

SB98 ENROLLED



1 SB98
2 66N413Z-2
3 By Senators Orr, Hovey, Shelnut, Butler, Barfoot, Sessions,
4 Roberts, Givhan, Williams, Chambliss, Hatcher, Stewart,
5 Figures, Beasley, Allen, Kelley, Kitchens, Chesteen
6 RFD: Education Policy
7 First Read: 14-Feb-24



SB98 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

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5 Relating to public K-12 school safety and security; to

6 create the School Security Program to require periodic

7 inspections of school security of public K-12 schools and

8 facilities; to require the State Board of Education, in

9 consultation with the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency

10 (ALEA) and the State Fire Marshal, to adopt rules to

11 administer and implement the program and rate local boards of

12 education based on compliance with school security criteria;

13 to create the School Security and Fire Safety Fund; to provide

14 for grants for qualifying local boards of education; to

15 establish the School Mapping Data Program and require ALEA to

16 adopt rules to administer and implement that program; to

17 provide criteria for school maps; to provide for the

18 distribution of school mapping data to certain law enforcement

19 and public safety agencies; to require each local board of

20 education to designate an employee as a district safety

21 coordinator; and to provide for the duties of the district

22 safety coordinator.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

24 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as

25 the School Security Act.

26 Section 2. For the purposes of this act, the following

27 terms have the following meanings:

28 (1) ALEA. The Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency.



SB98 Enrolled

29 (2) BOARD. The State Board of Education, in
30 consultation with the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency
31 (ALEA) and the State Fire Marshal.

32 (3) DEPARTMENT. The State Department of Education.

33 (4) SCHOOL. Any public K-12 school.

34 (5) SCHOOL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN. The plan adopted
35 by each local board of education pursuant to Section 16-1-44,
36 Code of Alabama 1975.

37 (6) SCHOOL FACILITY. Any building operated in
38 connection with a school, including, but not limited to, those
39 housing classrooms, administration, or athletic facilities.

40 Section 3. (a) (1) There is established the School
41 Security Program. The board shall adopt rules to implement and
42 administer the program pursuant to this act.

43 (2) The board shall require that at least once every
44 five years, the school facilities under the jurisdiction of
45 each local board of education shall be inspected by at least
46 one school security inspector to determine the compliance of
47 the school facility and the local board of education with the
48 school security criteria established pursuant to subsection
49 (b).

50 (b) (1) The board shall establish criteria for school
51 security inspections. The criteria shall be established in
52 consultation with the department's regional school safety
53 coordinators and any other entities or individuals as
54 determined by the board. The criteria shall include a rubric
55 that school security inspectors must use to evaluate each
56 school facility during an inspection. The rubric shall



SB98 Enrolled

57 include, but not be limited to, standards for each of the
58 following:

- 59 a. Security cameras.
- 60 b. Alarm systems.
- 61 c. Locks on exterior and interior doors.
- 62 d. Emergency escapes.
- 63 e. Fire extinguishers.
- 64 f. Intercoms and communications equipment.
- 65 g. Panic buttons.
- 66 h. Any other physical measures used to strengthen the
67 security of school facilities, school buses, and school
68 grounds, including, but not limited to, criteria related to
69 intrusion detection, fencing, and windows.

70 (2) The board shall periodically review and update the
71 criteria and rubric to ensure that both accurately reflect
72 current best practices relating to school security.

73 (c) Inspections under this chapter shall be completed
74 by one or more school security inspectors. The board shall
75 adopt rules relating to the selection of school security
76 inspectors. School security inspectors shall be neutral and
77 nonbiased individuals with some background experience relating
78 to school security or school facilities, as determined by the
79 board. Each school security inspector shall be certified
80 through a state, federal, or other industry professional
81 course relating to physical security. Upon request, the school
82 security inspector must provide proof of his or her
83 certification to the department, ALEA, and the State Fire
84 Marshal. A regional school safety coordinator may not be a



SB98 Enrolled

85 school security inspector but may attend school security
86 inspections for the purposes of reviewing the accuracy and
87 currentness of school security criteria and rubric.

88 (d) (1) Following an inspection, the school security
89 inspector who conducted the inspection shall provide each
90 school facility with a school security rubric rating. The
91 school security inspector shall also provide each local board
92 of education that he or she inspects with the school security
93 rubric rating for each school facility and recommendations to
94 improve school security.

95 (2) A school security rubric rating may be assigned the
96 color green, yellow, or red. A "green" rating shall indicate
97 the highest level of compliance with the school security
98 criteria, a "red" rating shall indicate serious needs, and a
99 "yellow" rating shall indicate minor needs.

100 (e) (1) The School Security and Fire Safety Fund is
101 created within the State Treasury.

102 (2)a. The board may award grants to local boards of
103 education to assist those local boards in complying with the
104 school security criteria established pursuant to subdivision
105 (b).

106 b. The board may award grants to local boards of
107 education to assist those local boards in complying with fire
108 safety recommendations made by the state Fire Marshal or his
109 or her assistants, as defined by Section 36-19-3, Code of
110 Alabama 1975.

111 (3) A local board of education that receives a grant
112 from the fund shall ensure that the expenditure of any grant



SB98 Enrolled

113 funds will be used to improve school facilities in compliance
114 with the state building code and rules adopted by the board,
115 including rules related to school facilities.

116 (4) The board shall develop an application form and
117 adopt procedures for the administration of the fund, including
118 for the development of application criteria. The board shall
119 prioritize schools with the most need as demonstrated through
120 the school security inspection rubric rating and local boards
121 of education that have completed a facilities assessment
122 through the department's regional school safety training
123 program.

124 (5) Any monies appropriated shall be budgeted and
125 allotted pursuant to the Budget Management Act in accordance
126 with Article 4, commencing with Section 41-4-80 of Chapter 4
127 of Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975, and only in the amounts
128 provided by the Legislature in the general appropriations act
129 or other appropriations act.

130 Section 4. (a) A School Mapping Data Program is
131 established within ALEA to provide accurate maps of each
132 school in the state for use in the case of an emergency. ALEA
133 shall adopt rules to implement and administer the program
134 pursuant to this act.

135 (b) (1) ALEA shall collaborate with local boards of
136 education to produce accurate mapping data for each school in
137 this state, subject to the appropriation of funds for this
138 purpose. School mapping data shall include accurate floor
139 plans of each school overlaid on current, verified aerial
140 imagery of the campus and shall meet all of the following



SB98 Enrolled

141 requirements:

142 a. Be oriented true north.

143 b. Be verified by the entity producing the data for
144 accuracy by a walk-through of school buildings and grounds.

145 c. Contain site-specific labeling that matches the
146 structure of school buildings, including room labels, hallway
147 names, and external door or stairwell numbers and locations of
148 hazards, critical utility locations, key boxes, automated
149 external defibrillators, and trauma kits.

150 d. Contain site-specific labeling that matches the
151 school grounds, including parking areas, athletic fields,
152 surrounding roads, and neighboring properties.

153 e. Be overlaid with gridded x and y coordinates.

154 (2) Updates to school mapping data shall be completed
155 as deemed necessary by ALEA, in consultation with the State
156 Board of Education and the applicable local board of
157 education. Any updates to school mapping data shall be
158 accessible within software platforms used by the local,
159 county, state, and federal public safety agencies that provide
160 emergency services to the specific school.

161 (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to
162 require the distribution of school mapping data to anyone
163 other than local, county, state, and federal public safety or
164 education agencies.

165 (c) School mapping data shall be provided to each local
166 board of education, local law enforcement agency, and public
167 safety agency for use in response to emergencies. For the
168 purposes of this section, emergencies include, but are not



SB98 Enrolled

169 limited to, any event in which one or more law enforcement
170 officers, firefighters, rescue squads, emergency medical
171 services providers, public safety telecommunications, or other
172 emergency management provider may respond.

173 (d) (1) School mapping data shall be compatible with
174 software platforms used by local, county, state, and federal
175 public safety agencies that provide emergency services to the
176 school for which the data is provided. School mapping data
177 shall be compatible with security software platforms in use by
178 the public K-12 school for which the data is provided.

179 (2) School mapping data shall be available in a
180 printable format and, if requested by a public safety agency,
181 local law enforcement agency, or local board of education, be
182 in a digital format that may be integrated into interactive
183 mobile platforms in use.

184 (e) No entity, including, but not limited to, a law
185 enforcement agency, local board of education, or public safety
186 agency, may be required to purchase additional software or pay
187 a fee to view or access school mapping data through the School
188 Mapping Data Program.

189 Section 5. (a) Each local board of education shall
190 designate an employee in the district's central office as the
191 district safety coordinator. Each district safety coordinator
192 must have direct access to the local superintendent of
193 education and must have prior experience in crisis response.

194 (b) Within one year of designating an employee as the
195 district safety coordinator, each local superintendent of
196 education shall ensure that the district safety coordinator



SB98 Enrolled

197 completes training related to:

- 198 (1) Emergency operation plan implementation;
- 199 (2) Lockdown best practices;
- 200 (3) Relocation, evacuation, and reunification;
- 201 (4) Weather and sheltering;
- 202 (5) Behavioral threat assessment; and
- 203 (6) Facility security.

204 (c) Each district safety coordinator shall:

205 (1) Annually attend at least four safety training
206 sessions, with no more than one credit granted for attending a
207 vendor-based training session. Acceptable training includes
208 programming by the department, the Alabama Homeland Security
209 Office, the Alabama Emergency Management Agency, the National
210 Incident Management System, the Partnership Alliance for Safe
211 Schools, the Alabama School Resource Officer Association, the
212 Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National School Resource
213 Officer Association, or other governmental agency or
214 nonprofit organization focusing on relevant school safety best
215 practices.

216 (2) Organize, administer, and attend at least one
217 school-based lockdown drill and one other safety drill per
218 semester and review the implementation of those drills with
219 the building-level administrator.

220 (3) Annually organize and oversee a meeting with school
221 administrators and local public safety officials at each
222 school in the local school district in order to familiarize
223 the local officials with each school, its respective school
224 emergency operating plan, and its school mapping data. The



SB98 Enrolled

225 district safety coordinator shall ensure that each of the
226 following local public safety officials attend the meeting:

- 227 a. At least one local law enforcement officer.
- 228 b. At least one local firefighter.
- 229 c. At least one representative of the local emergency
230 management agency office.
- 231 d. The school mental health coordinator.
- 232 e. Any other local public safety officials, as
233 determined by the district safety coordinator.

234 (4) Collaborate with the local board of education to
235 adopt policies relating to the sharing of camera data and
236 remote access control with appropriate local, state, and
237 federal law enforcement agencies.

238 (d) (1) Each district safety coordinator shall annually
239 review the school emergency operation plan of each school
240 local in his or her local school district.

241 (2) No later than September 1 of each year, each
242 district safety coordinator shall notify his or her
243 superintendent of education of any building-level
244 administrator or school that fails to have a current,
245 up-to-date school emergency operation plan.

246 (3) Upon receiving a notice under subdivision (2), a
247 local superintendent of education shall ensure that the school
248 emergency operation plan is updated within 30 days of his or
249 her receipt of notice.

250 (e) The board shall adopt rules to implement and
251 administer this section, including rules relating to the
252 qualification of district safety coordinators and training



SB98 Enrolled

253 requirements for district safety coordinators.

254 Section 6. (a) School security rubric ratings and
255 school mapping data, including any information or records used
256 to determine a rating or develop mapping data, are
257 confidential and shall not be considered public records under
258 Article 3 of Chapter 12 of Title 36, Code of Alabama 1975.

259 (b) This act may not be considered as creating a
260 private right of action against a local board of education or
261 its officials or employees.

262 Section 7. This act shall become effective on October
263 1, 2024.



SB98 Enrolled

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SB98

Senate 02-Apr-24

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate, as amended.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Amended and passed: 07-May-24

Senate concurred in House amendment 07-May-24

By: Senator Orr