

Relative to school crisis management and response plans:

#### DEFINITION

Existing law defines a "crisis management and response plan" as a plan to:

- (1) Address school safety and the incidence of violence at schools, on school buses, and at school-related activities.
- (2) Respond effectively to such incidents.
- (3) Ensure that students, teachers, and school employees have access to a safe, secure, and orderly school that is conducive to learning.

Further requires that a plan address the management of any other emergency situation.

New law specifically adds shootings to the incidences of violence a plan shall address.

#### PLAN PREPARATION

Existing law requires the preparation of a plan by each public school principal, who shall consider and include, where appropriate, input from teachers and other school employees, students and their parents, and community leaders. Prior law required that the plan be prepared in accordance with school board policy and that the principal consider and include, where appropriate, input from local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials. New law requires the principal to prepare the plan jointly with – not just consider and include input from – such officials and adds that if a school has a resource officer or Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor, he shall participate in plan preparation, review, and revision.

#### PLAN CONTENT

Existing law requires the plan to detail school employees' roles and responsibilities and coordination agreements, services, and security measures in the event of a violent incident or emergency situation. New law additionally requires that the plan:

- (1) Focus on preventing loss of life and injury.
- (2) Provide that classroom doors with locks in compliance with fire safety standards remain locked during instructional time and that locked doors shall not obstruct egress.

Existing law authorizes the plan to include provision for encouraging peer helper programs and identifying students who may have experienced rejection or other traumatic life events. New law additionally authorizes the plan to provide for student counseling in the event of a shooting or other violent incident or emergency situation.

#### PLAN REVIEW, REVISION, AND APPROVAL AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Existing law requires that the plan be reviewed. Prior law required each public school to review the plan annually. New law specifically requires each principal, jointly with local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials, to review the plan at least once annually and revise it as necessary and, as in initial plan preparation, to consider and include, if appropriate, input from teachers and other school employees, students and their parents, and community leaders in plan review and revision.

Existing law requires the submission of the plan for approval. Prior law required each school to submit the plan and resubmit any revised plan to the local school board for approval. New law requires that each school principal:

- (1) Submit the plan in writing to the local school superintendent for approval at least once annually, including upon each revision.

- (2) Notify all teachers and other school employees regarding plan revisions.

New law additionally requires the local superintendent to report annually to the public school governing authority on the status of the plan of each school under the governing authority's jurisdiction.

#### PLAN REHEARSAL

New law requires that each public school principal:

- (1) Conduct a safety drill to rehearse plan components within the first 30 days of each school year.
- (2) Submit a written report summarizing drill details to the local superintendent not later than seven days after the drill; authorizes the superintendent to comment on the drill to the principal, who may incorporate comments into a revised version of the plan.

#### PROVIDING TRAINING ON AND DISTRIBUTING COPIES OF THE PLAN

New law requires each principal to provide:

- (1) In-service training each school year, which may be incorporated into a meeting or training session held for another purpose, for all school employees pertaining to the plan; authorizes the principal to involve local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials in the training.
- (2) A copy of the plan to (a) the local school board president, (b) local school superintendent, and (c) local police chief or sheriff, as applicable, as well as the local fire chief, each of whom shall be responsible for keeping a readily accessible copy of the plan in his respective office.

#### RULES AND REGULATIONS

New law authorizes each public school governing authority to adopt rules and regulations to provide for new law implementation and requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with the Nonpublic School Commission, to adopt rules and regulations requiring nonpublic school governing authorities to address school safety.

#### CHARTER SCHOOLS

New law provides that provisions of existing law and new law relative to such plans are applicable to all public schools, including charter schools, and for purposes of existing law and new law, "local superintendent" of a charter school means the chief executive officer of the school or other employee holding an equivalent position.

#### PUBLIC RECORDS LAW

New law provides that in accordance with existing law (R.S. 44:3.1, which provides relative to the disclosure of certain records pertaining to security procedures), school crisis management and response plans shall not be subject to the Public Records Law.

Effective August 1, 2013.

(Amends R.S. 17:416.16; Adds R.S. 17:3996(B)(33))