

ASSEMBLY, No. 1941

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SERENA DIMASO

District 13 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman NANCY F. MUNOZ

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Space, DePhillips, Thomson and Wirths

SYNOPSIS

Requires Commissioner of Education to review school safety and security plans.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning school safety and security plans.

2

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

5

6 1. a. No later than six months following the effective date of
7 this act, each board of education shall submit a copy of its most
8 recent districtwide school safety and security plan to the
9 Commissioner of Education for review. The commissioner may
10 direct a specific school district to submit its plan at any point during
11 that timeframe, and may prioritize a school district that has not
12 voluntarily submitted its plan to the commissioner for review within
13 the prior two school years.

14 b. The commissioner shall review each school district's plan.
15 The commissioner's review shall include, but need not be limited
16 to, the following factors:

17 (1) that the list of individuals to be notified in the event of an
18 emergency is current;

19 (2) faculty and staff have been assigned primary and alternate
20 responsibilities for addressing an emergency situation;

21 (3) documentation of the written procedures regarding building
22 access and visitor policies;

23 (4) that policies exist regarding bullying prevention and
24 character education;

25 (5) a comprehensive hazard analysis has been completed;

26 (6) that procedures and protocols for active shooter situations,
27 bomb threats, and lockdowns have been established; and

28 (7) crisis communication procedures for interacting with, as
29 appropriate, emergency responders, faculty and staff, students,
30 parents, and the media have been developed.

31 c. The commissioner shall submit a written report to each
32 board of education summarizing the results of the review. The
33 report shall detail any weaknesses identified during the review and
34 provide recommended solutions. In order to expedite the
35 submission of the reviews' results to boards of education, the
36 commissioner shall complete and submit the reports to school
37 districts on a rolling basis.

38 d. No later than three years following the effective date of this
39 act, the commissioner shall submit to the Governor, and to the
40 Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1),
41 a report summarizing the results of the reviews performed pursuant
42 to this section. The report shall summarize the results in the
43 aggregate and shall not include information specific to an individual
44 school district.

45

46 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

Pursuant to State Board of Education regulations at N.J.A.C.6A:16-5.1, each school district must develop and annually update a districtwide school safety and security plan. Currently, a school district may submit its plan to the Department of Education's Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning for review. Under this bill, all school districts would be required to, no later than six months following the effective date, submit the plan to the Commissioner of Education. The commissioner will review districts' plans and submit a written report to each district that details any weaknesses that have been identified and recommend solutions. No later than three years following the bill's effective date, the commissioner would be required to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature summarizing the results of the reviews.