

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1174

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 16, 2023

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1174 with committee amendments.

As amended by the committee, this bill provides that all students will fully participate in each fire drill or school security drill conducted by a school district or nonpublic school. It also requires that current staff training for school security include information on the unique needs of students with disabilities. The current drill guide and training materials that school districts and nonpublic schools use as guidance in their training for full-time employees would incorporate information on the unique needs of students with disabilities and include standard protocols and procedures for accommodating those students during drills and emergency situations.

The amended bill would require that, as part of the existing processes for developing individualized education programs, individualized health care plans, 504 plans, or service plans for students with disabilities enrolled in nonpublic schools, a student's unique needs in the event of a fire drill or school security drill or an actual emergency situation be documented. If it is determined that a student would require supplementary supports, modifications, accommodations, or services in order to safely and fully participate in a fire drill or school security drill, a written plan will be included in a student's individualized education program, individualized health care plan, 504 plan, or service plan. The written plan will: 1) describe the needs of the student during a fire or school security drill and during an actual emergency situation; 2) describe the supports, modifications, accommodations, and services to be provided to the student during a fire drill or school security drill and during an actual emergency situation; and 3) describe the role of school employees in supporting the student during a fire drill or school security drill and during an actual emergency situation, including the need for any specific training of school employees.

Finally, the amended bill requires that, in developing its districtwide school safety and security plan, a school district will demonstrate that it has considered and will incorporate the

individual needs of each student with a disability into the districtwide school safety and security plan.

This bill was prefiled for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- require that any information or training provided under current law address the unique needs of students with disabilities in the event of a fire drill, school security drill, or actual emergency situation;
- require full-time and substitute employees be made aware of any anticipated mobility, sensory, medical, social, communication, emotional, regulatory, and decision-making support needs of students in the care of the employee and any supports, modifications, accommodations, and services to be provided to students, as enumerated in their individualized education programs, individualized health care plans, 504 plans, or service plans;
- make technical amendments to clarify that certain requirements of the bill would apply in the event of a fire drill and to conform the bill's provisions to current law.