

By: Allison

H.B. No. 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to measures for school safety in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Section 37.108(f), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

(4) provisions for ensuring that students and district personnel with disabilities are provided equal access to safety during a disaster or emergency situation;

(5) provisions for providing immediate notification to parents, guardians, and other persons standing in parental relation in circumstances involving a significant threat to the health or safety of students, including identification of the

1 individual with responsibility for overseeing the notification;

2 (6) provisions for supporting the psychological
3 safety of students, district personnel, and the community during
4 the response and recovery phase following a disaster or emergency
5 situation that:

6 (A) are aligned with best practice-based
7 programs and research-based practices recommended under Section
8 [38.351](#);

9 (B) include strategies for ensuring any required
10 professional development training for suicide prevention and
11 grief-informed and trauma-informed care is provided to appropriate
12 school personnel;

13 (C) include training on integrating
14 psychological safety and suicide prevention strategies into the
15 district's plan, such as psychological first aid for schools
16 training, from an approved list of recommended training established
17 by the commissioner and Texas School Safety Center for:

18 (i) members of the district's school safety
19 and security committee under Section [37.109](#);

20 (ii) district school counselors and mental
21 health professionals; and

22 (iii) educators and other district
23 personnel as determined by the district;

24 (D) include strategies and procedures for
25 integrating and supporting physical and psychological safety that
26 align with the provisions described by Subdivision (2); and

27 (E) implement trauma-informed policies;

1 (7) a policy for providing a substitute teacher access
2 to school campus buildings and materials necessary for the
3 substitute teacher to carry out the duties of a district employee
4 during an emergency or a mandatory emergency drill; ~~and~~

5 (8) the name of each individual on the district's
6 school safety and security committee established under Section
7 37.109 and the date of each committee meeting during the preceding
8 year; and

9 (9) provisions for reuniting students with their
10 parents, guardians, or other persons standing in parental relation
11 following a disaster or emergency situation.

12 SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 37, Education Code, is
13 amended by adding Section 37.117 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 37.117. MOBILE PANIC ALERT SYSTEM. (a) Each school
15 district and open-enrollment charter school, in consultation with
16 local law enforcement agencies, shall implement a mobile panic
17 alert system to send emergency alerts to district or school
18 emergency services and emergency services agencies, law
19 enforcement agencies, health departments, and fire departments.

20 (b) The mobile panic alert system must:

21 (1) allow for immediate contact with district or
22 school emergency services, emergency services agencies, law
23 enforcement agencies, health departments, and fire departments;

24 (2) ensure real-time coordination between first
25 responder agencies;

26 (3) integrate directly with local public safety
27 answering point infrastructure to transmit 9-1-1 telephone calls;

1 and

2 (4) be capable of activation by mobile telephone.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.