



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 416

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6846

House of Representatives, April 4, 2023

The Committee on Education reported through REP. CURREY of the 11th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CRISIS RESPONSE DRILLS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-231 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 (a) Each local and regional board of education shall provide for [a fire
4 drill] two fire drills to be held in the schools of such board during the
5 school year, provided at least one of the fire drills is held not later than
6 thirty days after the first day of each school year. [and at least once each
7 month thereafter, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section.]

8 (b) [Each such board shall substitute a crisis response drill for a fire
9 drill once every three months and shall develop the format of such crisis
10 response drill in consultation with the appropriate local law
11 enforcement agency. A representative of such agency may supervise
12 and participate in any such crisis response drill.] Each local and regional
13 board of education shall provide for one crisis response drill to be held

14 in the schools of such board during the school year. Each such crisis
15 response drill shall be conducted in accordance with the crisis response
16 protocols developed for the school pursuant to section 10-222n, as
17 amended by this act.

18 Sec. 2. Section 10-222n of the general statutes is repealed and the
19 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

20 (a) Not later than January 1, 2014, the Department of Emergency
21 Services and Public Protection, in consultation with the Department of
22 Education, shall develop school security and safety plan standards. Not
23 later than January 1, 2020, and every three years thereafter, the
24 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in
25 consultation with the Department of Education, shall reevaluate and
26 update the school security and safety plan standards. The school
27 security and safety plan standards shall be an all-hazards approach to
28 emergencies at public schools and shall include, but not be limited to,
29 (1) involvement of local officials, including the chief executive officer of
30 the municipality, the superintendent of schools, law enforcement, fire,
31 public health, emergency management and emergency medical
32 services, in the development of school security and safety plans, (2) a
33 command center organization structure based on the federal National
34 Incident Management System and a description of the responsibilities
35 of such command center organization, (3) a requirement that a school
36 security and safety committee be established at each school, in
37 accordance with the provisions of section 10-222m, (4) crisis
38 management procedures, (5) a requirement that [local law enforcement
39 and other local public safety officials evaluate, score and provide
40 feedback on fire drills and crisis response drills, conducted pursuant to
41 section 10-231] all crisis response drills conducted pursuant to section
42 10-231, as amended by this act, be in accordance with the crisis response
43 drill protocols described in subsection (c) of this section, (6) a
44 requirement that local and regional boards of education annually
45 submit reports to the Department of Emergency Services and Public
46 Protection regarding such fire drills and crisis response drills, (7)
47 procedures for managing various types of emergencies, (8) a

48 requirement that each local and regional board of education conduct a
49 security and vulnerability assessment for each school under the
50 jurisdiction of such board every two years and develop a school security
51 and safety plan for each such school, in accordance with the provisions
52 of section 10-222m, based on the results of such assessment, (9) a
53 requirement that the safe school climate committee for each school,
54 established pursuant to section 10-222k, collect and evaluate
55 information relating to instances of disturbing or threatening behavior
56 that may not meet the definition of bullying, as defined in section 10-
57 222d, and report such information, as necessary, to the district safe
58 school climate coordinator, described in section 10-222k, and the school
59 security and safety committee for the school, established pursuant to
60 section 10-222m, and (10) a requirement that the school security and
61 safety plan for each school provide an orientation on such school
62 security and safety plan to each school employee, as defined in section
63 10-222d, at such school and provide violence prevention training in a
64 manner prescribed in such school security and safety plan. The
65 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall make
66 such standards available to local officials, including local and regional
67 boards of education, and the Department of Education shall distribute
68 such standards to all public schools within the state.

69 (b) Not later than January 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, the
70 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall submit
71 the school security and safety plan standards and any recommendations
72 for legislation regarding such standards to the joint standing
73 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
74 relating to public safety and education, in accordance with the
75 provisions of section 11-4a.

76 (c) For the school year commencing July 1, 2023, and each school year
77 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall develop, and
78 annually update, in consultation with the appropriate local law
79 enforcement agency, crisis response drill protocols to be implemented
80 as part of a crisis response drill conducted pursuant to section 10-231, as
81 amended by this act, for each of the schools under the jurisdiction of

82 such board. Such protocols shall be trauma-informed, created with
83 input from the administrators of each such school, and, include, but not
84 be limited to, a requirement that (1) notice be provided to the parents
85 and guardians of students, educators, local law enforcement and other
86 first responders of when the crisis response drill will be held, at least
87 seven days in advance of such drill, (2) parents and guardians be given
88 the option to opt their student out of participating in the crisis response
89 drill, (3) accommodations are provided to students who have past-
90 trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety or other relevant
91 disabilities, (4) an age-appropriate explanation be delivered to the
92 students of the school and that such explanation includes a description
93 of what the crisis response drill is and how the school security and safety
94 plan will be implemented during an actual emergency, (5) information
95 be provided to students relating to the availability of mental health
96 counseling for students, (6) a prohibition against the simulation of an
97 active shooter in the school and crouching and huddling by students
98 during the crisis response drill, and (7) a representative of the local law
99 enforcement agency may supervise and participate in the crisis response
100 drill.

101 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) The Department of Emergency Services
102 and Public Protection, in consultation with the Department of
103 Education, shall conduct an evaluation of the efficacy and effectiveness
104 of the revisions pursuant to sections 10-222n and 10-231 of the general
105 statutes, as amended by this act, to the number and implementation of
106 fire drills and crisis response drills conducted pursuant to section 10-231
107 of the general statutes, as amended by this act. In conducting such
108 evaluation, the department shall (1) review the annual reports
109 submitted by each local and regional board of education pursuant to the
110 school security and safety plans standards, as described in section 10-
111 222n of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (2) analyze how the
112 results of the security and vulnerability assessments and school security
113 and safety plans for each board, developed pursuant to section 10-222m
114 of the general statutes, have been addressed and revised following such
115 revisions to the number and implementation of fire drills and crisis
116 response drills, and (3) assess the effectiveness of how local and regional

117 boards of education are conducting such crisis response drills in
118 accordance with the crisis response drill protocols developed pursuant
119 to section 10-222n of the general statutes, as amended by this act. Not
120 later than January 1, 2025, the department shall submit a report, in
121 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
122 on its findings, including any recommendations for legislation, to the
123 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
124 matters relating to education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-231
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	10-222n
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	Potential Savings	Minimal	Minimal

Explanation

The bill results in a potential savings beginning in FY 24 to local and regional school districts by reducing the number of crisis response drills they must perform from once every three months to once per year. Any savings is expected to be minimal and would only occur if districts reimburse local and state police departments for any overtime incurred by participating in such drills.

The bill also reduces the number of fire drills that districts must perform annually, which has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6846****AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CRISIS RESPONSE DRILLS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.****SUMMARY**

This bill reduces the number of fire drills and crisis response drills that local and regional boards of education must require their schools to hold each school year. It also makes changes in the law governing the standards that the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) must create for schools' security and safety plans, particularly relating to crisis response drill implementation by boards of education.

The bill also requires DESPP, in consultation with the State Department of Education (SDE), to evaluate the effectiveness of the bill's provisions that reduce the number and implementation of both fire drills and crisis response drills. DESPP must report its findings and any recommendations for legislation to the Education Committee by January 1, 2025.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023

§ 1 — DRILL FREQUENCY AND FORMAT***Fire Drills***

Under the bill, schools must hold two fire drills per school year, rather than at least one every month. By law and unchanged by the bill, schools must hold one fire drill within 30 days after the first day of the school year.

Crisis Response Drills

Under the bill, schools must hold one crisis response drill per school year, rather than one every three months instead of a fire drill. (Neither the bill nor current law or regulations define "crisis response drill.") By

law and unchanged by the bill, a representative from the local law enforcement agency may supervise and participate in the drill.

The bill eliminates the requirement that boards of education develop the crisis response drill format in consultation with the appropriate law enforcement agency. It replaces this with the requirement that boards follow DESPP's standards for crisis response drill protocols (see below).

§§ 2 & 3 — DESPP STANDARDS AND DRILL EVALUATION

School Safety and Security Plan Standards (§ 2)

By law, each local and regional board of education must develop and implement a school security and safety plan for each school under its jurisdiction, based on standards developed by DESPP in consultation with SDE (CGS § 10-222m).

Existing law requires DESPP's standards to outline "an all-hazards approach to emergencies at public schools." Current law requires these standards to (1) involve local officials and school leaders in developing school security and safety plans and (2) require each school to establish its own security and safety committee, among other things. The bill makes the following changes in this law:

1. removes from the standards the requirement that local law enforcement and other local public safety officials evaluate, score, and provide feedback on both fire and crisis response drills and
2. adds to the standards the requirement that all crisis response drills be conducted using protocols developed by the school's board of education in consultation with local law enforcement.

The bill requires boards to develop these crisis response drill protocols in time for the 2023-24 school year and annually update them for subsequent school years. The protocols must be trauma-informed, created with input from the school's administrators, and contain the following minimum requirements:

1. advance notice to students' parents and guardians, educators, local law enforcement, and other first responders at least seven days before the drill occurs;
2. the option for parents and guardians to opt their student out of participating in the drill;
3. accommodations for students who have past trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, or other relevant disabilities;
4. an age-appropriate explanation to students that includes a description of what the drill is and how the school security and safety plan will be implemented during an actual emergency;
5. information for students about the availability of student mental health counseling; and
6. prohibition against active shooter simulation in the school and crouching and huddling by students during the drill.

Evaluation of Bill Effectiveness (§ 3)

Under the bill, DESPP, in consultation with SDE, must do the following when evaluating the efficacy of the bill's fire and crisis response drills provisions:

1. review the annual reports that each school board submits to DESPP as required under the department's school security and safety plan standards;
2. analyze how the results of each board's security and vulnerability assessments and school security and safety plans have been addressed and revised after the bill's revisions to the drills' frequency and implementation; and
3. assess how effectively school boards are conducting crisis response drills consistent with the protocols developed by each board and its law enforcement agency.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 30 Nay 10 (03/17/2023)