

By: Zaffirini

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), recommend specific accommodations for that  
6 disability or impairment.

7 (c) In making considerations and recommendations under  
8 Subsection (b), a committee or team must follow the guidelines  
9 established by the agency under Section 37.1086.

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

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

18 SECTION 2. Section 37.108(f), Education Code, is amended to  
19 read as follows:

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

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

26 (2) provisions that address physical and  
27 psychological safety for responding to a natural disaster, active

1 shooter, and any other dangerous scenario identified for purposes  
2 of this section by the agency or the Texas School Safety Center;

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

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

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

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

18 (A) are aligned with best practice-based  
19 programs and research-based practices recommended under Section  
20 38.351;

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

25 (C) include training on integrating  
26 psychological safety and suicide prevention strategies into the  
27 district's plan, such as psychological first aid for schools

1 training, from an approved list of recommended training established  
2 by the commissioner and Texas School Safety Center for:

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

5 (ii) district school counselors and mental  
6 health professionals; and

7 (iii) educators and other district  
8 personnel as determined by the district;

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

12 (E) implement trauma-informed policies;

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

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

21 (9) certification that the district is in compliance  
22 with Section 37.117.

23 SECTION 3. Section 37.1086, Education Code, is amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 Sec. 37.1086. GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL DRILL ACCOMMODATIONS  
26 AND MULTHAZARD EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN PROVISIONS FOR  
27 INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES OR IMPAIRMENTS. (a) The agency

1 shall establish guidelines for:

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

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

10 (b) In establishing guidelines under Subsection (a), the  
11 agency shall consult [~~in consultation~~] with:

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

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

22 SECTION 4. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
23 of this Act but not later than December 1, 2025, the Texas Education  
24 Agency shall establish the guidelines required by Section 37.1086,  
25 Education Code, as amended by this Act.

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

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