

Safe and Supportive School Program

LEGISLATION RELATED TO THE SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Texas Legislature enacts laws that require school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to implement policies, programs, and procedures to support the physical and psychological well-being of students, staff, and other members of the school community. The following are selected legislative actions that are related to school safety and the implementation of the Safe and Supportive School Program.

87TH LEGISLATURE - 2021

[HOUSE BILL 3597](#)

HB 3597 updates several provisions within the Texas Education Code related to school safety and emergency operation management. HB 3597 clarifies that only school districts with a facility within 1,000 yards of a facility are required to implement the program.

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Districts and charters must notify first responder organizations that would likely respond in the event of a false report or alarm of the exercise and create a safe zone around the area to keep out actual firearms, ammunition, or other weapons. SB 168 requires that the exercise be age and developmentally appropriate and be developed by a team of administrators, teachers, school-based mental health professionals, and law enforcement officers, with input from parents and students. The exercise must incorporate trauma-informed practices to directly address the well-being of students who participate. SB 168 applies with the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

[SENATE BILL 1831](#)

SB 1831, cited as the “No Trafficking Zone Act,” requires each public or private primary or secondary school to post warning signs in specific locations on the school’s premises regarding increased penalties for human trafficking. The TEA, in consultation with the Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force, must adopt rules regarding the placement, installation, design, size, wording and maintenance procedures for the warning signs. The rules must stipulate that warning signs should be at least 8-

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SB 11 provides for the establishment of a safe and supportive school program, requires each district board of trustees to establish a threat assessment and safe and supportive school team, and sets out related provisions. SB 11 requires the Texas School Safety Center to develop model policies and procedures for threat assessment teams.

SB 11 revises and expands certain public school curriculum requirements to incorporate mental health, suicide prevention, and digital citizenship, including cyberbullying information. The bill extends the duties of a local school health advisory council to address parental awareness of suicide related risk factors and warning signs of such risk and other behavioral health concerns. The bill requires each district to adopt and implement a policy requiring th