



HB 3

Relating to measures for ensuring public school safety, including the development and implementation of purchases relating to and funding for public school safety and security requirements and the provision of safety-related resources.

Author: Representative Dustin Burrows
 Sponsor: Senator Robert Nichols

Bill Summary:

[House Bill 3](#) (HB 3) requires regional education service centers (ESCs) to act as a school safety resource in development and implementation of multihazard emergency operations plans, the establishment of a school safety and security committees, conducting emergency drills and exercises, and addressing campus security deficiencies. Additionally, ESCs must assist the regional safety review team, as necessary.

Open-enrollment charter schools are subject to school safety requirements outlined in Texas Education Code, Sections 37.0814, 37.108, 37.1081, 37.1082, 37.1083, 37.1084, 37.1085, 37.1086, 37.109, 37.113, 37.114, 37.1141, 37.115, 37.207, 37.2071, and Subchapter J, Chapter 37.

HB 3 requires all school district employees who regularly interact with students to complete an evidence-based mental health training program. The training must be completed as follows:

1. at least 25 percent of the applicable district employees before the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year;
2. at least 50 percent of the applicable district employees before the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year;
3. at least 75 percent of the applicable district employees before the beginning of the 2027-2028 school year; and
4. 100 percent of the applicable district employees before the beginning of the 2028-2029 school year

This legislation requires that a parent or other person with legal control of a child, under a court order, enrolls the child in a public school, they must provide the school a copy of records from the child’s prior school, including a copy of the child’s disciplinary record and any threat assessment involving their behavior. In the case of a transfer, the district of residence shall provide these records to the new school.

HB 3 requires school district peace officers or school resource officers to complete an active shooter response training program approved by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) every four years.

Statute now requires a board of trustees to ensure that at least one armed security officer is present during regular school hours at each district campus. If a board is unable to comply with this requirement, the board may claim a good cause exception. **(Continued on next page)**

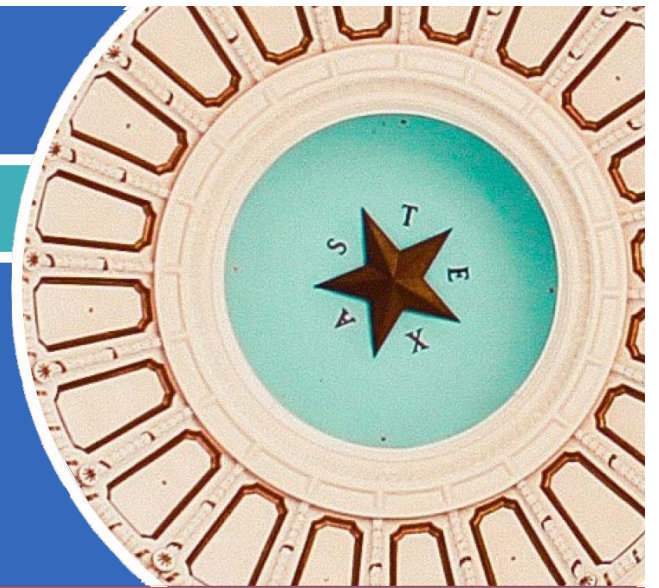
Impact of Legislation

Effective Date

- September 1, 2023

Rulemaking

- The Commissioner shall adopt or amend rules, as necessary, to ensure school facilities provide a secure and safe environment.
- The Commissioner shall adopt rules related to an allotment for each school district that reimburses travel and training for employees completing required mental health courses.
- The Commissioner may adopt rules, as necessary, regarding the implementation and operation of school safety and security, including requirements with which a district must comply to receive funding or grants available.
- The Commissioner may adopt rules regarding the confidentiality of documents that relate to safety and security requirements.
- The Commissioner may adopt rules regarding safety and security requirements with which a school district must comply to receive funding or grant money available for the purpose of improving school safety.



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HB 3 requires TEA to monitor the implementation and operation of requirements related to school district safety and security. Additionally, the agency must establish an office of school safety and security to coordinate the monitoring of school district safety and security requirements. In implementing this requirement, the agency must conduct a detailed vulnerability assessment of each school district. These assessments will be done on a random basis, as determined by the agency, once every four years. Documents or information collected, identified, developed, or produced relating to the monitoring of school district safety and security requirements are confidential.

This legislation requires the office of school safety and security to establish a school safety review team in each region served by an ESC. These teams must conduct on-site general intruder detection audits of campuses in their region annually.

The agency, in consultation with the Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC), ESCs, educators who work with students with disabilities, and advocacy groups, is required to establish guidelines for certain multihazard emergency operations plan provisions, specifically those that will better ensure the safety of students and staff with disabilities.

HB 3 requires the board of trustees of each school district to establish a threat assessment and safe and supportive school team to serve at each campus of the district and shall adopt policies and procedures for the teams. These policies include establishing a clear procedure for a student to report concerning behavior exhibited by another student for assessment by the team.

Each school district and open-enrollment charter school is required to provide the Department of Public Safety and all appropriate local law enforcement agencies and emergency first responders an accurate map of each district campus and school building. Additionally, first responders must be afforded an opportunity to conduct walk-throughs of facilities using the map provided.

Additionally, at least once every five years, the TxSSC is required to review the facilities standards for instructional facilities.

School districts must ensure that each district facility complies with each school facilities standard, including performance standards and operational requirements, related to safety and security. **(Continued on next page)**

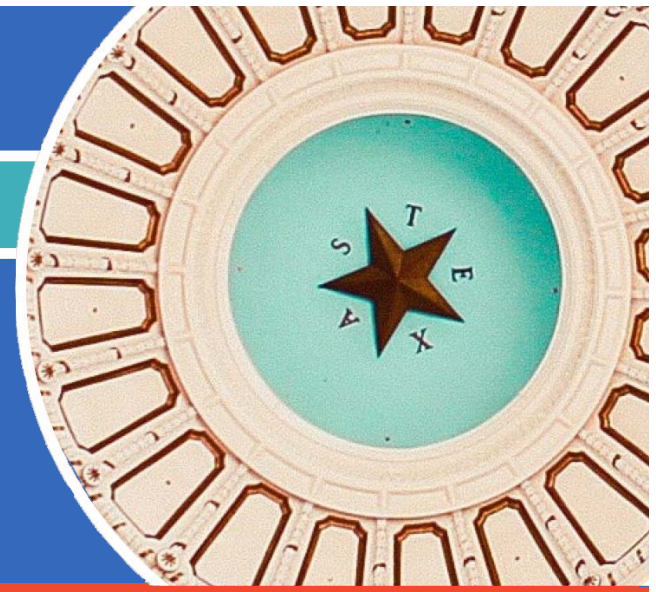
Other Actions Required

- The agency shall develop model standards for providing notice regarding violent activity that has occurred or is being investigated.
- The agency, or if designated by the agency, the Texas School Safety Center, shall establish and publish a directory of approved vendors of school safety technology and equipment.
- The agency shall use a rubric developed by the office of school safety and security in collaboration with the Texas School Safety Center to conduct vulnerability assessments.
- The agency is required to establish guidelines for certain multi-hazard emergency operations plan provisions, specifically those that will better ensure the safety of students and staff with disabilities.

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The commissioner may authorize a school district to use money provided to the district for the purpose of improving school safety and security, including the school safety allotment or any other funding or grant money available to the district for that purpose, to comply with the facilities standard requirements.

The proceeds of bonds issued by a school district for the construction and equipment of school buildings in the district and the purchase of the necessary sites for school buildings, may be used to pay the costs associated with complying with school safety and security requirements.

A school district is entitled to an annual allotment equal to the sum of the following amounts or a greater [in the] amount provided by appropriation:

1. \$10 for each student in average daily attendance, plus \$1 for each student in average daily attendance per every \$50 by which the district's maximum basic allotment exceeds \$6,160, prorated as necessary; and
2. \$15,000 per campus.

The agency may designate certain technologies that a school district, in using funds allocated under this annual allotment, may purchase only from a vendor approved by the agency.

All suspicious activity reports and school safety reports included in the iWatchTexas community reporting system are confidential.

HB 3 requires the sheriff of a county with a total population of less than 350,000 in which a public school is located shall call and conduct semiannual school safety meetings. The sheriff is required to submit a report to the Texas School Safety Center identifying the attendees of the meeting and the subjects discussed.