
DIGEST

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HB 624 Original

2026 Regular Session

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Abstract: Revises requirements for school emergency operations plans.

Present law provides for school "crisis management and response" plans. Proposed law instead provides for school "emergency operations" plans. Present law requires local superintendents to report to public school governing authorities on the status of each school's plan. Proposed law instead requires schools and districts to complete school safety questionnaires and submit them to the state Dept. of Education and the La. Center for Safe Schools.

Proposed law requires school emergency preparedness exercises to be classified as either discussion-based exercises or operations-based exercises and gives examples of each.

Present law provides that classroom doors with locks shall be in compliance with all fire safety standards promulgated by the office of state fire marshal. Proposed law retains present law. Present law requires that doors shall remain locked during instructional time and requires that each plan provide that a locked door shall not obstruct egress. Proposed law instead provides that all school classrooms and other instructional spaces must be locked and secured to prevent entry into the room when it is occupied by students, except between class periods. Provides that if a classroom or other instructional space must be left unlocked or open for any other reason, the door must be actively staffed by an authorized person standing or seated at the door.

Present law requires each principal to keep a copy of the approved plan in his office and provide a copy to the president of the local school board, the local school superintendent, the chief of police and local fire chief, the state Dept. of Education, and the La. Center for Safe Schools. Proposed law removes the requirement that he provide a copy to such department and center and instead requires that it be accessible to them on request.

(Amends R.S. 17:416.16(A)(1)(a)-(c), (2), and (4), (B)(2) and (3), (C), (D)(1), (F), (G)(intro. para.), and (J) and 3996(B)(33); Repeals R.S. 17:416.16(G)(4) and (5))