

P.L.2016, CHAPTER 80, *approved December 5, 2016*
Assembly, No. 3349

1 AN ACT concerning school security and amending N.J.S.18A:41-1
2 and P.L.2009, c.178.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. N.J.S.18A:41-1 is amended to read as follows:

8 18A:41-1. Every principal of a school of two or more rooms, or
9 of a school of one room, when located above the first story of a
10 building, shall have at least one fire drill and one school security
11 drill each month within the school hours, including any summer
12 months during which the school is open for instructional programs,
13 and shall require all teachers of all schools, whether occupying
14 buildings of one or more stories, to keep all doors and exits of their
15 respective rooms and buildings unlocked during the school hours,
16 except during an emergency lockdown or an emergency lockdown
17 drill. Where school buildings have been provided with fire escapes,
18 they shall be used by a part or all of the pupils performing every
19 fire drill. An actual fire or school security emergency that occurs at
20 a school during the month and that includes activities which are the
21 equivalent of a drill shall be considered a drill for the purposes of
22 meeting the requirements of this section.

23 A law enforcement officer shall be present at a minimum of one
24 school security drill in each school year in order to make
25 recommendations on any improvements or changes to school
26 security drill procedures that the officer may deem advisable.

27 (cf: P.L. 2009, c.178, s.4)

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29 2. Section 1 of P.L.2009, c.178 (C.18A:41-6) is amended to
30 read as follows:

31 1. As used in this act:

32 "School security drill" means an exercise, other than a fire drill,
33 to practice procedures that respond to an emergency situation
34 including, but not limited to, a bomb threat, non-fire evacuation,
35 lockdown, or active shooter situation and that is similar in duration
36 to a fire drill.

37 (cf: P.L.2009, c.178, s.1)

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39 3. Section 2 of P.L.2009, c.178 (C.18A:41-7) is amended to
40 read as follows:

41 2. A local board of education and chief school administrator of
42 a nonpublic school shall ensure that all full-time [teaching staff

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 members] employees in the district or nonpublic school are
2 provided with training on school safety and security that includes
3 instruction on school security drills. The training shall use the drill
4 guide and training materials prepared pursuant to section 3 of
5 P.L.2009, c.178 (C.App.A:9-86) and shall utilize various formats
6 such as drills, functional exercises, and tabletop exercises. The
7 annual training provided to employees shall be conducted
8 collaboratively by the district or nonpublic school and emergency
9 responders, including law enforcement, fire, and emergency
10 medical services personnel, in order to identify weaknesses in
11 school safety and security policies and procedures and to increase
12 the effectiveness of emergency responders. [Each teaching staff
13 member shall be provided with the training within one year of the
14 effective date of this act or within 60 days of the commencement of
15 that staff member's employment, whichever date is later.]
16 (cf: P.L.2009, c.178, s.2)

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18 4. This act shall take effect in the first full school year
19 following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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24 This bill revises current law on school security drills. The bill
25 provides that all employees in school districts and nonpublic
26 schools will be provided with annual training on school safety and
27 security. Under current law such training is only provided once to
28 certificated staff members. The bill also provides that the training
29 will be conducted collaboratively by the district or nonpublic school
30 and emergency responders in order to identify weaknesses in school
31 safety and security procedures and to increase the effectiveness of
32 emergency responders.

33 The bill requires that a law enforcement officer be present at a
34 minimum of one school security drill in each school year in order to
35 make recommendations on any improvements or changes to school
36 security drill procedures that the officer may deem advisable.

37 Finally, the bill stipulates that an actual fire or school security
38 emergency that occurs at a school during the month and that
39 includes activities which are the equivalent of a drill, will be
40 considered a drill for the purposes of meeting the required number
41 of monthly drills.

42 This bill implements recommendations #6 and 22 of the July,
43 2015 report of the New Jersey School Security Task Force.

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47 Requires annual school security training for school employees to
48 be conducted collaboratively with emergency responders; requires
49 law enforcement officer to annually attend at least one school
50 security drill.