

Senate Bill 8 Summary

AN ACT relating to school safety, Senate Bill 8 creates a new chapter of KRS 158 to require adoption of a school emergency plan, require emergency drills, and requires an annual report to the department of education.

Senate Bill 8 specifically requires schools and districts to:

1. Adopt an emergency plan to include procedures to be followed in case of fire, severe weather, or earthquake, or if a building lockdown as defined in KRS 158.164 is required; the principal shall discuss the emergency plan with all school staff prior to the first instructional day of each school year and shall document the time and date of any discussion.
2. Provide, after adoption, the emergency plan, along with a complete diagram of the facility, to appropriate first responders.
3. Establish primary and secondary evacuation routes for all rooms located within the school and post the routes in each room by any doorway used for evacuation.
4. Identify severe weather safe zones to be reviewed by the local fire marshal or fire chief and post the location of safe zones in each room of the school.
5. Conduct, at a minimum, emergency response drills to include one (1) severe weather drill, one (1) earthquake drill and one (1) lockdown drill within the first thirty (30) instructional days of each school year and again during the month of January.
6. Develop and adhere to practices to control the access to each school building, including requiring that all visitors report to the front office of the building and provide valid identification, state the purpose of the visit; and provide a visitor's badge to be visibly displayed on a visitor's outer garment.
7. Recommend that all classroom doors be locked during instruction, if the door can be locked from the outside and open from the inside without a key.
8. Require local boards to review crime and disaster prevention designs when constructing or renovating a school building.
9. Send superintendent verification to the Kentucky Department of Education by November 1 of each school year that all schools within the district are in compliance with the requirements of the law.