, and the community during
18 the response and recovery phase following a disaster or emergency
19 situation that:

20 (A) are aligned with best practice-based
21 programs and research-based practices recommended under Section
22 [38.351](#);

23 (B) include strategies for ensuring any required
24 professional development training for suicide prevention and
25 grief-informed and trauma-informed care is provided to appropriate
26 school personnel;

27 (C) include training on integrating

1 psychological safety and suicide prevention strategies into the
2 district's plan, such as psychological first aid for schools
3 training, from an approved list of recommended training established
4 by the commissioner and Texas School Safety Center for:

5 (i) members of the district's school safety
6 and security committee under Section 37.109;

7 (ii) district school counselors and mental
8 health professionals; and

9 (iii) educators and other district
10 personnel as determined by the district;

11 (D) include strategies and procedures for
12 integrating and supporting physical and psychological safety that
13 align with the provisions described by Subdivision (2); and

14 (E) implement trauma-informed policies;

15 (7) a policy for providing a substitute teacher access
16 to school campus buildings and materials necessary for the
17 substitute teacher to carry out the duties of a district employee
18 during an emergency or a mandatory emergency drill;

19 (8) the name of each individual on the district's
20 school safety and security committee established under Section
21 37.109 and the date of each committee meeting during the preceding
22 year; and

23 (9) certification that the district is in compliance
24 with Section 37.117.

25 SECTION 3. Section 37.1086, Education Code, is amended to
26 read as follows:

27 Sec. 37.1086. GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL DRILL ACCOMMODATIONS

1 AND MULTHAZARD EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN PROVISIONS FOR
2 INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES OR IMPAIRMENTS. (a) The
3 commissioner by rule [~~agency~~] shall establish guidelines for:

4 (1) the considerations and specifications required
5 under Section 29.0052 regarding accommodations for a student with
6 an individualized education program or a plan created under Section
7 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Section 794); and

8 (2) the provisions in a school district's multihazard
9 emergency operations plan under Section 37.108(f)(4) to ensure the
10 safety of students and district personnel with disabilities or
11 impairments during a disaster or emergency situation.

12 (b) In establishing guidelines under Subsection (a), the
13 commissioner shall consult [~~, in consultation~~] with:

- 14 (1) the Texas School Safety Center;
- 15 (2) regional education service centers;
- 16 (3) public school educators and administrators who
17 work with students with disabilities or impairments; and
- 18 (4) advocacy groups representing individuals with
19 disabilities or impairments.

20 (c) [~~(b)~~] A school district must follow the guidelines
21 established by the commissioner [~~agency~~] under Subsection (a)(2)
22 [~~(a)~~] in adopting and implementing the district's multihazard
23 emergency operations plan under Section 37.108.

24 SECTION 4. As soon as practicable after the effective date
25 of this Act but not later than June 1, 2026, the commissioner of
26 education shall adopt rules establishing the guidelines required by
27 Section 37.1086, Education Code, as amended by this Act.

1 SECTION 5. Section 29.0052, Education Code, as added by
2 this Act, applies beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

3 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.