

School Safety Plans: A Snapshot of Legislative Action

One common way schools and school districts address school safety is through the development and adoption of school safety and emergency plans, which may be required under state statute. These plans outline how schools and school districts will prevent and address situations that threaten school safety, such as incidents of violence, natural disasters, and medical emergencies. Plans may also address additional factors that contribute to school safety such as student codes of conduct, disciplinary procedures, and school learning environments. Depending on how prescriptive the statute is, some states include the roles that school administrators and community partners may play in the event of an emergency.

Additional trends in required school safety plans include the following:

- Requirements for various safety drills including fire drills, tornado drills, and active-shooter drills
- Procedures for distribution of school safety plans and/or confidentiality of such plans
- The role for community and family involvement in the creation of plans
- Involvement of state departments of education and specific school safety entities in the development and implementation of the plans
- General school building and infrastructure requirements for school safety
- Grants and other funding opportunities available to support school safety planning

Currently, 33 states have statutes that specifically require every school or school district to have a comprehensive school safety or emergency plan (AK, AL, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, IL, KY, LA, MD, ME, MN, MS, MT, NC, NH, NV, NY, OH, OK, RI, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, and WV).

School districts may choose to implement additional requirements for schools regarding their safety plans, including measures that address school safety needs specific to the area. States that lack statutory language regarding school safety plans may address the concerns in state regulations.

Since 2000, at least 13 states have passed legislation establishing school safety councils, committees, and/or studies. Membership of these councils or committees most often include representatives from the department of education, government officials, local law enforcement agencies, emergency agencies including first responders, juvenile justice organizations, school administrators, community members, and parents of students. Common focuses of such committees and councils include school safety assessments, general violence

This research and compilation of state statutes was completed by the National Conference of State Legislatures, including background discussions with state legislative staff. This summary provides a snapshot of legislation passed in 2013 as well as previous statutes that relate to school safety plans. It only includes an examination of education statutes and any cross-referenced statutes. It does not otherwise include reviews of statutes found in the criminal code. Special thanks to Lauren Heintz who conducted this review.

prevention, mental and behavioral health supports, and the creation of safety, security, and emergency preparedness standards. These committees or councils are either created to be permanently housed in a state department or they are structured to be operational for a specific period of time that culminates in a report that is submitted to a state governmental power such as the legislature or the governor's office.

Since 2000, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) has become aware of the following school safety committees, councils, and studies that were created through state legislation:

- **Arizona HB 2045 (2007)** continued the School Safety Oversight Committee's review of plans submitted by school applicants for participation in the school safety program and selection of sites that are eligible to receive funding based on school safety needs. The committee is also required to evaluate the program and report annually to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor and the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.
- **Arizona SB 1185 (2012)** directed the School Safety Oversight Committee to create a school safety program guidance manual.
- **Connecticut SB 1160 (2013)** established a task force to study the provision of behavioral health services in the state with a particular focus on the provision of behavioral health services for youth ages 16 to 25. This task force will study the need for and make recommendations on providing intensive, individualized behavioral health intervention services in schools. The recommendations may require the State Department of Education to provide technical assistance to school districts concerning behavioral intervention specialists, and to conduct behavioral health screenings of public school children. Recommendations will be made to the Governor, the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the Joint Standing Committees of the General Assembly.
- **Idaho HB 504 (2010)** Created the Idaho Uniform School Building Safety Code Committee within the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The committee must develop the Idaho Uniform School Safety Code and meet annually to review the code and make any necessary provisions.
- **Indiana SB 192 (2007)** directs each school to have a safe schools committee to address school safety plans and issues.
- **Indiana HB 1015 (2013)** urges the legislative council to establish a study committee during the 2013 interim to study student discipline and safety.
- **Maine HB 629 (2013)** requires the department of education to gather information from school administrative units regarding the preparedness of schools to implement required emergency management plans as well as the present condition of school facilities in terms of facility security in the event of an emergency. The department will then evaluate school preparedness and facility security and will develop recommendations for appropriate measures that may be taken to improve preparedness and facility security.
- **Maryland HB 435 (2013)** establishes the Maryland Center for School Safety as an independent unit of state government.
- **Maryland HB 1338 (2013)** creates a Prince George's County Juvenile Court and School Safety Workgroup to study issues related to juvenile justice, school- and community-

based programs, and school safety. The workgroup is required to report its finding, action plan, and recommendations to the Prince George's County Delegation.

- **New Jersey AB 3583 (2013)** established a school security task force to study and develop recommendations to improve school security and safety, and to ensure a safe learning environment for students and school employees. The task force will issue a final report containing its findings and recommendations—including any suggested legislation or regulations—within six months after its organizational meeting. The report will be submitted to the Governor, the State Board of Education, and to the legislature.
- **Oklahoma SB 257 (2013)** requires the State Office of Homeland Security to designate a division known as the State School Security Institute to be the primary contact for information on resources to enhance school security for schools in the state.
- **Pennsylvania HR 53 (2013)** establishes a select committee to investigate and make recommendations concerning safety and security in public and nonpublic schools and institutions of higher education. The committee will submit a report to the House of Representatives of its findings, together with its recommendations for any appropriate legislation or other action.
- **Pennsylvania SR 6 (2013)** directs the Joint State Government Commission to study the issue of violence prevention in the community and in schools, to establish an advisory committee to conduct a thorough, comprehensive analysis of the underlying causes of violent crime, including mass shootings, and to report to the Senate its findings and recommendations.
- **Tennessee HB 687 (2009)** urges the Select Oversight Committee on Education to consider and study school safety problems, funding requirements, and alternative approaches and solutions for management of safety related problems. The committee was required to report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Governor and members of the General Assembly in 2010.
- **Texas HB 1831 (2009)** requires each school district to establish a school safety and security committee in accordance with guidelines established by the Texas School Safety Center. The committee assists with the development and implementation of and compliance with school safety and multi-hazard plans.
- **Texas SB 1556 (2013)** establishes a School Safety Task Force to study best practices for school multi-hazard emergency operations planning and, based on those studies, make recommendations to the legislature, the Texas School Safety Center, and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security.
- **Virginia HB 2346 (2013)** directs the Division Superintendent to establish a school safety audit committee comprised of representatives of parents, teachers, local law-enforcement emergency services agencies, local community services boards, and judicial and public safety personnel. The school safety audit committee will review the completed school safety audits and submit any plans for improving school safety to the Division Superintendent, who will review and submit them to the local school board.
- **Virginia HB 2344 (2013)** requires that each local school board adopts policies for the establishment of threat-assessment teams. Each of these teams is required to report quantitative data on its activities according to guidance developed by the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

- **Washington SB 5097 (2007)** created a task force on gangs in schools to examine current adult and youth gang activities that are affecting school safety. The task force outlined methods for preventing new gangs, eliminating existing gangs, gathering intelligence, and sharing information about gang activities. It reports its findings and recommendations annually to the education committees of the legislature.

Summaries of each state’s statutes related to school safety and emergency plans can be found below.

Alabama

Alabama requires that each local board of education adopt a comprehensive school safety plan for each school, which must at least include a “code red,” or emergency safety plan.

Community law enforcement and safety officials, including community fire and emergency management assigned to the school, must be included in the development of the plan for each school. Drills related to the school safety plan may be carried out by the principal or his/her designee. The local school board is also authorized to examine conditions and operations at each school and recommend changes needed to ensure school safety, such as building modifications.

- ALA. CODE § 16-1-44 (2013): Each local board of education shall adopt a comprehensive school safety plan for each school under the authority of the board. . . . The local board or its agent shall examine the conditions and operations of each school under the authority of the local board to determine hazards to student and staff safety and shall propose changes, if needed to promote the prevention of dangerous problems and circumstances. . . . In developing the plan for each school, the local board or its agent shall involve community law enforcement, safety officials including community fire and emergency management assigned to the school. . . . The board shall incorporate into the plan . . . [a] protocol for addressing serious threats to the safety of school property, students, employees, or administrators including, but not limited to, a specific code red school safety plan . . . [and a] protocol for responding to emergency events that compromise the safety of school property, students, and employees. . . . The principal or his or her designee shall instruct and train students concerning procedures to be used for emergency drills and evacuations.

Alaska

Alaska statute requires that each school district develop a model school crisis response plan to be used by each school in the district, alongside a school-specific crisis response plan. Local social services agencies and local law enforcement authorities must be consulted in the development of such plans. Additionally, each school is required to develop a crisis response team consisting of at least the principal, a member of the staff, and a parent of a current student. Districts will train staff on the plans, including annual drills.

- ALASKA STAT. § 14.33.100 (2013): Each district shall develop a model school crisis response plan for use by each school in the district. Each school in a district shall develop a school specific crisis response plan. Each school shall form a crisis response team consisting of the principal, one certified and one classified member of the school staff, and one parent whose child attends the school. The crisis response team may include one member of the governing board or advisory school board, a school

counselor, a member from local law enforcement authorities, and one student in grade 10 or higher if the school has those grades. The district and each school within the district shall consult with local social services agencies and local law enforcement authorities when developing the school crisis response plan. . . . [Each] plan must include (1) the person in charge and a designated substitute; (2) the names of the crisis response team members and their specific job functions relating to a crisis; (3) a communication plan; (4) protocols for responding to immediate physical harm of students, faculty, or staff and to traumatic events, including the period after the events have concluded; (5) disaster and emergency procedures to respond to earthquakes, fire, flood, explosions, or other events or conditions in which death or serious injury is likely; (6) crisis procedures for safe entrance to and exit from the school by students, parents, and employees, including an evacuation and lock down plan; and (7) policies for enforcing school discipline and maintaining a safe and orderly environment during the crisis.

Arizona

Arizona requires the creation of a school safety program oversight committee to review school safety plans and award funding based on school safety needs for participating schools. Schools wishing to participate must submit a school safety proposal that includes a description of the school safety needs of the public school or school district, a plan for implementing a law-related education program, and a plan to use trained school resource officers or juvenile probation officers in the schools, or both. School boards are also required to collaborate with local law enforcement agencies and local medical facilities to develop an emergency response plan for each school.

- ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 15-153 (LexisNexis 2013): The school safety program oversight committee is established consisting of the following members: 1. Two members of the senate who are from different political parties; two members of the house of representatives who are from different political parties 2. Two members of the house of representatives who are from different political parties 3. The governor, or the governor's designee. 4. The superintendent of public instruction, or the superintendent's designee. 5. A law enforcement officer who is appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives. 6. A juvenile probation officer who is appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court. 7. A public school principal who is appointed by the superintendent of public instruction. 8. A representative from the field of law related education who is appointed by the governor. . . . The committee shall review plans submitted by the applicants for participation in the school safety program and shall select sites that are eligible to receive funding based on school safety needs. The committee shall also review renewal applications from participating sites.
- ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 15-154 (LexisNexis 2013): A public school district may apply to participate in the school safety program as provided in this section for up to three fiscal years by submitting by April 15 a program proposal to the school safety program oversight committee. The program proposal shall contain: 1. A detailed description of the school safety needs of the public school or school district. 2. A plan for implementing a law related education program or a plan that demonstrates the existence of a law related education program as a school safety prevention strategy. 3. A plan to use trained school resource officers or juvenile probation officers in the schools, or both. . . . The state board of education shall administer the program in cooperation with the courts, law enforcement agencies and law-related education providers.

- ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 15-341 (LexisNexis 2013): The governing board shall . . . [i]n conjunction with local law enforcement agencies and local medical facilities, develop an emergency response plan for each school in the school district in accordance with minimum standards developed jointly by the [state] department of education and the division of emergency management within the department of emergency and military affairs.

Arkansas

Arkansas state statute requires the development of a safe schools committee that is responsible for creating model policies and procedures for school safety, including emergency preparedness plans.

- ARK. CODE ANN. § 6-15-1301 (2013): The Department of Education is directed to create a Safe Schools Committee . . . composed of . . . [t]wo classroom teachers appointed by the Arkansas Education Association; . . . [t]wo school administrators appointed by the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators; . . . [t]wo school district board members appointed by the Arkansas School Boards Association; . . . [a] staff member of the department appointed by the Commissioner of Education; . . . [a] school safety specialist, employed by an Arkansas school district, appointed by the commissioner; . . . [o]ne school counselor appointed by the Arkansas Counseling Association; and . . . [o]ne additional person knowledgeable in the field of school safety appointed by the commissioner. . . . The Chairs of the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education or their designees shall serve as ex officio members of the committee. . . . [The committee shall] develop model policies and procedures that may ensure a safe and productive learning environment for students and school employees for recommendation to school districts. The procedures shall focus on ensuring the security of students and school employees and shall include techniques for prevention, intervention, and conflict resolution.

California

California outlines legislative support for comprehensive school safety plans and requires they be made for public K-12 schools in cooperation with local law enforcement, community members, school members, and parents. The oversight authority for school safety and model policy is the school-law enforcement partnership of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Attorney General. Each school district and individual school site are responsible for creating a school-specific plan, which must include provisions for child abuse, disaster preparedness, school discipline, school dress codes, school environment, harassment policies, and safe routes to school. The plans must utilize current resources and possible grants through the school-law enforcement partnership and must be revised annually. The plan must be submitted to the school district for approval and the school is required to hold a public meeting to get feedback on the plan before its implementation.

- CAL. EDUC. CODE § 32261(c) (Deering 2014): [Declares legislative support for] California public schools as they develop their mandated comprehensive safety plans that are the result of a systematic planning process, that include strategies aimed at the prevention of, and education about, potential incidents involving crime and violence on school campuses, and that address the safety concerns of local law enforcement agencies,

community leaders, parents, pupils, teachers, administrators, school police, and other school employees interested in the prevention of school crime and violence.

- CAL. EDUC. CODE § 32262(a) (Deering 2014): [Establishes] the School/Law Enforcement Partnership, comprised of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Attorney General. The duties of the partnership shall consist of all the following: (1) The development of programs and policies necessary to implement the provisions of Article 5 (2) The administration of safe school programs and all training, procedures, and activities conducted pursuant to this chapter. (3) Cooperation with other states and state and federal agencies on matters relating to school safety.
- CAL. EDUC. CODE § 32280 (Deering 2014): It is the intent of the Legislature that all California K-12 public schools, . . . in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, community leaders, parents, pupils, teachers, administrators, and other persons who may be interested in the prevention of campus crime and violence, develop a comprehensive school safety plan that addresses the safety concerns identified through a systematic planning process.
- CAL. EDUC. CODE § 32281 (Deering 2014): Each school district and county office of education is responsible for the overall development of all comprehensive school safety plans for its [K-12 schools]. . . . Schoolsite council[s] . . . shall write and develop a comprehensive school safety plan relevant to the needs and resources of that particular school. . . . The schoolsite council may delegate this responsibility to a school safety planning committee made up of the following members: (A) The principal or the principal's designee. (B) One teacher who is a representative of the recognized certificated employee organization. (C) One parent whose child attends the school. (D) One classified employee who is a representative of the recognized classified employee organization. (E) Other members, if desired. . . . The schoolsite council shall consult with a representative from a law enforcement agency in the writing and development of the comprehensive school safety plan.
- CAL. EDUC. CODE § 32282 (Deering 2014): The comprehensive school safety plan shall include, but not be limited to, both of the following:
 - [an assessment of the current status of school crime committed on school campuses and at school-related functions and identification of appropriate strategies and programs that will provide or maintain a high level of school safety and address the school's procedures for complying with existing laws related to school safety. This will include child abuse reporting procedures; disaster procedures, including an earthquake emergency procedure system, disciplinary procedures; and procedures to notify teachers of dangerous pupils
 - a discrimination and harassment policy consistent with the prohibition against discrimination; school dress codes; safe school routes; and a safe learning environment. It is the intent of the Legislature that schools develop comprehensive school safety plans using existing resources. Grants to assist schools in implementing their comprehensive school safety plan shall be made available through the partnership. Plans shall be revised annually.]
- CAL. EDUC. CODE § 32288 (Deering 2014): In order to ensure compliance with this article, each school shall forward its comprehensive school safety plan to the school district or county office of education for approval. . . . Before adopting its comprehensive school safety plan, each schoolsite council or school safety planning committee shall

hold a public meeting at the schoolsite in order to allow members of the public the opportunity to express an opinion about the school safety plan.

Colorado

Colorado requires that each school district board of education adopt and implement a safe school plan in consultation with the community, parents, school employees, and community partners. Emergency personnel are required to regularly inspect school buildings to ensure they are up to code and make certain each school has an adequate school emergency response system. Additional resources for schools in creating and implementing school safety plans may be provided by the state school safety resource center.

- COLO. REV. STAT. § 22-32-109.1 (2013): [F]ollowing consultation with the school district accountability committee and school accountability committees, parents, teachers, administrators, students, student councils where available, and, where appropriate, the community at large, each school district board of education shall adopt and implement a safe school plan, or review and revise, as necessary in response to any relevant data collected by the school district, any existing plans or policies already in effect. In addition to the aforementioned parties, each school district board of education, in adopting and implementing its safe school plan, may consult with victims advocacy organizations, school psychologists, local law enforcement agencies, and community partners. The plan, at a minimum, shall include the following: [a conduct and discipline code; safe school reporting requirements; an Internet safety plan; agreements with state agencies; a school response framework for school safety, readiness, and incident management plan; and a safety and security policy.]
- COLO. REV. STAT. § 24-33.5-1213.4 (2013): The school response framework . . . [creates] the framework for school emergency incident response and emergency preparedness, including emergency communications and the responsibilities of school resource officers. Pursuant to the school response framework, emergency response personnel are community partners with schools. As part of its duty to regularly inspect school buildings to ensure compliance with the fire code, the division, local fire departments, and certified fire inspectors may partner with schools in assessing each school's implementation of [the National Incident Management System (NIMS)], the interoperability of the school's emergency communications equipment with state and local emergency response agencies, and the implementation of a school resource officer program.
- COLO. REV. STAT. § 24-33.5-1801 (2013): [Finds that r]esources are needed to fully develop safety plans and practices in Colorado's schools, colleges, and universities . . . [and may be provided by the school safety resource center.]

Connecticut

Connecticut requires that each local and regional board of education develop and implement a school security and safety plan for each school. The standards for such plans must be developed by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection in consultation with the Department of Education. These plans must include the role of local officials, a centralized command center to ensure safety, the establishment of a school security and safety committee

crisis management procedures and drills, the establishment of a safe school climate committee, and training on such plans.

- S. 1160, 1st Sess. (Conn. 2013): [Annually, each local and regional board of education shall develop and implement a school security and safety plan for each school.]
- S. 1160, 1st Sess. (Conn. 2013): The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in consultation with the Department of Education, shall develop school security and safety plan standards. The school security and safety plan standards shall be an all-hazards approach to emergencies at public schools and shall include, but not be limited to, (1) involvement of local officials, including the chief executive officer of the municipality, the superintendent of schools, law enforcement, fire, public health, emergency management and emergency medical services, in the development of school security and safety plans, (2) a command center organization structure based on the federal National Incident Management System . . . (3) a requirement that a school security and safety committee be established at each school, . . . (4) crisis management procedures, (5) a requirement that local law enforcement and other local public safety officials evaluate, score and provide feedback on fire drills and crisis response drills . . . (6) a requirement that local and regional boards of education annually submit reports to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection regarding such fire drills and crisis response drills, (7) procedures for managing various types of emergencies, (8) a requirement that each local and regional board of education conduct a security and vulnerability assessment for each school under the jurisdiction of such board every two years and develop a school security and safety plan for each such school, . . . (9) a requirement that the safe school climate committee be created for each school, . . . (10) a requirement that the school security and safety plan for each school provide an orientation on school security and safety plan for each school employee

Delaware

Delaware requires that each school and school district develop, alongside the Department of Education and first responders, a comprehensive school safety plan and school safety team. Annual drills must be carried out, among other safety considerations, to ensure the building and its technology are prepared for emergencies.

- DEL. CODE tit. 29 § 8237 (2013): [Creates the Omnibus School Safety Act, which enhances] public safety in all of Delaware’s public schools (including charter schools) and school districts through the development and maintenance of comprehensive, site-specific, National Incident Management (NIMS)-compliant safety and emergency preparedness plans for each public school and district. . . . Each school and district shall: (1) Create a school safety team for each school and district; (2) Collaborate with the [state department of education (hereinafter “Department”)] and any relevant first responders to develop and submit to the Department a school- or district-specific CSSP [comprehensive school safety plan]; (3) Conduct critical incident and tabletop exercises [to assess building safety]; and (4) Collaborate with the Department and any relevant first responders in submitting revisions and updates to CSSPs, at such times and upon such circumstances as shall be warranted. . . . Each school and district, through its school safety team, shall collaborate with the Department and any relevant first responders to develop and submit a school- or district-specific CSSP that is NIMS-compliant and is otherwise approved by the Department in accordance with the regulations adopted in connection with this section. The Department shall provide such assistance as shall be necessary in connection with the development of CSSPs, and

shall coordinate schools and districts with first responders and other relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to the Capitol Police, for the development of CSSPs hereunder.

Florida

Florida requires that the district school board provide disciplinary procedures, create a code of student conduct, ensure safety and security best practices through self-assessments, and provide policies and procedures for emergency drills and procedures.

- FLA. STAT. § 1006.07 (LexisNexis 2013): The district school board shall provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the attendance and control of students at school, and for proper attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the welfare of students, including: [control of students; code of student conduct; student crime watch program; emergency drills and procedures; educational services in detention facilities; and Safety and Security Best Practices.]

Georgia

Georgia requires that every public school create a school safety plan with input from students, parents, teachers, community leaders, school employees, law enforcement, and other public agencies. Public schools may request funding to install additional safety equipment such as cameras and metal detectors. Additional training and assistance may be provided by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency.

- GA. CODE ANN. § 20-2-1185 (2013): Every public school shall prepare a school safety plan to help curb the growing incidence of violence in schools, to respond effectively to such incidents, and to provide a safe learning environment for Georgia's children, teachers, and other school personnel. Such plan shall also address preparedness for natural disasters, hazardous materials or radiological accidents, acts of violence, and acts of terrorism. School safety plans of public schools shall be prepared with input from students enrolled in that school, parents or legal guardians of such students, teachers in that school, community leaders, other school employees and school district employees, and local law enforcement, fire service, public safety, and emergency management agencies. School safety plans of private schools may be prepared with input from students enrolled in that school, parents or legal guardians of such students, teachers in that school, other school employees, and local law enforcement, fire service, public safety, and emergency management agencies. Such plans shall be reviewed and, if necessary, updated annually. Such plans of public schools shall be submitted to the local emergency management agency. . . . A public school may request funding assistance from the state for the installation of safety equipment including, but not limited to, video surveillance cameras, metal detectors, and other similar security devices. Funding may be provided to a public school in accordance with a school safety plan prepared by the school and approved by the local board of education, the [state] Department of Education, and the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. . . . The Georgia Emergency Management Agency may provide additional training and technical assistance

Hawaii

No prescriptive school safety plan found in education statutes.

Idaho

No prescriptive school safety plan found in education statutes.

Illinois

Illinois requires that schools follow standards and requirements for conducting school safety drills and reviewing emergency and crisis response plans.

- 105 ILL. COMP. STAT. ANN. § 128/15 (LexisNexis 2013): [Establishes minimum requirements and standards for schools to follow when conducting school safety drills and reviewing school emergency and crisis response plans and to encourage schools and first responders to work together for the safety of children. Communities and schools may exceed these requirements and standards. Each school board must participate in annual reviews of the school's plans.]

Indiana

Indiana provides for grants to assist schools in creating and implementing school safety plans, including the purchase of safety equipment.

- IND. CODE ANN. § 5-2-10.1-2 (LexisNexis 2013): [Establishes the Indiana safe school fund for the purposes of promoting school safety, combating truancy, providing matching grants to schools for school safe haven programs, providing school safety and safety plan grants, providing educational outreach concerning bullying, and providing educational outreach concerning criminal gang activities. It also provides for training of school safety specialists and school resource officers.]

Iowa

Iowa provides for grants to improve school safety infrastructure. Grants may be awarded if a school district submits a plan approved by the state fire marshal or local building department to remedy any school safety defects.

- Iowa Code § 423E.6 (LexisNexis 2013): School districts applying for program grants shall have developed and submitted to the state fire marshal or local building department a written plan to remedy fire or safety defects within a specified time frame. Approval of the written plan by the state fire marshal or local building department shall be obtained prior to receipt of a grant award by a school district.

Kansas

Kansas requires that boards of education make available district school safety and security policies.

- KAN. STAT. ANN. § 72-89b03(e) (2012): Each board of education shall make available to pupils and their parents, to school employees and, upon request, to others, district policies and reports concerning school safety and security, except that the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to reports made by a superintendent of schools and school employees

Kentucky

Kentucky directs each local board of education to require each principal or school council to adopt an emergency plan for the school. The emergency plan should be reviewed annually by

the school and first responders. The local superintendent must certify annually that schools are in compliance. Additionally, principals are required under such plans to carry out emergency drills throughout the school year.

- KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 158.162 (LexisNexis 2013): Each local board of education shall require the school council or, if none exists, the principal in each public school building in its jurisdiction to adopt an emergency plan to include procedures to be followed in case of fire, severe weather, or earthquake, or if a building lockdown . . . is required. . . . Following adoption, the emergency plan, along with a diagram of the facility, shall be provided to appropriate first responders. . . . The emergency plan shall be reviewed following the end of each school year by the school council, the principal, and first responders and shall be revised as needed. . . . Each local board of education shall require the principal in each public school building in its jurisdiction to conduct, at a minimum, emergency response drills to include one . . . severe weather drill, one . . . earthquake drill, and one . . . lockdown drill within the first [30] instructional days of each school year and again during the month of January. . . . No later than November 1 of each school year, a local district superintendent shall send verification to the Kentucky Department of Education that all schools within the district are in compliance with the requirements of this section.

Louisiana

Louisiana requires that each public school principal prepare and implement a school crisis management and response plan, created in consultation with law enforcement and other emergency preparedness experts, as well as parents, staff, and community members. The plan must outline all roles and responsibilities in case of an emergency and must be revised annually. Additionally, the plan must provide classroom doors with locks that are up to code, as well as mental health services if needed.

- LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 17:416.16 (2013): A school crisis management and response plan shall be prepared by each public school principal jointly with local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials. In preparing the plan, the principal and such officials shall consider and include, if appropriate, input from students enrolled in the school and their parents, teachers at the school, other school employees, and community leaders. . . . The plan, which shall focus on preventing the loss of life and the injury of students and teachers and other school employees, shall detail the roles and responsibilities of each school employee and the relevant coordination agreements, services, and security measures of a school in the event of a shooting or other violent incident or emergency situation. . . . The plan may include for the counseling of students by mental health professionals in the event of a shooting or other violent incident or emergency situation Each public school principal, jointly with local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials, shall review the plan at least once annually and shall revise the plan as necessary. . . . Each plan shall provide that classroom doors with locks that are in compliance with all fire safety standards promulgated by the office of state fire marshal code enforcement and building safety of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections shall remain locked during instructional time.

Maine

Maine requires that each school to approve annually a comprehensive emergency management plan developed by school officials and emergency personnel.

- ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 20-A, § 1001 (2013): Each school board shall annually approve a comprehensive emergency management plan developed by the school unit administration working with school teachers and staff and local, county and state public safety officials, fire-fighting personnel, emergency management officials, mental health officials[,] and law enforcement officials to identify and deal with all hazards and potential hazards that could reasonably be expected to affect a facility or unit under the authority of the school administrative unit. The approval of a comprehensive emergency management plan under this subsection is public information.

Maryland

Maryland requires that each county board assess the emergency management plan for each public school. Reviews include school building safety details, training activities, and plans for coordination with local, state, and federal agencies to provide school safety.

- MD. CODE ANN., EDUC. § 7-435 (LexisNexis 2013): In order to ensure that students in [Maryland] have a safe and secure place to learn, . . . each county board shall evaluate the emergency management plan in each public school under the jurisdiction of the county board, including [training activities, emergency safety exercises, school security cameras, school visitor policies, school resource officer programs, and the coordination of emergency management activities, plans, and resources with local, state, and federal agencies.]

Massachusetts

Massachusetts requires underperforming schools to submit a school turnaround plan that includes a school safety component.

- MASS. ANN. LAWS ch. 69, § 1J (LexisNexis 2013): To assess the school across multiple measures of school performance and student success, the turnaround plan shall include measurable annual goals including, but not limited to . . . student attendance, dismissal rates and exclusion rates; . . . [and] student safety and discipline

Michigan

Michigan requires that the chief administrative officer and school teachers provide for fire and tornado drills in schools. Additionally, each school board is required to report annually the occurrence of crimes in schools to help inform school safety plans and requirements.

- MICH. COMP. LAWS SERV. § 29.19 (LexisNexis 2013): The chief administrative officer and the teachers of all schools, including state supported schools, colleges, and universities[,] and the owner, or owner's representative, of all school dormitories shall [require fire and tornado drills.]
- MICH. COMP. LAWS SERV. § 380.1310a (LexisNexis 2013): In order to obtain an accurate local and statewide picture of school crime and to develop the partnerships necessary to plan and implement school safety programs, at least annually, each school board shall report to the superintendent of public instruction, in the form and manner prescribed by the superintendent of public instruction, incidents of crime occurring at school within the school district.

Minnesota

Minnesota requires the education commissioner to maintain a model crisis management policy to be utilized by school boards. Boards must adopt such a policy with input from school employees, community members, parents, law enforcement, and emergency personnel. The plan must provide for school lock down, tornado, and fire drills.

- MINN. STAT. § 121A.035 (2013): The commissioner shall maintain and make available to school boards and charter schools a model crisis management policy that includes . . . school lock-down and tornado drills, . . . and school fire drills. . . . A school board and a charter school must adopt a crisis management policy to address potential violent crisis situations in the district or charter school. The policy must be developed cooperatively with administrators, teachers, employees, students, parents, community members, law enforcement agencies, other emergency management officials, county attorney offices, social service agencies, emergency medical responders, and any other appropriate individuals or organizations. The policy must include at least five school lock-down drills, five school fire drills . . . , and one tornado drill.

Mississippi

Mississippi requires that the school board of each district adopt a comprehensive school safety plan in consultation with the State Department of Education School Safety Center. When funding is available, the school safety grant program may provide grants to provide school safety equipment and building upgrades to fulfill school safety plans. The state department of education may also provide a school crisis management program that makes available quick response teams to schools in cases of an emergency.

- MISS. CODE ANN. § 37-3-81 (2013): The Department of Education, using only existing staff and resources, shall establish and maintain a School Safety Center, which shall operate a statewide information clearinghouse that [provides technical assistance, training and current resources to public school officials and parents who need assistance in researching, developing and implementing school safety plans and in maintaining a safe school environment.]
- MISS. CODE ANN. § 37-3-83 (2013): The school board of each school district, with the assistance of the State Department of Education School Safety Center, shall adopt a comprehensive local school district school safety plan and shall update the plan on an annual basis. . . . Subject to the extent of appropriations available, the School Safety Grant Program shall offer any of the following specific preventive services, and other additional services appropriate to the most current school district school safety plan [including metal detectors, video surveillance cameras, communications equipment and monitoring equipment for classrooms, school buildings, school grounds, and school buses, crisis management/action teams responding to school violence, violence prevention training, conflict resolution training, and other appropriate training designated by the State Department of Education for faculty and staff, and school safety personnel.]
- MISS. CODE ANN. § 37-3-93 (2013): Subject to the availability of funding specifically appropriated for such purpose, there is established a School Crisis Management Program under the State Department of Education. . . . Under this program, the State Department of Education shall create an office making available a quick response team

of personnel trained in school safety and crisis management to respond to traumatic or violent situations that impact students and faculty in the public schools in Mississippi.

Missouri

Missouri requires that each school district's designated safety coordinator have a thorough knowledge of school violence prevention programs and available resources.

- MO. REV. STAT. § 160.660 (2013): The state board of education shall add to any school facilities and safety criteria developed for the Missouri school improvement program provisions that require . . . each school district's designated safety coordinator to have a thorough knowledge of all federal, state[,] and local school violence prevention programs and resources available to students, teachers[,] or staff in the district; and . . . [e]ach school district to fully utilize all such programs and resources that the local school board or its designee determines are necessary and cost-effective for the school district.

Montana

Montana requires that the board of trustees adopt a school safety plan related to school buildings and facilities, communications systems, and school grounds. Plans may also incorporate drills that may be necessary based on local safety concerns. The plan must be updated as necessary, and possible funding may be available to assist with building and infrastructure upgrades for school safety.

- MONT. CODE ANN. § 20-1-401 (2013): A board of trustees shall identify the local hazards that exist within the boundaries of its school district and design and incorporate drills in its school safety plan to address those hazards. . . . [Further, a] board of trustees shall adopt a school safety plan . . . that addresses issues of school safety relating to school buildings and facilities, communications systems, and school grounds with the input from the local community and that addresses coordination on issues of school safety, if any, with the county interdisciplinary child information and school safety team The trustees shall review the school safety plan periodically and update the plan as determined necessary by the trustees based on changing circumstances pertaining to school safety.

Nebraska

No prescriptive school safety plan found in education statutes.

Nevada

Nevada requires that each board of trustees appoint a development committee to develop a crisis and emergency plan for all schools. This plan must be created in consultation with local law enforcement agencies, local social service agencies, and the director of the local emergency management agency. The plan must be reviewed annually and revised if necessary. The state board is also required to create a plan for the management of a crisis or emergency that involves a school, in consultation with involved agencies. Carrying out of emergency plans is the responsibility of the principal or the principal's designee.

- NEV. REV. STAT. ANN. § 392.620 (LexisNexis 2013): Each development committee established by the board of trustees of a school district shall develop one plan to be used by all the public schools other than the charter schools in the school district in

responding to a crisis or an emergency. Each development committee established by the governing body of a charter school shall develop a plan to be used by the charter school in responding to a crisis or an emergency. Each development committee shall, when developing the plan, consult with [the local social service agencies and local law enforcement agencies and the director of the local organization for emergency management. If there is no local organization for emergency management, the Chief of the Division of Emergency Management of the Department of Public Safety or his or her designee may substitute. Each public school, including, without limitation, each charter school, must comply with the plan developed. NEV. REV. STAT. ANN. § 394.1687 (Lexis Nexis 2013) requires plans in private schools.]

- NEV. REV. STAT. ANN. § 392.624 (LexisNexis 2013): Each development committee shall, at least once each year, review and update as appropriate the plan that it developed
- NEV. REV. STAT. ANN. § 392.640 (LexisNexis 2013): The State Board shall, with assistance from other state agencies, including, without limitation, the Division of Emergency Management, the Investigation Division, and the Nevada Highway Patrol Division of the Department of Public Safety, develop a plan for the management of a crisis or an emergency that involves a public school, including, without limitation, a charter school, or a private school and that requires immediate action.
- NEV. REV. STAT. ANN. § 392.648 (LexisNexis 2013): If a crisis or an emergency that requires immediate action occurs at a public school, including, without limitation, a charter school, the principal of the school involved, or the principal's designated representative, shall, in accordance with the plan developed . . . , contact all appropriate local agencies to respond to the crisis or the emergency.

New Hampshire

New Hampshire requires that every public and nonpublic school develop a school specific emergency response plan based on national standards. The plan must provide for emergency drills and address procedures for natural disasters, acts of violence, and any locally specific threat. The plan must be developed in coordination with local emergency authorities and reviewed annually and revised as necessary. Additionally, the director of homeland security and emergency management, as well as department of safety, may offer additional training and professional development.

- N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 189:64 (LexisNexis 2013): [E]very public and nonpublic school shall develop a site-specific school emergency response plan which is based on and conforms to the Incident Command System and the National Incident Management System. The plan shall provide that at least [two] of the currently required number of fire evacuation drills shall be emergency response drills. The plan shall address hazards including but not limited to acts of violence, threats, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, structural fire, wildfire, internal and external hazardous materials releases, medical emergencies, and any other hazard deemed necessary by school officials and local emergency authorities. . . . The plan shall be coordinated with local emergency authorities and with the emergency operations plan in the municipality in which the school is located. A school shall review its plan at least annually, and shall update the plan, as necessary. The director of homeland security and emergency management, [as well as] department of safety shall assist school districts in conducting training for and

providing support to school districts in the development, implementation, and review of an emergency response plan, as may be needed.

New Jersey

New Jersey authorizes school districts to submit comprehensive school safety and security plans if necessary in electronic format.

- N.J. REV. STAT. § App. A: 9-43.7 (2013): School districts required by regulation to develop and implement comprehensive plans, procedures and mechanisms that provide for safety and security in the public and private elementary schools may transmit those plans, procedures and mechanisms, when appropriate, in a secure electronic format by way of any electronic means capable of sending, submitting or presenting confidential information.

New Mexico

New Mexico provides for emergency drills in schools.

- N.M. STAT. ANN. § 22-13-14 (LexisNexis 2013): An emergency drill shall be conducted in each public and private school of the state at least once each week during the first four weeks of the school year and at least once each month thereafter until the end of the school year. Two drills during the year shall be shelter-in-place drills and one shall be an evacuation drill, as directed by the department. The remainder of the drills shall be fire drills. It shall be the responsibility of the person in charge of a school to carry out the provisions of this section.

New York

New York provides that the board of education or trustees of every school district must adopt and amend, as necessary, a comprehensive district-wide school safety plan and building-level school safety plans regarding crisis intervention and emergency response and management. The plans should be developed by the district and school safety teams in consultation with criminal justice services, law enforcement and other appropriate agencies. The plans must also be reviewed annually by school safety teams. One such team may be the Governor-appointed state school safety improvement team, composed of representatives from the division of homeland security and emergency services, the division of state police, the division of criminal justice services, and the state department of education.

- N.Y. EDUC. LAW § 2801-a (McKinney 2012): The board of education or trustees . . . of every school district within the state . . . shall adopt and amend a comprehensive district-wide school safety plan and building-level school safety plans regarding crisis intervention, emergency response and management . . . Such plans shall be developed by a district-wide school safety team and a building-level school safety team and shall be in a form developed by the commissioner in consultation with the division of criminal justice services, the superintendent of the state police[,] and any other appropriate state agencies. A school district having only one school building shall develop a single building-level school safety plan, which shall also fulfill all requirements for development of a district-wide plan. . . . Such comprehensive district-wide safety plan shall be developed by the district-wide school safety team and shall include at a minimum: . . . policies and procedures for responding to implied or direct threats of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel as well as visitors to the school; . . . policies

and procedures for responding to acts of violence by students, teachers, other school personnel as well as visitors to the school, including consideration of zero-tolerance policies for school violence; . . . appropriate prevention and intervention strategies . . . ; policies and procedures for contacting appropriate law enforcement officials in the event of a violent incident; . . . policies and procedures for contacting parents, guardians or persons in parental relation to the students of the district in the event of a violent incident; . . . policies and procedures relating to school building security, including where appropriate the use of school safety officers and/or security devices or procedures; . . . policies and procedures for the dissemination of informative materials regarding the early detection of potentially violent behaviors . . . ; policies and procedures for annual school safety training for staff and students; . . . protocols for responding to bomb threats, hostage-takings, intrusions and kidnappings; . . . strategies for improving communication among students and between students and staff and reporting of potentially violent incidents . . . ; and . . . a description of the duties of hall monitors and any other school safety personnel, the training required of all personnel acting in a school security capacity, and the hiring and screening process for all personnel acting in a school security capacity. . . . Each safety plan shall be reviewed by the appropriate school safety team on at least an annual basis, and updated as needed.

- N.Y. EDUC. LAW § 2801-b (McKinney 2012): The governor shall establish New York state school safety improvement teams, which may be composed of representatives from the division of homeland security and emergency services, the division of state police, the division of criminal justice services, and the [state] department [of education to] . . . review and assess school safety plans submitted . . . by school districts[,] . . . and may make recommendations to improve such school safety plans.

North Carolina

North Carolina authorizes local boards of education to adopt emergency response plans for incidents of violence. It also provides that a school in need of improvement may request an assistance team, which will create and implement a long-term plan for restoring school safety and positive learning environments.

- N.C. GEN. STAT. § 115C-47 (2013): Local boards of education shall, in coordination with local law enforcement agencies, adopt emergency response plans relating to incidents of school violence.
- N.C. GEN. STAT. § 115C-105.33 (2013): [A] school improvement team or parent organization may ask the State Board [of education] to provide an assistance team to the school. . . . If an assistance team is assigned to a school under this section, the team shall spend a sufficient amount of time at the school to assess the problems at the school, assist school personnel with resolving those problems, and work with school personnel and others to develop a long-term plan for restoring and maintaining safety and an orderly learning environment at the school

North Dakota

North Dakota requires the superintendent of each school district to ensure schools comply with safety requirements.

- N.D. CENT. CODE § 15.1-06-13 (2013): The superintendent of each school district shall ensure that the schools in the district comply with all health, safety, and sanitation requirements.

Ohio

Ohio requires that the board of education or each city or other governing school authority adopt a comprehensive school safety plan for each school in consultation with law enforcement, parents, and school employees. The plan should take into consideration and address any environmental or operational hazards specific to each school. Additionally, the plan must address both threats to school safety and emergency responses, including outlining all responsibilities and produces. The plan should be revised at least once every three years.

- OHIO REV. CODE ANN. § 3313.536 (LexisNexis 2013): The board of education of each city, exempted village, and local school district and the governing authority of each chartered nonpublic school shall adopt a comprehensive school safety plan for each school building under the board's or governing authority's control. The board or governing authority shall examine the environmental conditions and operations of each building to determine potential hazards to student and staff safety and shall propose operating changes to promote the prevention of potentially dangerous problems and circumstances. In developing the plan for each building, the board or governing authority shall involve community law enforcement and safety officials, parents of students who are assigned to the building, and teachers and nonteaching employees who are assigned to the building. The board or governing authority shall consider incorporating remediation strategies into the plan for any building where documented safety problems have occurred. The board or governing authority shall incorporate into the plan both the following: (1) A protocol for addressing serious threats to the safety of school property, students, employees, or administrators; [and] (2) A protocol for responding to any emergency events that do occur and that compromise the safety of school property, students, employees, or administrators. Each protocol shall include procedures deemed appropriate by the board or governing authority for responding to threats and emergency events, respectively, including such things as notification of appropriate law enforcement personnel, calling upon specified emergency response personnel for assistance, and informing parents of affected students. . . . The board or governing authority shall update the safety plan at least once every three years

Oklahoma

Oklahoma authorizes school authorities and school districts to upgrade school buildings to ensure school safety against natural disasters. Each school must also have a written plan in place to protect students from natural and man-made emergencies. These plans must be updated annually and shared with all involved agencies. School districts are also required to make annual reports to the school boards on the status of school emergency preparedness. The office of homeland security is also authorized to provide grants to assist school, and local law enforcement and emergency management agencies with school safety and preparedness when money is available. It also provides for school safety committees to make recommendations to principals regarding school safety.

- OKLA. STAT. tit. 63, § 681 (2013): School authorities of the State of Oklahoma, its political subdivisions, and its school districts are authorized to plan, design, and construct new school buildings and make additions to existing school buildings that afford protection for the anticipated school body, faculty, and visitors against tornadoes and severe weather. Each school . . . shall have written plans and procedures in place for protecting students, faculty, administrators and visitors from natural and man-made disasters and emergencies. Plans shall be reviewed and updated annually as

appropriate by each school, administration building and institution of higher learning, and placed on file at each school district and each local emergency management response organization within the district, which may include police, fire, emergency medical services, sheriff and emergency management of the appropriate jurisdiction. . . . Each school district and institution of higher learning shall make annual reports to the local school board or Board of Regents detailing the status of emergency preparedness and identified safety needs for each school or institution.

- OKLA. STAT. tit. 74, § 51.2a (2013): Contingent upon the availability of designated funding from the United States Department of Homeland Security or state appropriations, the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security shall make grant monies available to: 1. Public schools, private schools, technology center schools, and institutions of higher learning in the State of Oklahoma to encourage greater emergency preparedness, including, but not limited to, improvement of plans and procedures for natural and man-made disaster and emergencies, improvement of security on campus, at events, and with regard to buses and other transportation, and improvement of communications strategies and equipment; and 2. Local law enforcement, emergency management, disaster relief, and public health entities in the State of Oklahoma to encourage the active engagement of such entities with public schools, private schools, technology center schools, and institutions of higher learning in their efforts to improve emergency preparedness.
- OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 24-100.5 (2013): The Safe School Committee shall study and make recommendations to the principal regarding: [unsafe conditions, possible strategies for students to avoid harm at school, student victimization, crime prevention, school violence; student harassment, intimidation, and bullying at school; professional development needs of faculty and staff to implement methods to decrease student harassment, intimidation, and bullying; and methods to encourage the involvement of the community and students, the development of individual relationships between students and school staff, and use of problem-solving teams that include counselors and other resources.]

Oregon

Oregon provides for a Center for School Safety that shall provide technical assistance to schools to help improve school safety plans.

- OR. REV. STAT. § 339.331 (2012): There is created the Center for School Safety within the Oregon University System. The mission of the center shall be to . . . [d]isseminate information about successful school safety programs, research results and new programs; and . . . [p]rovide technical assistance for improving the safety of schools in collaboration with the [state] Department of Education and others.

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania authorizes the Office for Safe Schools to award grants to schools to develop and implement comprehensive school safety, violence prevention, emergency preparedness, and all-hazards plans and drills. Grants may also be provided for building safety upgrades.

- 24 PA. CONS. STAT. § 13-1302-A (2013): [The Office for Safe Schools] is authorized to make targeted grants to school entities to fund programs which address school violence, including . . . [c]omprehensive, districtwide school safety, violence prevention, emergency preparedness[,] and all-hazards plans, including revisions or updates to such

plans and conducting emergency preparedness drills and related activities with local emergency responders. . . . [Grants may also be available for s]ecurity planning, purchase of security-related technology which may include metal detectors, protective lighting, surveillance equipment, special emergency communications equipment, electronic locksets, deadbolts and theft control devices and training in the use of security-related technology. Security planning and purchase of security-related technology shall be based on safety needs identified by the school entity's board of directors.

Rhode Island

Rhode Island requires each school committee to annually review and adopt a comprehensive school safety plan created in consultation with a school safety team. Such teams must include students, teachers, parents, school safety personnel and school employees, and all emergency agencies. The plans must be based upon a model policy created by the department of elementary and secondary education to collaborate with the Rhode Island emergency management agency, state police, state fire marshal, the department of behavioral health, developmental disabilities, and hospitals, and other safety officials. Plans must at least address prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery, and be specific to each school.

- R.I. GEN. LAWS § 16-21-23(b) (2013): The school committee of each town, city, and regional school department shall review and adopt in executive session a comprehensive school safety plan regarding crisis intervention, emergency response, and management. The plan shall be developed by a school safety team comprised of representatives of the school committee, representatives of student, teacher, and parent organizations, school safety personnel, school administration, and members of local law enforcement, fire, and emergency personnel.
- R.I. GEN. LAWS § 16-21-23.1(a) (2013): It shall be the duty of the department of elementary and secondary education to collaborate with the Rhode Island emergency management agency, state police, state fire marshal, the department of behavioral health, developmental disabilities, and hospitals, and other safety officials to develop a model school safety plan This model plan shall be based on best practices in school safety planning
- R.I. GEN. LAWS § 16-21-24 (2013): School safety plans, as required by this chapter, shall address, but not to be limited to, prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. . . . School safety plans, as required by this chapter, shall further include school emergency response plans specific to each school building contained within each city, town, or regional school district, and shall be developed and approved in consultation with local police and fire. The state police shall provide consultation for those school districts that for whatever reason may not have access to local police. . . . [Further requirements for plans are detailed in this statute, including procedures, roles, responsibilities, and collaborative arrangements with state and local law enforcement and firefighter officials.]
- R.I. GEN. LAWS § 16-21-25 (2013): Each city, town, or regional department school safety plan and school emergency response plans shall be reviewed on an annual basis by the school committee and updated annually.

South Carolina

South Carolina assigns the state board of education the responsibility to develop a model safe schools checklist to be used by school districts for self-assessment. The checklist must include the existence of comprehensive school safety plans, appropriate training, cooperation with emergency agency, student disciplinary procedures, school building safety, and roles and responsibility of staff in an emergency.

- S.C. CODE ANN. § 59-5-65 (2012): The State Board of Education shall have the power and responsibility to . . . [d]evelop by regulation a model safe schools checklist to be used by school districts on a regular basis to assess their schools' safety strengths and weaknesses. The checklist must include: (a) the existence of a comprehensive safety plan; (b) communication of discipline policies and procedures; (c) intraagency and interagency emergency planning; (d) recording of disruptive incidents; (e) training of staff and students; (f) assessment of buildings and grounds; (g) procedures for handling visitors; (h) assignment of personnel in emergencies; (i) emergency communication and management procedures; and (j) transportation rules and accident procedures.

South Dakota

No prescriptive school safety plan found in education statutes.

Tennessee

Tennessee requires that each local education agency adopt a comprehensive district-wide school safety plan and building-level school safety plans regarding crisis intervention, emergency response, and emergency management. The plans must be developed by both a district wide and a building-level school safety team and should be based upon a template created by the state-level safety team formed by the commissioner of education.

- TENN. CODE ANN. § 49-6-802 (2013): The commissioner of education shall establish a state-level safety team, which shall assist LEAs [Local Education Agencies] and schools with compliance with this part as reasonably necessary. As part of the assistance, the state-level safety team shall publish a template for use by districts in preparing their district-level safety plans and building-level emergency response plans, which template shall outline the responsibilities of the LEAs and individual schools
- TENN. CODE ANN. § 49-6-804 (2013): Each LEA shall adopt a comprehensive district-wide school safety plan and building-level school safety plans regarding crisis intervention, emergency response[,] and emergency management. The plans shall be developed by a district-wide school safety team and a building-level school safety team established pursuant to this part and shall follow the template developed by the state-level safety team. An LEA having only one school building shall develop a single building-level school safety plan, which shall also fulfill all requirements for development of a district-wide plan.

Texas

Texas requires that each school district adopt and implement a multi hazard emergency operations plan that addresses mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The plan should also address training, drills, cooperation with emergency agencies, and the implementation of a safety and security audit at least once every three years.

- TEX. EDUC. CODE ANN. § 37.108 (LexisNexis 2013): Each school district or public junior college district shall adopt and implement a multihazard emergency operations plan for use in the district's facilities. The plan must address mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery as defined by the commissioner of education or commissioner of higher education in conjunction with the governor's office of homeland security. The plan must provide for: (1) district employee training in responding to an emergency; (2) if the plan applies to a school district, mandatory school drills and exercises to prepare district students and employees for responding to an emergency; (3) measures to ensure coordination with the Department of State Health Services and local emergency management agencies, law enforcement, health departments, and fire departments in the event of an emergency; and (4) the implementation of a safety and security audit At least once every three years, each school district or public junior college district shall conduct a safety and security audit of the district's facilities. To the extent possible, a district shall follow safety and security audit procedures developed by the Texas School Safety Center or a comparable public or private entity. . . . A school district or public junior college district shall report the results of the safety and security audit . . . to the district's board of trustees and, in the manner required by the Texas School Safety Center, to the Texas School Safety Center.

Utah

Utah requires that each local school board adopt and implement a comprehensive school emergency response plan. The plan must be reviewed annually and each local school board must certify to the state board that the plan is being practiced at the school level. Plans may be based on a state board model policy and must include prevention, intervention, and response plans, as well as appropriate training, roles and responsibilities, and coordination with emergency agencies.

- UTAH CODE ANN. § 53A-3-402 (LexisNexis 2013): Each local school board shall adopt and implement a comprehensive emergency response plan to prevent and combat violence in its public schools, on school grounds, on its school vehicles, and in connection with school-related activities or events. . . . The plan shall . . . include prevention, intervention, and response components; . . . be consistent with the student conduct and discipline policies required for school districts . . . ; require inservice training for all district and school building staff on what their roles are in the emergency response plan; and . . . provide for coordination with local law enforcement and other public safety representatives in preventing, intervening, and responding to violence in the areas and activities referred to in Subsection (18)(a). . . . The State Board of Education, through the state superintendent of public instruction, shall develop comprehensive emergency response plan models that local school boards may use, where appropriate, to comply with Subsection (18)(a). . . . Each local school board shall [annually] certify to the State Board of Education that its plan has been practiced at the school level and presented to and reviewed by its teachers, administrators, students, and their parents and local law enforcement and public safety representatives.

Vermont

Vermont requires that the principal or person in charge of a school conduct emergency drills in accordance with the school's emergency preparedness plan.

- VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 16, § 1481 (2013): The principal or person in charge of a public or independent school or educational institution, other than a university or college, shall drill the pupils so that they may be able to leave the school building or perform other procedures described in the school's emergency preparedness plan, or both in the shortest possible time and without panic or confusion. . . . A drill shall be held at least once in each month during the school year and a record of the date and time of such drill together with the time consumed in completing the procedure, shall be kept in the official school register, and such register shall be open at all times for inspection by representatives from the fire safety division of the department of public safety or the [state] department of education.

Virginia

Virginia requires that each school board to ensure each school writes a school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan and a designates emergency manager. The Department of Education and the Virginia Center for School Safety must provide technical assistance to the schools, including assisting coordinating with emergency agencies. The plans must include the essential procedures, operations, and assignments required to prevent, manage, and respond to a critical event or emergency and be reviewed annually.

- V.A. CODE ANN. § 22.1-279.8 (2014): Each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan Each school division shall designate an emergency manager. The [state] Department of Education and the Virginia Center for School Safety shall provide technical assistance to the school divisions of the Commonwealth in the development of the school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans that describe the components of a medical emergency response plan developed in coordination with local emergency medical services providers, the training of school personnel and students to respond to a life-threatening emergency, and the equipment required for this emergency response. The local school board shall annually review the written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans. . . . [The plans shall include] the essential procedures, operations, and assignments required to prevent, manage, and respond to a critical event or emergency, including natural disasters involving fire, flood, tornadoes, or other severe weather; loss or disruption of power, water, communications or shelter; bus or other accidents; medical emergencies, including cardiac arrest and other life-threatening medical emergencies; student or staff member deaths; explosions; bomb threats; gun, knife or other weapons threats; spills or exposures to hazardous substances; the presence of unauthorized persons or trespassers; the loss, disappearance or kidnapping of a student; hostage situations; violence on school property or at school activities; incidents involving acts of terrorism; and other incidents posing a serious threat of harm to students, personnel, or facilities.

Washington

Washington requires that each school district adopt and implement a safe school plan. The plan should be updated annually and must include all required policies and procedures, roles and responsibilities, training requirements, drills, partnership with emergency agencies, and address emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

- WASH. REV. CODE ANN. § 28A.320.125 (LexisNexis 2013): Each school district shall adopt . . . and implement a safe school plan The plan shall: (a) Include required school safety policies and procedures; (b) Address emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery; (c) Include provisions for assisting and communicating with students and staff, including those with special needs or disabilities; (d) Use the training guidance provided by the Washington emergency management division of the state military department in collaboration with the Washington state office of the superintendent of public instruction school safety center and the school safety center advisory committee; (e) Require the building principal to be certified on the incident command system; (f) Take into account the manner in which the school facilities may be used as a community asset in the event of a community-wide emergency; and (g) Set guidelines for requesting city or county law enforcement agencies, local fire departments, emergency service providers, and county emergency management agencies to meet with school districts and participate in safety-related drills. . . . School districts are encouraged to work with local emergency management agencies and other emergency responders to conduct one tabletop exercise, one functional exercise, and two full-scale exercises within a four-year period.

West Virginia

West Virginia authorizes that the state board alongside the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management create a rule requiring every school to have a current crisis response plan. This plan must include which school employees are responsible for carrying out the plan and disaster and emergency preparedness produces. The plan must also be developed using the state boards' model plan with additional input from emergency management agencies. The statute also provides for funding that may be used for school access safety projects.

- W. VA. CODE ANN. § 18-9F-9 (LexisNexis 2013): The state board in conjunction with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management shall promulgate . . . an emergency rule . . . for the establishment of an up-to-date, school specific crisis response plan at every school in the state. . . . The rule shall include [a model school crisis response plan which must include the school employee and substitute in charge during a crisis; a crisis communication plan; protocols for responding to immediate physical harm; disaster and emergency procedures in which death or serious injury is likely; evacuation and lockdown plans; and policies and procedures for enforcing school discipline and maintaining a safe and orderly environment during the crisis.] The development by each school of a school specific crisis response plan by using the state board's model plan as an example and with consultation from local social services agencies, local first response agencies including police, fire, emergency medical services (EMS), emergency management and any other local entities that the school's crisis response planning team determines should be consulted
- W. VA. CODE ANN. § 18-9F-3(a) (LexisNexis 2013): To facilitate the goals of this article and to ensure the prudent and resourceful expenditure of state funds, each county board seeking funds for school access safety projects during a fiscal year shall submit to the authority a school access safety plan or annual plan update that addresses the school access safety needs of each school facility in the county. In developing its plan, the county board shall consult with the Countywide Council on Productive and Safe Schools

Wisconsin

Wisconsin requires that each school board or governing body of a school to has in effect a school safety plan for each school. This plan should be created with input and active participation by all involved agencies including law enforcement, emergency agencies, school employees, and mental health professionals. The plan must include general guidelines specifying procedures for emergency prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery and may allow for drills. The school board or governing authority is authorized to decide who gets trained on the plan and how often. The plan must be reviewed at least once every three years.

- WIS. STAT. § 118.07 (2013): Each school board and the governing body of each private school shall have in effect a school safety plan for each public or private school in the school district A school safety plan shall be created with the active participation of appropriate parties, as specified by the school board or governing body of the private school. The appropriate parties may include local law enforcement officers, fire fighters, school administrators, teachers, pupil services professionals, . . . and mental health professionals. A school safety plan shall include general guidelines specifying procedures for emergency prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The plan shall also specify the process for reviewing the methods for conducting drills required to comply with the plan. . . . The school board or governing body of the private school shall determine which persons are required to receive school safety plan training and the frequency of the training. . . . Each school board and the governing body of each private school shall review the school safety plan at least once every [three] years after the plan goes into effect. . . . [Drills in accordance with these plans may be conducted.]

Wyoming

Wyoming requires that school administrators conduct monthly fire or safety drills.

- WYO. STAT. ANN. § 35-9-505(b) (LexisNexis 2013): In every public and private school in Wyoming, there shall be a fire drill at least once every month. Safety drills may be used in lieu of fire drills if approved by and coordinated with the local fire department provided fire drills are conducted at each school not less than four times during any one academic year and further provided the school's fire alarm is tested at each fire or safety drill. A safety drill includes any organized response to a potential threat to the health and safety of the student population. The school administration shall supervise and administer this subsection and shall determine the types of safety drills appropriate for each school.

Suggested citation: Council of State Governments Justice Center, "School Safety Plans: A Snapshot of Legislative Action" (New York: Council of State Governments Justice Center, February 2014).

On January 8, 2014, the U.S. Department of Education released a compendium of school discipline laws and regulations. The PDF and online tool can be accessed at <http://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/school-discipline-compendium>.

To learn more about the CSG Justice Center's School Discipline Consensus Project, visit <http://csgjusticecenter.org/youth/projects/school-discipline-consensus-project>.