

1 S.138

2 An act relating to school safety

3 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

4 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 1481 is amended to read:

5 § 1481. FIRE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILLS

6 (a) ~~The principal or person in charge of a public or independent school or~~
7 ~~another educational institution, other than a university or college, shall drill the~~
8 ~~students so they are able to leave the school building or perform other~~
9 ~~procedures described in the school's emergency preparedness plan, or both, in~~
10 ~~the shortest possible time and without panic or confusion. Each school board~~
11 ~~in a district that operates a school shall adopt a policy mandating each school~~
12 ~~site to conduct options-based response drills at each school site in the fall and~~
13 ~~spring of each academic year. The policy shall require option-based response~~
14 ~~drills, including fire drills, to be conducted following the guidance issued by~~
15 ~~the Vermont School Safety Center jointly with the Vermont School Crisis~~
16 ~~Planning Team. In issuing the guidance, the Vermont School Safety Center~~
17 ~~and the Vermont School Crisis Planning Team shall include trauma-informed~~
18 ~~best practices for implementing options-based response drills. A~~
19 ~~superintendent shall report completion of the biannual drills to the Agency of~~
20 ~~Education in a format approved by the Secretary.~~

1 ~~(b) A drill shall be held at least once in each month during the school year~~
2 ~~and a record of the date and time of the drill, together with the time consumed~~
3 ~~in completing the procedure, shall be kept in the official school register, and~~
4 ~~such register shall be open at all times for inspection by representatives from~~
5 ~~the Fire Safety Division of the Department of Public Safety or the Agency of~~
6 ~~Education.~~ Each approved or recognized independent school or other
7 educational institution, other than a university or college, shall adopt a policy
8 mandating the school to conduct options-based response drills and fire drills in
9 the fall and spring of each academic year, consistent with the requirements of
10 subsection (a) of this section. The head of school shall report completion of
11 the biannual drills to the Agency of Education in a format approved by the
12 Secretary.

13 (c) A school district, independent school, or educational institution whose
14 administrative personnel neglect to comply with the provisions of this section
15 shall be fined not more than \$500.00.

16 (d) Annually, the Vermont School Safety Center and Agency of Education
17 shall review the reports submitted according to this section and shall ensure
18 compliance and identify future planning and training needs.

1 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 1480 is added to read:

2 § 1480. EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANS

3 (a) Each supervisory union or supervisory district shall adopt and maintain
4 an all-hazards emergency operations plan for each school site that is at least as
5 comprehensive as the template maintained by the Vermont School Safety
6 Center. The plan shall be reviewed and updated on an annual basis, in
7 collaboration with local emergency first responders and local emergency
8 management officials.

9 (b) Each approved and recognized independent school shall adopt and
10 maintain an all-hazards emergency operations plan consistent with the
11 requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

12 (c) The Vermont School Safety Center shall maintain an emergency
13 operations plan template and update the template as appropriate.

14 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 1484 is added to read:

15 § 1484. ACCESS CONTROL AND VISITOR MANAGEMENT POLICY

16 (a) Each supervisory union board, member district board, or supervisory
17 district board shall adopt an access control and visitor management policy that,
18 at a minimum, requires that all school sites and supervisory union and
19 supervisory district offices lock exterior doors during the school day. The
20 policy shall require that all visitors sign in at a centralized location prior to
21 gaining full access to the school or office site. If a school recognizes a need to

1 leave a specific structure unlocked as needed for agricultural, recreational, or
2 other reasonably practical purposes directly related to a school's mission or
3 curriculum, it may justify leaving that structure unlocked in its visitor policy.

4 (b) Each approved and recognized independent school shall adopt a written
5 access control and visitor management policy consistent with the requirements
6 in subsection (a) of this section.

7 Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 1485 is added to read:

8 § 1485. BEHAVIORAL THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAMS

9 (a) Each supervisory union or supervisory district and each approved
10 independent school that utilizes a threat assessment team shall ensure members
11 of the team receive training at least annually in best practices of conducting
12 behavioral threat assessments, as well as bias training. In providing bias
13 training, school officials shall consult with the Office of Racial Equity to
14 ensure the training conforms to best practices and acceptable standards for
15 such trainings.

16 (b) Behavioral threat assessments shall not be used for a punitive or
17 disciplinary purpose.

18 (c) For students on an individual education program, a behavioral threat
19 assessment shall not replace the manifestation determination review process
20 required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C.
21 § 1415(k) and Agency of Education, Pupils (CVR 22-000-009), Rule 4313.

1 For students who are not eligible for special education services but who are or
2 may be qualified individuals with disabilities under Section 504 of the
3 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794, a behavior threat assessment shall
4 not replace the manifestation determination review process required under
5 Agency of Education, Pupils (CVR 22-000-009), Rule 4312.

6 (d) Annually, each supervisory union, supervisory district, and approved
7 independent school shall report data related to completion of and outcomes of
8 all behavioral threat assessments and manifestation determination reviews to
9 the Agency in a format approved by the Secretary. At a minimum, the annual
10 report shall include:

11 (1) the names of the members of the behavioral assessment team;

12 (2) the number of behavioral threat assessments and manifestation
13 determination reviews conducted in the preceding year and for each
14 assessment or review conducted:

15 (A) a description of the behavior requiring an assessment;

16 (B) the age, grade, race, gender, disability status, and eligibility for
17 free or reduced-price school meals of the student requiring the assessment; and

18 (C) the results of each assessment or review; and

19 (3) the number of students subjected to more than one behavioral threat
20 assessment or manifestation determination review.

1 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

2 (a) This section shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

3 (b) Secs. 1 (16 V.S.A. § 1481) and 3 (16 V.S.A. § 1484) shall take effect
4 on August 1, 2023.

5 (c) Secs. 2 (16 V.S.A. § 1480) and 4 (16 V.S.A. § 1485) shall take effect on
6 July 1, 2024.