



School Safety

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

JUNE 19, 2023

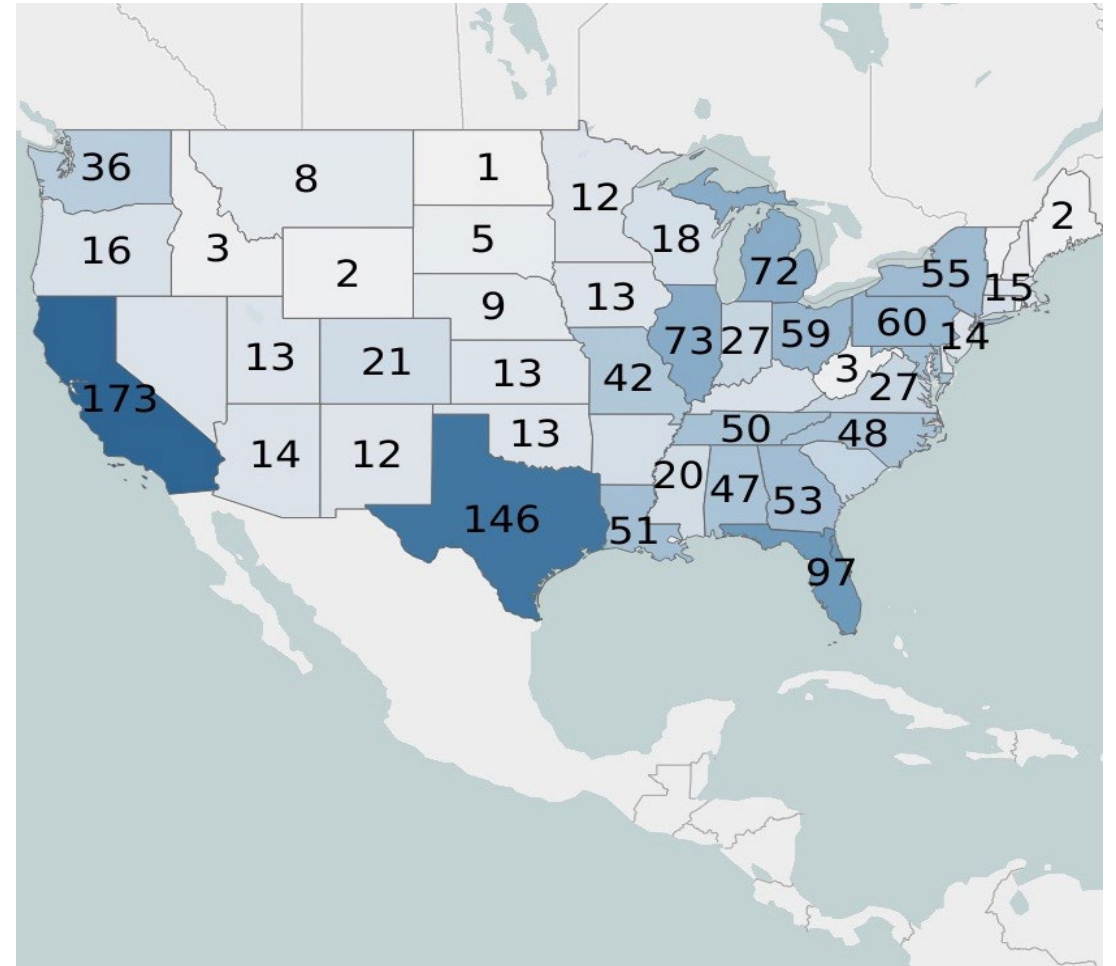
- **Discuss the origins of safety initiatives in Texas schools**
- **Provide an overview of the Office of School Safety and Security and TEA's role in school safety**
- **Discuss updates from the 88th Legislative Session**
- **Provide an overview of School Safety Standards rule**



Safety in Texas Schools

U.S. School Shootings 1970 - 2018

California - 173
Texas - 146
Florida - 97
Illinois - 73
New York - 55



Origins of Threat Assessments



FEATURED RESOURCE

ENHANCING SCHOOL SAFETY USING A THREAT ASSESSMENT MODEL

An Operational Guide for
Preventing Targeted School Violence



U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
United States
Secret Service

National Threat Assessment Center
July 2018

- **More than 200,000 school students have been exposed to gun violence since the Columbine school shooting in 1999.**
- **How many students have been traumatized by threats of violence?**
- **How many feel unsafe at school?**

Improving School Safety in Texas



Governor Greg Abbott
August 27, 2019

Making it safe to learn:

- Positive school climates
- Multitiered system of supports
- Behavioral threat assessments
- Staff training
- Continuous improvement
- Emergency management

Disconnected Efforts

**School
Mental and
Behavioral
Health**

**School Safety
and Security**

**Academics and
Learning
Supports**

Connection of Efforts



Increased coordination among school safety stakeholders



Increased data collection to drive continuous improvement



Increased support for and coordination within campuses resulting from the Safe and Supportive School Program



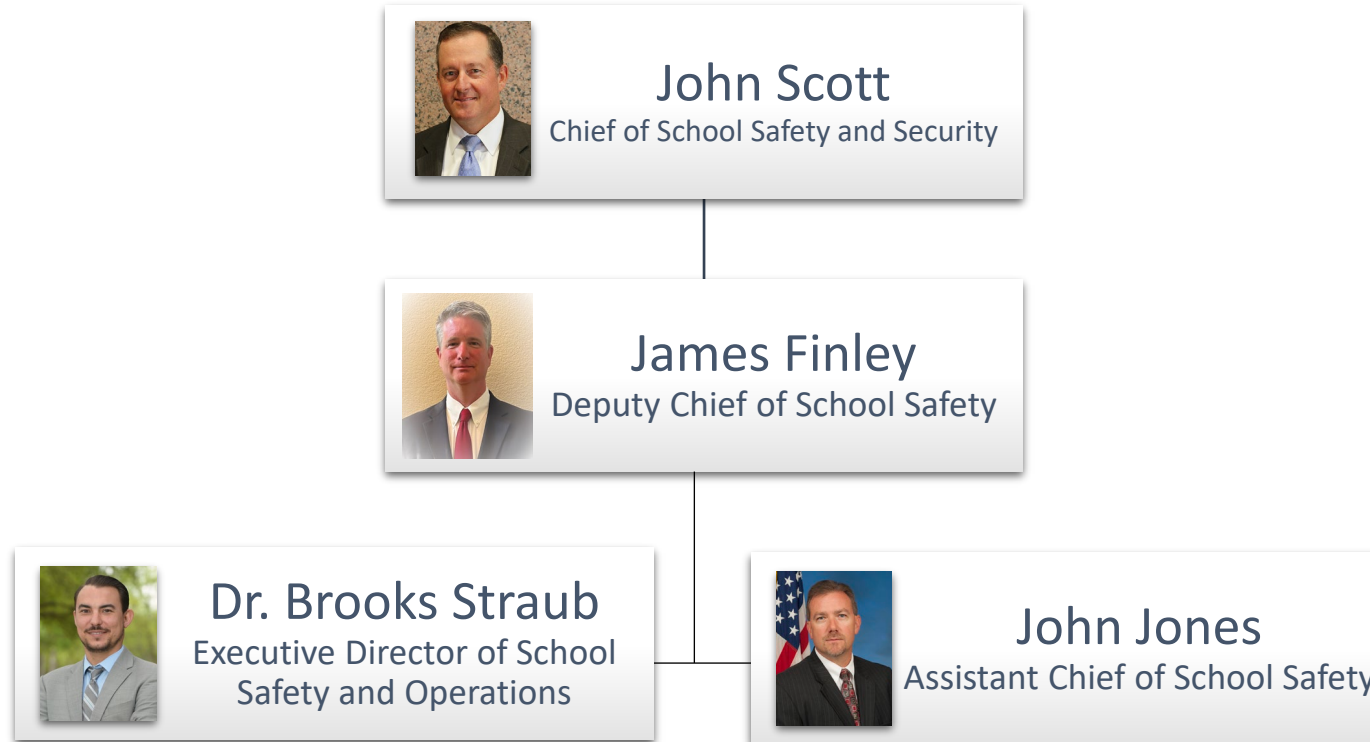
Office of School Safety and Security

SB 11 (86R) & related legislation assigned various duties related to school safety to TEA and other entities.



- ✓ School safety is part of TEA's Safe & Supportive Schools Program team established by SB 11 (86th)
- ✓ TEA added 1 FTE (unfunded) for implementation of SB 11.
- ✓ Using other funds, and internal re-alignment of duties, TEA added staff and currently has 9 FTEs on the SSSP team and a total of 17 for the entire office.
- ✓ TEA has added a Chief of School Safety & Security position, reporting directly to the Commissioner, to oversee this team. Additional team needs have been identified.

Office of School Safety and Security



Office of School Safety and Security

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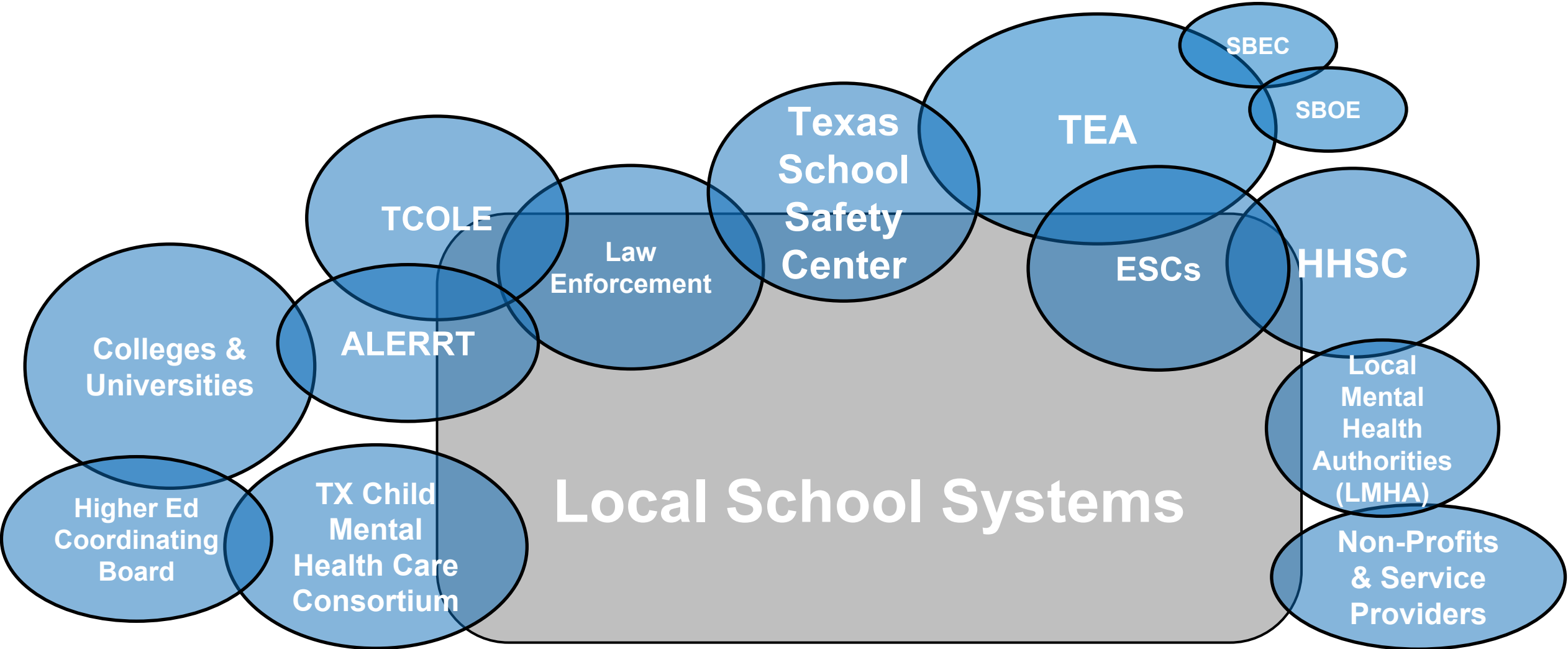
Carroll Sadler

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Policy and Rulemaking

The K-12 School Safety Eco-System: Key Components





Chief of School Safety and Security

Chief John Scott Joined TEA on October 1, 2022. Since he has joined the agency, he has:

Spearheaded the agency's communications to the field on school safety

Connected and collaborated with other state agencies to gain a better understanding of the services they can offer LEAs.

Consulted with state leadership to align on school safety needs for the state.

Completed a "Listen and Learn" tour, traveling across the state to visit the Educational Service Centers (ESCs) and spoke with ESC staff and superintendents to gather input and feedback about their needs for school safety.

Listen and Learn Tour - Key Findings



Singular oversight entity of school safety or a clear understanding of the school safety structure at the state level

Clear and streamlined communications from state agencies



Expanded mental health supports (TCHATT)

Funding for facility upgrades and mental health staffing and supports



Minimum school safety standards

A process to allow flexibility in school safety standards based on unique LEA site needs



Expanded security expertise supports for ESCs and districts



School Safety Standards

School Safety Standards Summary



Exterior doors, exterior classroom doors, and portable doors should operate as intended, are required to remain closed, locked, and latched and allow for emergency egress from the inside (while remaining locked).



Windowed doors on the ground level or windows that are adjacent to or near a door and are large enough to allow someone to enter if broken must be reinforced with entry-resistant film unless within a secured area.



Exterior door sweeps must be conducted weekly to certify that all doors are properly closed, locked, and latched.



The school system must perform maintenance checks twice annually to ensure that the facility components within the rule function properly and as intended.



Rule Revisions at Adoption

Section	Description	Amendment
(c)(9)	Facilities requirements	All facilities must include one or more distinctive, exterior secure master key box(es) designed to permit emergency access to both law enforcement agencies and emergency responder agencies from the exterior <u>OR</u> provide all local law enforcement electronic or physical master key access to the building(s).
(c)(10)	Communications infrastructure	An alert must be capable of being triggered by campus staff, including temporary or substitute staff, from an integrated or enabled device. School systems shall comply with state and federal Kari's Laws and federal RAY BAUM's Act.
(h)	Records retention	School systems must adopt a 3-year records control schedule that complies with the minimum requirements established by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission schedule.
(i)(3)	Certification	TEA may modify rule requirements or grant provisional certification for individual site needs as determined by the agency.

Standards Implementation Timeline

May 31, 2023

August 2023

August 2024

Rule is adopted and is immediately effective.

LEAs can provisionally certify compliance by having a contractor acquired and a final implementation timeline provided by the contractor

All LEAs are required to be fully compliant with the rule.

LEAs can use funds from the **2023-25 School Safety Formula Grant** and the **Cycle 1 Facilities Grant** to meet the rule requirements.

School Safety Facilities Grant

\$1.1B

one-time funding through the supplemental appropriations bill to address new minimum school safety standards and other facilities-related safety improvements.

Cycle 1 (~September 2023)

Competitive grant process that will require LEAs to demonstrate a need for the funds to include, rationale, site plans, and vendor contracts.

Intended to ensure that full funding is provided so that all campuses in Texas fully comply with the minimum school safety facility standards, even if they do not currently comply.

Cycle 2 (~January 2023)

Formula grant to all LEAs to support additional safety needs identified by the district, beyond the minimum safety facility standards.



Legislative Updates

School Safety Funding

June 2022

Governor Abbott and the Legislature provided \$17.1M for school districts to purchase silent panic alert technology

October 2022

Governor Abbott and the Legislature provided \$400M to assist school districts in replacing or upgrading doors, windows, fencing, communications, and other safety measures

May 2023

SB 30 includes \$1.1 Billion for School Safety

88th Legislative Session

Legislation:	Caption:
HB 3	Relating to measures for ensuring public school safety, including the development and implementation of purchases relating to and funding for public school safety and security requirements and the provision of safety-related resources.
SB 30	Relating to supplemental appropriations and reductions in appropriations and giving direction and adjustment authority regarding appropriations.
SB 838	Relating to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools providing panic alert devices in classrooms. <i>(compliments School Safety Standards rule)</i>
HB 1760	Relating to the prosecution of the offense of possessing a weapon in certain prohibited places associated with schools or postsecondary educational institutions.
SB 37	Relating to the criminal offense of hazing.

House Bill 3: ESC Assistance (Sect. 3, Pg. 2)

- ✓ Requires Educational Service Centers to provide school safety supports to districts using materials created by TEA and/or TxSSC, to include:
 - EOP development
 - Establishing a school safety and security committee
 - Conducting emergency drills or exercises
 - Addressing deficiencies identified from audit procedures.

- ✓ Requires ESCs to provide assistance to safety review teams

- ✓ ESCs may provide assistance to school systems within their region by providing positive behavioral interventions and supports to a student to mitigate or prevent harmful, threatening, or violent behavior.

- ✓ Requires a district employee who regularly interacts with students to complete an evidence-based mental health training program
- ✓ TEA will provide an allotment to each school district to assist the district with compliance
- ✓ The State Board for Educator Certification will propose rules to allow educators to receive credit toward their continuing education requirements
- ✓ The commissioner will adopt rules related to travel and training reimbursement



When a parent/guardian enrolls a student in a new school, they will provide a copy of records from the prior school, including those related to discipline and any threat assessment(s) conducted.



When a student transfers school districts, the home district will provide the receiving district with student records related to discipline and any threat assessment(s) conducted.



School-based law enforcement must complete a TCOLE approved active shooter response course once every four years.



A board of trustees must ensure that at least 1 armed security officer is present during regular school hours at each campus.

- The board may claim a good cause exception from the requirement if noncompliance relates to funding or lack of qualified personnel.
- If a good cause exception is claimed, the board must develop an alternative standard. This standard can include providing a person to act in place of security personnel (e.g., school marshal or guardian).



The district must document compliance with this requirement, including any good cause exception, and they must provide this documentation to the agency upon request.

House Bill 3: Agency Monitoring & Supports (Sect. 14, Pg. 17)

Establishes the Office of School Safety and Security with individuals that have substantial safety and security expertise and experience to monitor, provide guidance, and technical assistance to LEAs and ESCs to support the implementation and operation of safety and security requirements.

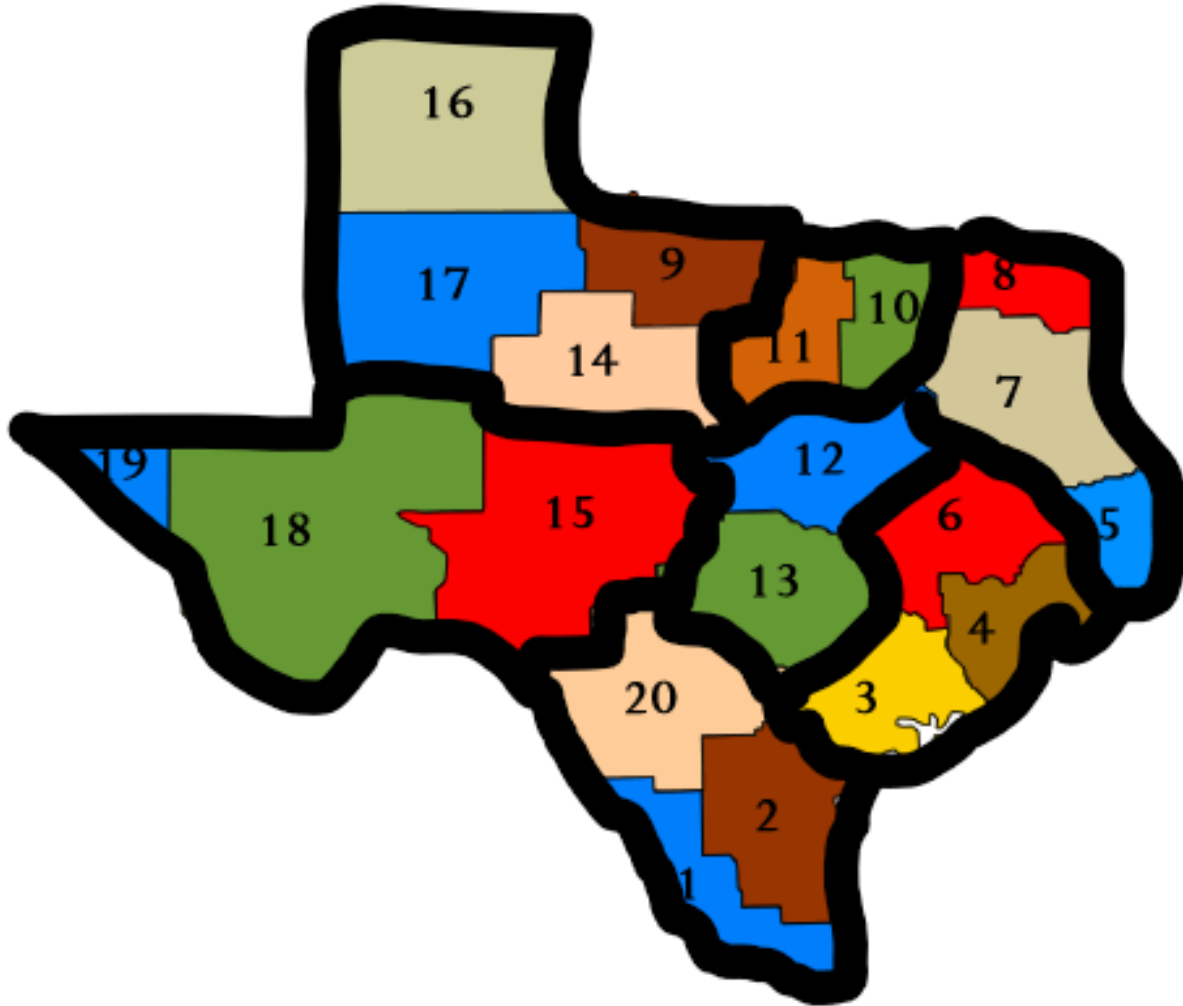
Requires the agency to monitor the implementation and operation of requirements related to school district safety and security, including:

1. Emergency operations plans
2. Safety and security audits

House Bill 3: Agency Monitoring & Supports

- ✓ Once every 4 years, the agency will conduct a random detailed vulnerability assessment of each school district, as determined by the agency.
- ✓ The assessment must assess facility access controls, emergency operations procedures, and other school safety requirements.
- ✓ Any document or information collected, identified, developed, or produced relating to the monitoring of school district safety and security requirements under this section is confidential.

School Safety Sectors Map



School Safety Areas	TEA Regions	Number of Districts	Total Campuses
West Sector	18,19,15	99	612
Panhandle Sector	16,17,9,14	202	730
North Sector	10, 11	211	2453
East Sector	8,7,5	185	739
Gulf Coast Sector	3,4,6	188	2180
South Sector	1,2,20	180	1868
Central Sector	12, 13	157	1074
TOTAL	7 Areas	1222	9656

House Bill 3: School Safety Review Teams (Sect. 14, Pg. 19)

- ✓ The Office of School Safety and Security will establish a school safety review team in each region served by a regional education service center.
- ✓ Teams will annually conduct on-site general intruder detection audits of school district campuses in the team's region.
- ✓ ESCs will provide support as necessary to assist the region's team in conducting intruder detection audits.

House Bill 3: Notification Regarding Violent Activity (Sect. 14, Pg. 21)



The agency will develop model standards for providing notice regarding violent activity that has occurred or is being investigated at a school campus or other LEA facility.



The standards must:

1. include electronic notification through text messaging and e-mail;
2. provide an option for real-time notification; and
3. protect student privacy.



Each school district shall adopt a policy for providing these notices

House Bill 3: Emergency Response Map (Sect. 16, Pg. 23)



Each school district and open-enrollment charter school shall provide to the Department of Public Safety, local law enforcement agencies, and emergency first responders an accurate map of each district campus and school building

These entities must be provided an opportunity to conduct a walk-through of each campus and school building using the map

- ✓ Modifies the rulemaking authority to include construction quality, performance, operational, and other standards related to the safety and security of school facilities.
- ✓ Requires that TEA reviews the facilities rules every even numbered year, prior to Sept 1.
- ✓ TEA shall consult TxSSC in identifying any facility changes.

House Bill 3: Facilities Standards Compliance (Sect. 20, Pg. 27)

A school district must ensure that each district facility complies with each school facilities standard, including performance standards and operational requirements related to safety and security in addition to any good cause exceptions claimed.

If a school district claims a good cause exception, they must develop an alternative performance standard with which the district is able to comply.



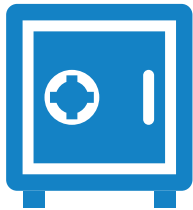
The sheriff of a county with a total population of less than 350,000 in which a public school is located will conduct semiannual school safety meetings.



The sheriff must submit a report to TxSSC identifying meeting attendees and the subjects discussed.

House Bill 3: School Safety Allotment (Sect. 23, Pg. 30)

A school district is entitled to an annual allotment equal to the sum of the following amounts or a greater amount provided by appropriation:



1. \$10 for each student in average daily attendance, plus \$1 for each student in average daily attendance per every \$50 by which the district's maximum basic allotment exceeds \$6,160, prorated as necessary; and
2. \$15,000 per campus

Increases ongoing school safety funding by \$300 million per biennium (about \$150 million per year) through the school safety allotment and technical support/oversight programs.



The Texas Legislature has provided new funding for school safety totaling \$1.4 billion for the next two years, including \$1.1 billion in one-time funding through the supplemental appropriations bill to address new minimum school safety standards and other facilities-related safety improvements.

Senate Bill 37: Criminal and Civil Liability Amended



A person commits an offense if the person:

- engages in hazing;
- solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing;
- recklessly permits hazing to occur; or
- has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution, or has firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report

Class B Misdemeanor (TEC, 37.152)

Implementation Support Videos

School Safety Standards and Funding

Posting July 17

Covers the adopted TAC 19 §61.1031, Commissioner's Rule on School Safety Standards and the latest Facilities Grant opportunity.

House Bill 3 (HB 3) Overview

Early August

Provides an overview of HB 3 and will include some initial guidance and best practices, to include armed officers on campus.

Other School Safety Bills Overview

Late August

Provides an overview the safety bills passed in the 88th legislative session.

Additional Webinars

Additional live webinars covering key components of the above school safety bills will be held throughout the fall as guidance continues to be developed.



Questions?

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