

ASSEMBLY, No. 3348

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 22, 2016

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District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain school security measures to be incorporated in architectural design of new school construction and certain school security measures for existing buildings.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/4/2016)

1 AN ACT concerning public school facilities and supplementing
2 P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-1 et al.).

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

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7 1. a. In the case of new school construction undertaken by a
8 district or the development authority, in addition to the Best
9 Practices Standards for Schools under Construction or Being
10 Planned for Construction set forth by the Department of Community
11 Affairs, the district or the development authority, as applicable,
12 shall provide in the architectural design for the new construction
13 that:

14 (1) wherever possible, a building site shall be chosen with
15 adequate space to accommodate bus and vehicular traffic separately
16 and permit additional space for the proper evacuation of occupants;

17 (2) wherever possible, bus drop-off/pick-up areas shall be
18 separated from other vehicular drop-off/pick-up areas;

19 (3) wherever possible, pedestrian routes shall be separated from
20 vehicular routes, and crossing of the two shall be minimized;

21 (4) the number of anterior doors shall be kept to a minimum as
22 necessary to satisfy operational considerations and meet code
23 requirements, and wherever possible exterior door hardware shall
24 be eliminated from doors that are intended only for emergency
25 egress;

26 (5) there is a single public entrance to be used during the school
27 day which shall be equipped with a security vestibule with interior
28 doors that must be released by school security or other staff. The
29 district or development authority shall give consideration to
30 providing bullet resistant glazing in the interior vestibule doors and
31 windows;

32 (6) all marked entrances shall conform to a uniform numbering
33 system in order to assist emergency responders in locating
34 particular areas. The principal's office shall have a secondary exit;

35 (7) interior door locks on spaces that will serve as safe havens
36 during lockdowns shall have a keyless locking mechanism;

37 (8) new school buildings shall be provided with access control
38 systems which allow for remote locking and unlocking of all
39 building access doors; and

40 (9) new school buildings shall be designed and built in such a
41 manner that areas intended for public use may be separated and
42 secured from all other areas.

43 b. In the case of new school construction undertaken by a
44 district or the development authority, and in the case of existing
45 school buildings, a district or the development authority, as
46 applicable, shall:

47 (1) employ the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
48 principles;

- 1 (2) require security personnel to be in uniform;
- 2 (3) make driveways one way, if possible, that lead to a clearly
3 marked visitor parking area. STOP signs and other traffic calming
4 devices shall be used to keep vehicles at a reasonable speed;
- 5 (4) place bollards along the roadway or curb line in front of the
6 school to prevent vehicles from gaining access to exterior walls,
7 windows, and doors, or in areas of the property where vehicles are
8 prohibited;
- 9 (5) clearly mark the school's main entrance and make it easily
10 visible and recognizable;
- 11 (6) limit the number of doors for access by staff;
- 12 (7) lock exterior doors, and when they are in use for a large
13 entry/exit provide that they are staffed and monitored;
- 14 (8) utilize an access control system with remote unlocking
15 features, an intercom, and fixed cameras at the school's main
16 entrance and for other entrances as funding permits;
- 17 (9) clearly mark all entrances with a numerical sequence to
18 allow for specific response by police, fire, and emergency medical
19 services responders;
- 20 (10) maintain a parking decal or tag system for all staff and
21 students who park on campus in order to easily identify
22 unauthorized vehicles on the property;
- 23 (11) locate enclosures for utilities that are outside a school
24 building away from the building to ensure that they do not provide
25 roof access;
- 26 (12) provide adequate and properly maintained lighting around
27 the buildings and parking lots;
- 28 (13) if funding, staffing, and site approval are possible, provide a
29 guard shack and gate on the school campus as an effective
30 perimeter control;
- 31 (14) where the footprint of the school allows, and if funding is
32 available, create secure vestibules at the main entrance of the school
33 building. The exterior door entrance to the school shall allow
34 access by a visitor only to the vestibule and the doors to the
35 remainder of the building shall be locked;
- 36 (15) adopt school district policies and procedures to clearly
37 indicate that propping open doors is strictly prohibited, and that
38 students and staff shall not open a door for anyone. All persons
39 seeking entry to the building shall be directed to the main entrance;
- 40 (16) use surveillance cameras as a target-hardening tool;
- 41 (17) provide a dedicated server and generator for security
42 systems, such as access control and surveillance cameras, in order
43 to secure information and ensure efficient operation in an
44 emergency;
- 45 (18) use ballistic or shatter resistant film for glass entrance door
46 sidelights and other vulnerable first floor areas; and
- 47 (19) maintain a strict key distribution protocol that requires staff
48 to sign for keys and return them at the end of each school year.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill implements recommendation #11, architectural design
7 for new construction, and recommendation #12, hardening school
8 perimeters and building entryways, of the July 2015 report of the
9 New Jersey School Security Task Force.

10 Recommendation #11 of the report outlines items that should be
11 considered in the architectural design for the construction of new
12 school buildings. These items include, among others, marked
13 school entrances with a uniform numbering system, keyless locking
14 mechanisms, access control systems which allow for remote locking
15 and unlocking, sufficient space for evacuation in the event of an
16 emergency, and areas in the school building intended for public use
17 separated and secure from all other areas.

18 Recommendation #12 of the report outlines items in regard to the
19 hardening of school perimeters and building entryways. In addition
20 to employing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
21 principles, this recommendation includes, among others, items such
22 as a requirement that school security personnel be in uniform, the
23 number of doors for access by school staff should be limited,
24 exterior doors should remain locked, secure vestibules at the
25 school's main entrance should be created, and surveillance cameras
26 should be used as a target-hardening tool.

27 The task force found that in prior decades very few schools were
28 built with security issues in mind. However, as the number of acts
29 of violence in the nation's schools has increased, considerable
30 attention has been given to the issue of school safety and security.
31 The task force determined that "school renovations and new
32 construction must strike a balance between providing a welcoming
33 educational environment and a safe environment in which students
34 can learn and teachers can teach. Well-reasoned school design will
35 encourage proper security measures to be employed by school
36 districts and save the cost of retrofitting buildings." By enacting
37 these task force recommendations, this bill seeks to strike that
38 balance.