

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 218

BY REPRESENTATIVES MIGUEZ, LAFLEUR, AND GAROFALO

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the state Department of Education to study school safety issues and submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for related legislation, to the House Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana House of Representatives recognizes and acknowledges that school safety is of the highest importance; and

WHEREAS, current law, R.S. 17:416.16, provides relative to school crisis management and response plans, including requirements relative to their preparation, content, review, revision, and rehearsal; and

WHEREAS, current law, R.S. 17:416.19, requires a public school system that has entered into an agreement with a local law enforcement agency to provide for school resource officers to annually report to the state Department of Education the total number of school resource officers provided to the system; and

WHEREAS, in light of recent incidents of school violence, it is important that the Louisiana House of Representatives be informed as to the measures being taken at the local level relative to school safety and as to compliance with laws relative to school safety.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education to study school safety issues and submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for related legislation, to the House Committee on Education not later than September 30, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of Education shall consult with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness when conducting this study and preparing the report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the House of Representatives does hereby urge and request that each local public school board and the governing authority of each charter school fully cooperate with the department as it conducts this study and gathers this information.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department's report shall contain information pertaining to the school safety measures being taken at the system level by each local public school board and the governing authority of each charter school, including but not limited to any systemwide policies and budgetary information relative to expenditures for school safety measures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include system-level information about school resource officers, including but not limited to the information that the department has received relative to local agreements with law enforcement agencies to provide school resource officers pursuant to R.S. 17:416.19(D).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall also include statistical data relative to the number of public schools, including both traditional public schools and charter schools, with and without a school resource officer or law enforcement officer statewide, broken down in terms of elementary schools versus high schools without disclosing information about any school by name, location, or other potentially identifiable information, and financial information relative to the estimated cost of providing a school resource officer or law enforcement officer in each public school statewide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall also include information provided by each local school board and the governing authority of each charter school relative to the compliance, or lack thereof, of schools under its jurisdiction with the following provisions of state law as provided in R.S. 17:416.16:

(1) The requirement that a school crisis management and response plan be prepared by each public school principal jointly with local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials.

(2) The requirement that the plan focus on preventing the loss of life and the injury of students and teachers and other school employees; detail the roles and responsibilities of each school employee and the relevant coordination agreements, services, and security measures of a school; and provide for parental notification in the event of a shooting or other violent incident or emergency situation.

(3) The requirement that each public school principal, jointly with local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials, review the plan at least once annually and revise the plan as necessary.

(4) The requirement that each principal submit such plan in writing to the local school superintendent for approval at least once annually, including upon each revision.

(5) The requirement that the superintendent make an annual report to the public school governing authority on the status of the plan of each school under the governing authority's jurisdiction.

(6) The requirement that within the first thirty days of each school year, each public school principal shall conduct a safety drill to rehearse the components of the plan and the requirement that not later than seven days after the drill, the principal submit a written report summarizing the details of the drill to the local superintendent.

(7) The requirement that each public school principal notify all teachers and other school employees regarding revisions made to the plan.

(8) The requirement that each plan provide that classroom doors with locks that are in compliance with all fire safety standards remain locked during instructional time and that a locked door shall not obstruct egress.

(9) The requirement, if a school has a resource officer or a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor, that he join the principal and local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials in preparing the plan and participate in any review or revision of the plan.

(10) The requirement that each school year, each public school principal fulfill his responsibility for providing in-service training for all teachers and school employees pertaining to the plan.

(11) The requirement that each public school principal keep a copy of the approved plan in his office and provide a copy to the following individuals, each of whom is

responsible for keeping in his respective office a copy of the plan that is readily accessible in the event of a school shooting or other violent incident or emergency situation: the president of the local school board; the local school superintendent; the chief of police of the municipality or the sheriff of the parish where the school is located, as applicable, as well as the local fire chief whose office is in closest geographic proximity to the school.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state superintendent of education, who shall be responsible for electronically distributing it to each local public school superintendent and the administrative head of each charter school.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES