

## Chapter 182

**(House Bill 416)**

AN ACT concerning

**Public Schools – Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings – Requirements**

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Center for School Safety to collaborate with an institution of higher education or a designated federal or national research entity to study the effectiveness and psychological impact of active shooter safety drills or trainings by researching and analyzing certain data collected by local school systems; requiring the Center to identify best practices for active shooter safety drills or trainings by a certain date and periodically thereafter; authorizing the State Department of Education to adopt regulations to incorporate active shooter safety drills or trainings in the annual schedule of drills for local school systems; requiring the Department to annually review the best practices identified by the Center regarding active shooter safety drills and update the drills and trainings incorporated into the annual schedule of drills; requiring local school systems to take certain actions regarding active shooter safety drills or trainings, including collecting and reporting certain data to the Center, and providing certain notice to parents, students, and school personnel; requiring the Center to develop model content regarding the State’s laws on safe firearm storage and requiring local school systems to distribute the model content to parents at the beginning of each school year; and generally relating to active shooter safety drills or trainings in public schools.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Education

Section 7–1502(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 7–1502(g) and 7–1509

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Education**

7–1502.

(a) There is a Maryland Center for School Safety.

(g) The Center shall perform the following functions and duties:

(1) Provide technical assistance and consultation to local school systems, State and local government, and community organizations on best practices for safe schools and violence prevention;

(2) Develop a website containing a searchable database of definitive research, books, videos, white papers, speakers, websites, and other school safety resources;

(3) Develop criteria that may be applied consistently and uniformly in local school systems for coding unsafe incidents and serious or violent offenses;

(4) Research and recommend the use of common assessment tools to be used to identify specific problems and needs of schools and neighborhoods to facilitate intervention before assessed findings become problematic;

(5) Assist local school systems to conduct a thorough assessment of their school safety data, school building layouts, and use of human resources for monitoring purposes to determine the need for:

(i) Surveillance and other security technology; and

(ii) Innovations to maximize the use of human resources to monitor activity and influence positive relationship building;

(6) Maintain and maximize relationships with emergency responders, law enforcement personnel, parents, and other emergency preparedness stakeholders to ensure seamless execution in an emergency event, including:

(i) Consolidate resources among stakeholders to maximize support and secure necessary skills to ensure emergency plan implementation;

(ii) Conduct collaborative training and preparation exercises; and

(iii) Identify improvements and ensure nonduplication of effort in emergency response procedures;

(7) Provide safety information on traveling to and from school to parents and students twice a year that includes data related to bus and pedestrian safety, strategies for ensuring personal safety, efforts of the local school system or school to improve safety, and information on the available options for reporting incidents or concerns;

(8) Utilize and update an existing clearinghouse of law enforcement resources that are available to support school safety to ensure that it includes information regarding the purpose and process for accessing available funding;

(9) Assist local school systems to improve and monitor traffic control measures in the immediate vicinity of schools to reduce the potential for pedestrian and vehicle accidents;

(10) Assist the Department to evaluate and update current data systems to ensure they are best suited for providing useful information on school safety issues;

(11) Assist local school systems to monitor local school system and individual school behavior data to ensure fairness in the application of consequences for student misbehavior;

(12) Assist the Department and local school systems:

(i) To prepare an annual report that combines multiple school safety data systems into one format for public review; and

(ii) To incorporate new data points into existing data collection systems;

(13) Assist in the development of safety and security criteria for the design and operation of school facilities;

(14) Assist local school systems to identify resources and implement training for students and parents about relationship violence, identifying the signs of unhealthy relationships, and preventing relationship violence;

(15) Provide technical assistance to local school systems in the review of safety and security audits and the implementation of improvements in school facilities;

(16) Analyze data on school resource officers and develop guidelines and training for local school systems as required under § 7–1508 of this subtitle;

(17) Certify school safety coordinators as required under § 7–1508 of this subtitle;

(18) Submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a summary of reports on school resource officer and local law enforcement agency coverage in public schools as required under § 7–1508 of this subtitle;

(19) Consult with local school systems on safety evaluations developed under § 7–1510 of this subtitle;

(20) Review and comment on school emergency plans developed under § 7–1510 of this subtitle; [and]

(21) Report to the General Assembly and the Governor on life-threatening incidents as required under § 7-1510 of this subtitle;

**(22) COLLABORATE WITH AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR A DESIGNATED FEDERAL OR NATIONAL RESEARCH ENTITY TO STUDY THE EFFECTIVENESS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF ACTIVE SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS OR TRAININGS BY RESEARCHING AND ANALYZING THE DATA COLLECTED FROM LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-1509(F) OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

**(23) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2024, IDENTIFY BEST PRACTICES FOR ACTIVE SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS OR TRAININGS, AND PERIODICALLY UPDATE THOSE IDENTIFICATIONS USING THE DATA COLLECTED FROM LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-1509(F) OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

7-1509.

(a) **(1) [The] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE** Department, in consultation with the Subcabinet, may adopt regulations to incorporate in the annual schedule of drills for each local school system developmentally and age-appropriate components of:

**[(1)] (I)** The Active Shooter Preparedness Program developed by the Department of Homeland Security or guidelines; or

**[(2)] (II)** The active shooter guidelines adopted by the Maryland Active Assailant Work Group established under Executive Order 01.01.2018.08.

**(2) ITEMS INCORPORATED INTO THE ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF DRILLS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY TAKE THE FORM OF A TRAINING RATHER THAN A DRILL.**

(b) Drills **OR TRAININGS** incorporated into the annual schedule of drills under subsection (a) of this section **SHALL BE DEVELOPMENTALLY AND AGE-APPROPRIATE, AND** may include [developmentally and age-appropriate] procedures for students or school personnel in:

- (1) Securing classrooms;
- (2) Barricading classrooms and school entries;
- (3) Taking refuge in the classroom; and
- (4) When appropriate, escape from the classroom or school.

(C) BEFORE THE 2025–2026 SCHOOL YEAR, AND BEFORE EACH SCHOOL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW THE BEST PRACTICES FOR ACTIVE SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS OR TRAININGS IDENTIFIED BY THE CENTER IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7–1502(G) OF THIS SUBTITLE AND UPDATE ANY DRILLS AND TRAININGS THAT HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF DRILLS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO REFLECT THOSE BEST PRACTICES.

(D) ~~(1)~~ EXCEPT FOR A VOLUNTARY DRILL OR TRAINING OCCURRING AFTER SCHOOL HOURS, ACTIVE SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS OR TRAININGS MAY NOT INCLUDE:

~~(1)~~ ~~(I)~~ LOUD SOUNDS INTENDED TO IMITATE GUNFIRE OR EXPLOSIONS;

~~(2)~~ ~~(II)~~ LIVE EXERCISES WITH INDIVIDUALS ROLE–PLAYING AS AN ACTIVE SHOOTER OR A VICTIM; OR

~~(3)~~ ~~(III)~~ SIMILAR ACTIVITIES THAT MAY CAUSE THE DRILL OR TRAINING TO BE TRAUMATIC FOR STUDENTS OR SCHOOL PERSONNEL.

(2) IF A CONCERN IS RAISED THAT A COMPONENT OF A DRILL OR TRAINING BEST PRACTICE IDENTIFIED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION IS CONTRARY TO THE INTENT OF THE TRAUMA–SENSITIVE REQUIREMENTS UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE CENTER, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT, SHALL MAKE THE FINAL DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER THE COMPONENT COMPLIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

[(c)] (E) The Department shall notify the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the Legislative Policy Committee of proposed changes to regulations that alter the annual schedule of drills as provided under this section.

[(d)] (F) Each local school system shall [collaborate]:

(1) COLLABORATE with the local law enforcement agency to establish policies for responding to an emergency at each public school in the county;

(2) PROVIDE PARENTS WITH THE ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF ACTIVE SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS OR TRAININGS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, WHICH INCLUDES:

(I) THE MONTH IN WHICH THE DRILLS OR TRAININGS WILL OCCUR;

(II) THE TYPE OF DRILL OR TRAINING THAT WILL OCCUR; AND

(III) HOW STUDENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE DRILL OR TRAINING;

(3) ANNOUNCE DRILLS OR TRAININGS IN ADVANCE TO STUDENTS AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL;

(4) NOTIFY PARENTS AFTER A DRILL OR TRAINING HAS TAKEN PLACE;

(5) PROVIDE A MENTAL HEALTH FOLLOW-UP FOR STUDENTS AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL AFTER A DRILL OR TRAINING;

(6) (I) IDENTIFY STUDENTS OR SCHOOL PERSONNEL WHO MAY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT DURING AND AFTER A DRILL OR TRAINING, INCLUDING AN INDIVIDUAL:

1. WITH A DISABILITY; OR

2. WHO HAS EXPERIENCED TRAUMA; AND

(II) PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND COPING STRATEGIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT DURING AND AFTER A DRILL OR TRAINING; AND

(7) (I) COLLECT DATA ON THE EFFECTIVENESS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF THE DRILLS OR TRAININGS, INCLUDING REQUESTING FEEDBACK FROM SCHOOL PERSONNEL, PARENTS, AND STUDENTS, IN A MANNER AND FORMAT APPROVED BY THE CENTER TO ALLOW FOR THE REQUIRED ANALYSIS UNDER § 7-1502(G)(22) OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

(II) REPORT THE DATA AND FINDINGS TO THE CENTER.

(G) (1) (I) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2025, THE CENTER SHALL DEVELOP MODEL CONTENT THAT INFORMS PARENTS OF THE STATE'S FIREARM STORAGE LAWS.

(II) EACH YEAR, THE CENTER SHALL EVALUATE THE MODEL CONTENT AND UPDATE IT AS NEEDED.

**(2) THE CENTER SHALL CONSULT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE IN DEVELOPING THE MODEL CONTENT.**

**(3) AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR, EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE MODEL CONTENT TO THE PARENTS.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

**Approved by the Governor, April 25, 2024.**