

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 521 (SB 488)

2026 Regular Session

Edmonds

Existing law provides for school crisis management and response plans.

New law retains existing law and provides the following:

- (1) Authorizes the state Dept. of Education (DOE) to establish a school safety drone response pilot program to evaluate the use of drone technology as a supplement to existing school safety and law enforcement response protocols at public schools.
- (2) Requires the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to establish criteria for school participation.
- (3) Authorizes DOE to choose a vendor to operate the program and provide drone response technology.
- (4) Requires that the program be conducted as part of existing law crisis management and response plans.
- (5) Provides that each public school is eligible to participate and requires DOE to select between one and four schools to participate in the program.
- (6) Provides that as a condition of participation, a school is to provide school mapping data to the vendor, subject to existing law (R.S. 17:416.16.1), and requires the vendor to enter into a confidentiality agreement with DOE, the school, and the La. Center for Safe Schools.
- (7) Authorizes DOE to accept grants or private funding to establish and operate the program.
- (8) Requires the vendor to coordinate with DOE, state police, and the La. Sheriffs' Assoc. on the drone operational training procedures.
- (9) Requires DOE, beginning Dec. 31, 2027, to submit an annual report on the program to the House and Senate committees on Education.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 17:416.16.2)