



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7077

LCO No. 5505



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING CRISIS RESPONSE DRILLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Not later than April 1, 2026,
2 the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in
3 collaboration with the Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis
4 Prevention at Western Connecticut State University, shall (1) develop a
5 clear definition for crisis response drills for purposes of section 10-231
6 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (2) develop standardized
7 terminology for the administration and review of crisis response drills,
8 (3) develop guidance on (A) standardized responses to crises, and (B)
9 standardized debriefing protocols following a crisis, and (4) develop an
10 evaluation template for crisis response drills that allows school districts
11 to use feedback from participants of the crisis response drill to assess the
12 efficacy of the crisis response drill and make adjustments to subsequent
13 crisis response drills to improve preparedness while preventing
14 emotional harm and supporting psychological safety.

15 (b) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in
16 collaboration with the Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis

17 Prevention at Western Connecticut State University, shall conduct a
18 study of the impact of crisis response drills and the school community.

19 (c) (1) Not later than April 1, 2026, the department shall submit a
20 report on the items described in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of
21 subsection (a) of this section, and any recommendations, to the joint
22 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
23 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
24 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

25 (2) Not later than July 1, 2028, the department shall submit a report
26 on the study conducted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, and
27 any recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the General
28 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in
29 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

30 Sec. 2. Section 10-231 of the general statutes is repealed and the
31 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

32 (a) Each local and regional board of education shall provide for a fire
33 drill to be held in the schools of such board not later than thirty days
34 after the first day of each school year and at least once each month
35 thereafter, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

36 (b) Each such board shall substitute a crisis response drill for a fire
37 drill once every three months and shall develop the format of such crisis
38 response drill [in consultation] in accordance with the crisis response
39 protocols described in section 3 of this act and with the appropriate local
40 law enforcement agency. A representative of such agency may
41 supervise and participate in any such crisis response drill.

42 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the school year commencing
43 July 1, 2026, and each school year thereafter, each crisis response drill
44 conducted pursuant to section 10-231 of the general statutes, as
45 amended by this act, shall be conducted in accordance with the
46 following protocols: (1) Utilize the (A) definition for crisis response

47 drills, (B) standardized terminology for the administration and review
48 of crisis response drills, and (C) guidance on standardized responses to
49 crises and debriefing protocols following a crisis, developed by the
50 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection pursuant to
51 section 1 of this act, (2) the school security and safety committee, as
52 described in section 10-222m of the general statutes, as amended by this
53 act, shall collaborate with the school climate committee, as described in
54 section 10-222ff of the general statutes, to plan crisis response drills that
55 prioritize the physical and psychological safety of students and school
56 personnel, (3) crisis drills shall be trauma-informed, including utilizing
57 an approach that takes into account prior traumatic experiences and
58 designed to prevent emotional harm to and support the psychological
59 safety of students and school personnel, with mental health
60 professionals' participation integrated throughout the crisis response
61 drill, (4) prior to conducting a crisis response drill, school personnel
62 shall provide age-appropriate education and training to allow students
63 and school personnel to build knowledge and skills to reduce the
64 potential for confusion or emotional distress, including a review of the
65 purpose and procedures for crisis response drills prior to the first crisis
66 response drill of the school year and notification to students, school
67 personnel and parents and guardians one week in advance of
68 conducting a crisis response drill, (5) school personnel shall
69 communicate, in a clear manner to ensure understanding, the nature
70 and purpose of crisis response drills to the parents and guardians of
71 students at the school prior to conducting a crisis response drill, (6) all
72 communication regarding crisis response drills shall be provided in the
73 native language of all students, school personnel and parents and
74 guardians, (7) at the commencement of the crisis response drill, students
75 and school personnel shall be informed that they are participating in a
76 crisis response drill for the purpose of avoiding confusion when an
77 actual emergency situation is occurring, (8) accommodations for
78 students with cognitive, physical or sensory disability shall be provided,
79 to the extent practicable, during a crisis response drill to ensure the
80 safety and participation of such students, (9) crisis response drills

81 conducted with students shall not include an active assailant simulation,
82 except a crisis response drill that is conducted outside of the regular
83 school day and exclusively for school personnel, first responders and
84 other school volunteers may include an active assailant simulation, and
85 (10) evaluate each crisis response drill using the evaluation template
86 developed pursuant to section 1 of this act.

87 Sec. 4. Section 10-222m of the general statutes, as amended by section
88 63 of public act 23-167, is repealed and the following is substituted in
89 lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

90 (a) For the school year commencing July 1, 2014, and each school year
91 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall develop and
92 implement a school security and safety plan for each school under the
93 jurisdiction of such board. Such plans shall be based on the school
94 security and safety plan standards developed by the Department of
95 Emergency Services and Public Protection, pursuant to section 10-222n.
96 Each local and regional board of education shall annually review and
97 update, if necessary, such plans.

98 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2014, and each school year
99 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall establish a
100 school security and safety committee at each school under the
101 jurisdiction of such board. The school security and safety committee
102 shall be responsible for assisting in the development of the school
103 security and safety plan for the school and administering such plan.
104 Such school security and safety committee shall consist of a local police
105 officer, a local first responder, a teacher and an administrator employed
106 at the school, a mental health professional, as defined in section 10-76t,
107 a parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the school and any other
108 person the board of education deems necessary. Any parent or guardian
109 serving as a member of a school security and safety committee shall not
110 have access to information reported to such committee that would result
111 in a violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974,
112 20 USC 1232g, as amended from time to time.

113 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall (1) annually
114 submit the school security and safety plan for each school under the
115 jurisdiction of such board, developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this
116 section, to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
117 and (2) make any portion of such school security and safety plan that is
118 not prohibited from disclosure pursuant to section 1-210 available to
119 members of the school community upon request.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-231
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-222m

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the recommendations of the School Crisis Response Drills Working Group regarding the development of protocols for conducting crisis response drills in schools.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]