

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-279.8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school crisis and*
3 *emergency management plans.*

4
5 Approved

[H 886]

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1. That § 22.1-279.8 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 22.1-279.8. School safety audits and school crisis and emergency management plans required.

9 A. For the purposes of this section, unless the context requires otherwise:

10 "School crisis and emergency management plan" means the essential procedures, operations, and
11 assignments required to prevent, manage, and respond to a critical event or emergency, including natural
12 disasters involving fire, flood, tornadoes, or other severe weather; loss or disruption of power, water,
13 communications or shelter; bus or other accidents; medical emergencies; student or staff member deaths;
14 explosions; bomb threats; gun, knife or other weapons threats; spills or exposures to hazardous
15 substances; the presence of unauthorized persons or trespassers; the loss, disappearance or kidnapping of
16 a student; hostage situations; violence on school property or at school activities; and other incidents
17 posing a serious threat of harm to students, personnel, or facilities.

18 "School safety audit" means a written assessment of the safety conditions in each public school to (i)
19 identify and, if necessary, develop solutions for physical safety concerns, including building security
20 issues and (ii) identify and evaluate any patterns of student safety concerns occurring on school property
21 or at school-sponsored events. Solutions and responses may include recommendations for structural
22 adjustments, changes in school safety procedures, and revisions to the school board's standards for
23 student conduct.

24 B. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall develop a list of items to be reviewed and
25 evaluated in the school safety audits required by this section. Each local school board shall require all
26 schools under its supervisory control to conduct school safety audits as defined in this section and
27 consistent with such list. Each school shall maintain a copy of the school safety audit within the office
28 of the school principal and shall make a copy of such report available for review upon written request.

29 Each school shall submit a copy of its school safety audit to the relevant school division
30 superintendent. The division superintendent shall collate and submit all such school safety audits to the
31 Virginia Center for School Safety.

32 C. The school board may establish a school safety audit committee to consist of representatives of
33 parents, teachers, local law-enforcement agencies, judicial and public safety personnel, and the
34 community at large. The school safety audit committee shall evaluate, in accordance with the directions
35 of the local school board, the safety of each school and submit a plan for improving school safety at a
36 public meeting of the local school board.

37 D. Each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school
38 crisis and emergency management plan, consistent with the definition provided in this section. The
39 Department of Education and the Virginia Center for School Safety shall provide technical assistance to
40 the school divisions of the Commonwealth in the development of the school crisis and emergency
41 management plans.

42 Upon consultation with local school boards, division superintendents, the Virginia Center for School
43 Safety, and the Coordinator of Emergency Management, the Board of Education shall develop, and may
44 revise as it deems necessary, a model school crisis and emergency management plan for the purpose of
45 assisting the public schools in Virginia in developing viable, effective crisis and emergency management
46 plans. *Such model shall set forth recommended effective procedures and means by which parents can*
47 *contact the relevant school or school division regarding the location and safety of their school children*
48 *and by which school officials may contact parents, with parental approval, during a critical event or*
49 *emergency.*

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