



To the Administrator Addressed

Summary:

- [In November of 2020, TEA will be collecting a limited amount of data related to campus level Safe and Supportive Schools \(SSSP\) teams as required by Senate Bill 11.](#)
- [TEA and the Texas School Safety Center \(TxSSC\) developed school drill guidance under social distancing restrictions, and TEA adopts new mandatory drill rule 19 TAC § 103.1209](#)
- [The American College of Surgeons \(ACS\) has issued guidance for conducting bleeding control training under COVID-19 conditions](#)
- [The 86th Legislature mandated restrictions on school police officer duties](#)
- [TEA provides operation and instructional time waivers for school safety training](#)
- [TEA Announces new Mental Health Resources and Updates](#)

SSSP Data Collection

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) understands the hardships all local education agencies (LEAs) endured during the 2019-2020 school year and the challenges school systems continue to face during this current school year. Therefore, the agency is phasing in the Senate Bill (SB) 11 mandatory data reporting requirement for your Safe and Supportive School Program teams.

In November 2020, TEA will issue a survey via Qualtrics to all school districts and opencontopeng31 0 0 1 72.00

2. If Yes, answer the following:
 - a. Number of campuses in your LEA served by your SSSP team(s)? (enter number)
 - b. How many people from your LEA's SSSP team(s), have been trained in the Behavioral Threat Assessment prior to September 1, 2020 (enter number)?
 - c. Estimate the extent to which your team(s) are trained in behavioral threat assessment at the time of this survey (select one):
 - i. All team members
 - ii. More than half of the team members
 - iii. Less than half of the team members
 - iv. No team members are trained
3. Provide the following data regarding threats in your LEA for the period of September 1, 2019, through August 31, 2020:
 - a. Number of threats reported (enter number)
 - b. Number of threats assessed as not posing a risk and not referred for interventions or help/supports (enter number)
 - c. Number of threats assessed as not posing a risk but referred for interventions or help/ supports (enter number)
 - d. Number of threats assessed as posing a risk and referred for interventions or monitoring (enter number)
 - e. Number of threats assessed as posing an emergency/eminent risk and referred to law enforcement, the superintendent and referred for interventions and monitoring (enter number)

There will also be some optional questions in the survey to assist the TEA in assessing the current status of the SSSP implementation in the districts. The SSSP survey will be sent to superintendents on or about November 1, 2020, and must be completed by November 30, 2020.

TEA and TxSSC School Drill Guidance

TEA has been working in conjunction with the Texas School Safety Center and the Texas State Fire Marshal's office to develop guidance for conducting school drills in the time of social distancing. The guidance calls for school districts to continue to conduct evacuation and fire drills but to do so in a manner that complies with local health officials' recommendations or orders related to social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The school drill guidance can be found on the Texas School Safety Center's [school drill guidance website](#) along with other helpful resources related to conducting school drills. In addition to the foregoing guidance and resources, TEA has adopted a new rule in order to clarify and implement certain requirements from SB 11, 86th Legislative Session, 2019, which mandated the adoption of procedures for evacuating school property and designation of the number and type of school drills. The new rule is posted in the Texas Register as [19 TAC §103.1209](#). This rule sets the minimum number of drills schools must conduct each semester or year in addition to local fire marshal requirements or [Texas Department of Insurance regulations](#), as applicable.

Guidance for conducting bleeding control training under COVID-19 conditions

During the 86th Texas Legislative Session, 2019, Governor Greg Abbott signed House Bill 496 (codified in [Texas Education Code \(TEC\), §38.030](#)), which requires all Texas school districts and open-enrollment charter schools (LEAs) to have bleeding control stations available on their campuses. LEAs must also train all school district police officers, school resource officers, security personnel and any other school or district personnel who may be reasonably expected to use a bleeding control station. For school police officers, school resource officers, school security personnel (collectively, SROs), and other school personnel who need to conduct bleeding control training or who need to attend such training during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is recommended they follow all CDC guidelines as well as applicable requirements and guidance provided by their state and local authorities concerning public gatherings, social distancing, and the use of masks.

Although there is no way to guarantee the safety of those instructing or attending in-person training, both the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the Department of Homeland Security have issued helpful [guidelines](#) for conducting the training as safely as possible. For example, the ACS specifically recommends that “courses should ideally be held in venues large enough to allow for appropriate physical distancing. Sites may use video conferencing to complete the lecture portion of the course (e.g., Zoom, Google Meet, Webex, GoToMeeting).”

As in-person instruction is not mandatory under HB 496 for students in grades 7-12 receiving instruction in the use of bleeding control stations, TEA and the Texas School Safety Center recommend that those students required by HB 496 to complete bleeding control station training do so through video conferencing, until such time that social distancing and other COVID-19-related health orders are rescinded or allowed to expire.

