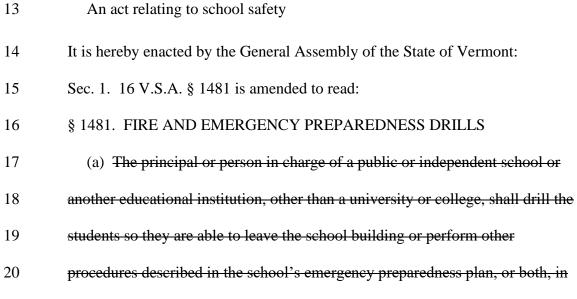
- 1 Introduced by Committee on Education
- 2 Date:
- 3 Subject: Education; school safety

4	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require (1)
5	public schools to adopt a policy mandating biannual options-based response
6	drills; (2) approved independent schools to conduct biannual options-based
7	response drills following the template developed by the Vermont School
8	Safety Center; (3) public schools to adopt all-hazards emergency operation
9	plans; (4) public schools to adopt an access control and visitor management
10	policy; (5) approved independent schools to adopt access control and visitor
11	management procedures; and (6) public and approved independent schools to
12	create a behavioral threat assessment team.



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1	the shortest possible time and without panic or confusion. Each school board
2	in a district that operates a school shall adopt a policy mandating each school
3	site to conduct options-based response drills at each school site in the fall and
4	spring of each academic year. The policy shall require that drills be conducted
5	following the guidance issued by the Vermont School Safety Center jointly
6	with the Vermont School Crisis Planning Team. In issuing the guidance, the
7	Vermont School Safety Center and the Vermont School Crisis Planning Team
8	shall include trauma-informed best practices for implementing options-based
9	drills. A superintendent shall report completion of the biannual drills to the
10	Agency of Education in a format approved by the Secretary.
11	(b) A drill shall be held at least once in each month during the school year
12	and a record of the date and time of the drill, together with the time consumed
13	in completing the procedure, shall be kept in the official school register, and
14	such register shall be open at all times for inspection by representatives from
15	the Fire Safety Division of the Department of Public Safety or the Agency of
16	Education. Each approved or recognized independent school or other
17	educational institution, other than a university or college, shall adopt a policy
18	mandating the school to conduct options-based response drills in the fall and
19	spring of each academic year, consistent with the requirements of subsection
20	(a) of this section. The head of school shall report completion of the biannual
21	drills to the Agency of Education in a format approved by the Secretary.

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administrative personnel neglect to comply with the provisions of this section shall be fined not more than \$500.00. (d) Annually, the Vermont School Safety Center and Agency of Education
(d) Annually, the Vermont School Safety Center and Agency of Education
shall review the reports submitted according to this section and shall ensure
compliance and identify future planning and training needs.
Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 1480 is added to read:
§ 1480. EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANS
(a) Each supervisory union or supervisory district shall adopt and maintain
an all-hazards emergency operations plan for each school site that is at least as
comprehensive as the template maintained by the Vermont School Safety
Center. The plan shall be reviewed and updated on an annual basis, including
collaboration with local emergency first responders and local emergency
management officials.
(b) Each approved and recognized independent school shall adopt and
maintain an all-hazards emergency operations plan consistent with the
requirements of subsection (a) of this section.
(c) The Vermont School Safety Center shall maintain an emergency

19 operations plan template and update the template as appropriate.

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1 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 1484 is added to read: 2 § 1484. ACCESS CONTROL AND VISITOR MANAGEMENT POLICY 3 (a) Each supervisory union, member district board, or supervisory district 4 board shall adopt an access control and visitor management policy that, at 5 minimum, requires that all school sites and supervisory union and supervisory 6 district offices lock exterior doors during the school day. The policy shall 7 require that all visitors sign in at a centralized location prior to gaining full 8 access to the school or office site. 9 (b) Each approved and recognized independent school shall adopt a written 10 access control and visitor management policy consistent with the requirements 11 in subsection (a) of this section. 12 Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 1485 is added to read: 13 § 1485. BEHAVIORAL THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAMS 14 (a) Each supervisory union or supervisory district and each approved 15 independent school shall appoint a behavioral threat assessment team to be 16 composed of, at a minimum, administrators, mental health professionals, a 17 school counselor, a school nurse, and local law enforcement officials. 18 Members of the team shall be trained at least annually in best practices of 19 conducting behavioral threat assessments. 20 (b) Behavioral threat assessments shall not be used for a punitive or 21 disciplinary purpose. A behavioral threat assessment shall not replace a

1	manifest determination review for students on an individual education plan, as
2	required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C.
3	<u>§ 1415(k).</u>
4	(c) Annually, each supervisory union, supervisory district, and approved
5	independent school shall report data related to behavioral threat assessments to
6	the Agency in a format approved by the Secretary. At a minimum, the annual
7	report shall include:
8	(1) the names of the members of the behavioral assessment team;
9	(2) the number of behavioral threat assessments conducted in the
10	preceding year and for each assessment conducted:
11	(A) a description of the behavior requiring an assessment;
12	(B) the age and grade of the student requiring the assessment; and
13	(C) the results of each assessment; and
14	(3) the number of students referred for a manifest determination review
15	in lieu of a behavioral threat assessment.
16	Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES
17	(a) This section shall take effect on July 1, 2023.
18	(b) Secs. 1 (16 V.S.A. § 1481) and 3 (16 V.S.A. § 1484) shall take effect
19	<u>on August 1, 2023.</u>
20	(c) Secs. 2 (16 V.S.A. § 1480) and 4 (16 V.S.A. § 1485) shall take effect on
21	July 1, 2024.