

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Education
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 27, 2025
Subject: SB 263—Students Safe at School Act

Senate Bill 263 would enact five new sections of law to be known as the students safe at school act to establish standards and requirements for active shooter drills conducted by elementary and secondary schools and for violence prevention training.

Citation and Definitions

Section 1 would provide the citation of the act and definitions for relevant terms used throughout the act, including, "active shooter drill" and "active shooter simulation."¹

Conducting Active Shooter Drills

Section 2 would establish standards and requirements for schools conducting an active shooter drill. Such drills would have to be:

- Accessible;
- Developmentally and age appropriate;
- Culturally aware;
- Trauma-informed; and
- Inclusive of accommodations for students with mobility restrictions, sensory needs, disabilities, mental health needs and auditory or visual limitations.

¹ "Active shooter drill" would mean an emergency preparedness drill designed to inform and instruct students, teachers, school personnel and other school staff on how to respond in the event that an armed intruder is on the school campus or an armed assailant is in the immediate vicinity of the school. "Active shooter simulation" would mean an emergency exercise, including full-scale or functional exercises, designed to inform and instruct adult teachers, school personnel or other school staff on how to respond in the event that an armed intruder is on the school campus or an armed assailant is in the immediate vicinity of the school.

Additionally, section 2 would provide that schools shall provide notice to parents at least 24 hours in advance of an active shooter drill and that parents may opt their student out of participation in such drill. If a student does not participate in such drill, the student would participate in alternative safety education. The alternative safety education would be based on criteria established by the state department of education. Active shooter drills would be required to include time for debrief and access to mental health services. Prior to the active shooter drills, it would be announced that such drill is practice and informs students that there would be no immediate danger to life and safety.

Section 2 would also require the local board of education or governing body of each nonpublic school to review the effect and impact of such drills.

The state department of education would provide a list of vendors on how to conduct active shooter drills and partner with the department of health and environment to create guidelines to measure the effectiveness of such drills.

Active Shooter Simulations

Section 3 would provide that no student would be required to participate in active shooter simulations and such simulations could not occur during regular school hours while students are present or expected to be present at school. Parents of a student in grades nine through 12 may opt their student into participation in an active shooter simulation by providing written notice to the school.

Violence Prevention Training

Section 4 of SB 263 would require every school to provide students in grades six through 12 at least one hour or class period of evidence-based violence prevention training each year. Such training would have to teach students:

- How to identify warning signs of an individual at risk of harming themselves or others;
- The importance of taking threats seriously and seeking help; and
- Steps to report dangerous, violent, threatening, harmful or potentially harmful activity.

Section 4 would also require the state department of education to develop and maintain a list of training options, including no-cost options. This list would be updated every two years.

Safety and Violence-Prevention Planning

Section 5 would require schools to ensure that students have the opportunity to contribute to the schools' safety and violence-prevention planning, including:

- Opportunities for prevention safety leadership roles;
- Establishing clubs and programs focused on safety; and
- Learning about and seeking help regarding prevention for bullying, sexual harassment, sexual assault and suicide.

Crisis Drills

Current law requires schools to conduct at least three crisis drills each year. Section 6 would amend K.S.A. 31-133 to include "active shooter drills" in the meaning of "crisis drills" and state that any school that conducts an active shooter drill shall do so in accordance with the students safe at school act.

Effective Date

SB 263 would take effect on July 1, 2025, upon publication in the statute book.