

CHAPTER 80

AN ACT concerning school security and amending N.J.S.18A:41-1 and P.L.2009, c.178.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. N.J.S.18A:41-1 is amended to read as follows:

Fire, school security drills.

18A:41-1. Every principal of a school of two or more rooms, or of a school of one room, when located above the first story of a building, shall have at least one fire drill and one school security drill each month within the school hours, including any summer months during which the school is open for instructional programs, and shall require all teachers of all schools, whether occupying buildings of one or more stories, to keep all doors and exits of their respective rooms and buildings unlocked during the school hours, except during an emergency lockdown or an emergency lockdown drill. Where school buildings have been provided with fire escapes, they shall be used by a part or all of the pupils performing every fire drill. An actual fire or school security emergency that occurs at a school during the month and that includes activities which are the equivalent of a drill shall be considered a drill for the purposes of meeting the requirements of this section.

A law enforcement officer shall be present at a minimum of one school security drill in each school year in order to make recommendations on any improvements or changes to school security drill procedures that the officer may deem advisable.

2. Section 1 of P.L.2009, c.178 (C.18A:41-6) is amended to read as follows:

C.18A:41-6 "School security drill" defined.

1. As used in this act:

"School security drill" means an exercise, other than a fire drill, to practice procedures that respond to an emergency situation including, but not limited to, a bomb threat, non-fire evacuation, lockdown, or active shooter situation and that is similar in duration to a fire drill.

3. Section 2 of P.L.2009, c.178 (C.18A:41-7) is amended to read as follows:

C.18A:41-7 Provision of training on school safety, security.

2. A local board of education and chief school administrator of a nonpublic school shall ensure that all full-time employees in the district or nonpublic school are provided with training on school safety and security that includes instruction on school security drills. The training shall use the drill guide and training materials prepared pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2009, c.178 (C.App.A:9-86) and shall utilize various formats such as drills, functional exercises, and tabletop exercises. The annual training provided to employees shall be conducted collaboratively by the district or nonpublic school and emergency responders, including law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services personnel, in order to identify weaknesses in school safety and security policies and procedures and to increase the effectiveness of emergency responders.

4. This act shall take effect in the first full school year following the date of enactment.

Approved December 5, 2016.