

ASSEMBLY, No. 3671

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain school security measures to be incorporated into new school construction and existing school buildings.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning public school facilities and amending P.L.2016,
2 c.79.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2016, c.79 (C.18A:7G-5.2) is amended to
8 read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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

1 (17) provide a dedicated server and generator for security
2 systems, such as access control and surveillance cameras, in order
3 to secure information and ensure efficient operation in an
4 emergency;

5 (18) use ballistic or shatter resistant film for glass entrance door
6 sidelights and other vulnerable first floor areas; and

7 (19) maintain a strict key distribution protocol that requires staff
8 to sign for keys and return them at the end of each school year.

9 c. The commissioner, in consultation with the development
10 authority, may revise the architectural design standards for new
11 school construction established pursuant to subsection a. of this
12 section and the standards for new school construction and existing
13 school buildings established pursuant to subsection b. of this
14 section, to reflect new recommendations or changes in best
15 practices for school security.

16 (cf: P.L.2016, c.79, s.1)

17
18 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
19
20

21 STATEMENT
22

23 This bill amends section 1 of P.L.2016, c.79 (C.18A:7G-5.2) to
24 require that new public school construction and existing public
25 school buildings include certain items that under the original 2016
26 law were only required under certain conditions. The items that
27 will be required under the bill are:

- 28 • one way driveways that lead to a clearly marked visitor
29 parking area;
- 30 • an access control system with remote unlocking features, an
31 intercom, and fixed cameras at the school's main entrance
32 and for other entrances;
- 33 • a guard shack and gate on the school campus as an effective
34 perimeter control; and
- 35 • secure vestibules at the main entrance of the school
36 building.