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**SENATE BILL 5647**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Torres, Conway, King, Lovelett, C. Wilson, and J. Wilson

Read first time 01/31/23. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing substitute teachers and other  
2 temporary employees necessary information about school safety  
3 policies and procedures; and amending RCW 28A.320.125 and  
4 28A.300.630.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.320.125 and 2022 c 77 s 1 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (1) The legislature considers it to be a matter of public safety  
9 for public schools and staff to have current safe school plans and  
10 procedures in place, fully consistent with federal law. The  
11 legislature further finds and intends, by requiring safe school plans  
12 to be in place, that school districts will become eligible for  
13 federal assistance. The legislature further finds that schools are in  
14 a position to serve the community in the event of an emergency  
15 resulting from natural disasters or human-induced disasters.

16 (2) Schools and school districts shall consider the guidance and  
17 resources provided by the state school safety center, established  
18 under RCW 28A.300.630, and the regional school safety centers,  
19 established under RCW 28A.310.510, when developing their own  
20 individual comprehensive safe school plans. Each school district  
21 shall adopt and implement a safe school plan. The plan shall:

- 1 (a) Include required school safety policies and procedures;
- 2 (b) Address emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and  
3 recovery;
- 4 (c) Include provisions for assisting and communicating with  
5 students and staff, including those with special needs or  
6 disabilities;
- 7 (d) Include a family-student reunification plan, including  
8 procedures for communicating the reunification plan to staff,  
9 students, families, and emergency responders;
- 10 (e) Use the training guidance provided by the Washington  
11 emergency management division of the state military department in  
12 collaboration with the state school safety center in the office of  
13 the superintendent of public instruction, established under RCW  
14 28A.300.630, and the school safety and student well-being advisory  
15 committee, established under RCW 28A.300.635;
- 16 (f) Require the building principal to be certified on the  
17 incident command system;
- 18 (g) Take into account the manner in which the school facilities  
19 may be used as a community asset in the event of a community-wide  
20 emergency; (~~and~~)
- 21 (h) Set guidelines for requesting city or county law enforcement  
22 agencies, local fire departments, emergency service providers, and  
23 county emergency management agencies to meet with school districts  
24 and participate in safety-related drills; and
- 25 (i) Include how substitute teachers and other temporary employees  
26 receive necessary information about safe school plans, including  
27 school safety policies and procedures and the three basic functional  
28 drill responses described in subsection (5) of this section.
- 29 (3) To the extent funds are available, school districts shall  
30 annually:
- 31 (a) Review and update safe school plans in collaboration with  
32 local emergency response agencies;
- 33 (b) Conduct an inventory of all hazardous materials;
- 34 (c) Update information to reflect current plans, including:
- 35 (i) Identifying all staff members who are trained on the national  
36 incident management system, trained on the incident command system,  
37 or are certified on the incident command system; and
- 38 (ii) Identifying school transportation procedures for evacuation,  
39 to include bus staging areas, evacuation routes, communication

1 systems, parent-student reunification sites, and secondary  
2 transportation agreements; and

3 (d) Provide information to all staff on the use of emergency  
4 supplies and notification and alert procedures.

5 (4) School districts are encouraged to work with local emergency  
6 management agencies and other emergency responders to conduct one  
7 tabletop exercise, one functional exercise, and two full-scale  
8 exercises within a four-year period.

9 (5)(a) Due to geographic location, schools have unique safety  
10 challenges. It is the responsibility of school principals and  
11 administrators to assess the threats and hazards most likely to  
12 impact their school, and to practice three basic functional drills,  
13 shelter-in-place, lockdown, and evacuation, as these drills relate to  
14 those threats and hazards. Some threats or hazards may require the  
15 use of more than one basic functional drill.

16 (b) Schools shall conduct at least one safety-related drill per  
17 month, including summer months when school is in session with  
18 students. These drills must teach students three basic functional  
19 drill responses:

20 (i) "Shelter-in-place," used to limit the exposure of students  
21 and staff to hazardous materials, such as chemical, biological, or  
22 radiological contaminants, released into the environment by isolating  
23 the inside environment from the outside;

24 (ii) "Lockdown," used to isolate students and staff from threats  
25 of violence, such as suspicious trespassers or armed intruders, that  
26 may occur in a school or in the vicinity of a school. Lockdown drills  
27 may not include live simulations of or reenactments of active shooter  
28 scenarios that are not trauma-informed and age and developmentally  
29 appropriate; and

30 (iii) "Evacuation," used to move students and staff away from  
31 threats, such as fires, oil train spills, lahars, or tsunamis.

32 (c) The drills described in (b) of this subsection must  
33 incorporate the following requirements:

34 (i) A pedestrian evacuation drill for schools in mapped lahars or  
35 tsunami hazard zones; and

36 (ii) An earthquake drill using the state-approved earthquake  
37 safety technique "drop, cover, and hold."

38 (d) Schools shall document the date, time, and type (shelter-in-  
39 place, lockdown, or evacuate) of each drill required under this  
40 subsection (5), and maintain the documentation in the school office.

1 (e) This subsection (5) is intended to satisfy all federal  
2 requirements for comprehensive school emergency drills and  
3 evacuations.

4 (6) Educational service districts are encouraged to apply for  
5 federal emergency response and crisis management grants with the  
6 assistance of the superintendent of public instruction and the  
7 Washington emergency management division of the state military  
8 department.

9 (7) The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules to  
10 implement provisions of this section. These rules may include, but  
11 are not limited to, provisions for evacuations, lockdowns, or other  
12 components of a comprehensive safe school plan.

13 (8)(a) Whenever a first responder agency notifies a school of a  
14 situation that may necessitate an evacuation or lockdown, the agency  
15 must determine if other known schools in the vicinity are similarly  
16 threatened. The first responder agency must notify every other known  
17 school in the vicinity for which an evacuation or lockdown appears  
18 reasonably necessary to the agency's incident commander unless the  
19 agency is unable to notify schools due to duties directly tied to  
20 responding to the incident occurring. For purposes of this  
21 subsection, "school" includes a private school under chapter 28A.195  
22 RCW.

23 (b) A first responder agency and its officers, agents, and  
24 employees are not liable for any act, or failure to act, under this  
25 subsection unless a first responder agency and its officers, agents,  
26 and employees acted with willful disregard.

27 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.300.630 and 2019 c 333 s 2 are each amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
30 specific purpose, the superintendent of public instruction shall  
31 establish a school safety center as provided in this section.

32 (2) The center, working in conjunction with the regional school  
33 safety centers established in RCW 28A.310.510, forms a statewide  
34 network for school safety.

35 (3) The center, in collaboration with staff in the office of the  
36 superintendent of public instruction, must:

37 (a) Serve as a clearinghouse for information regarding  
38 comprehensive school safety planning and practice;

- 1 (b) Disseminate information regarding school safety incidents in  
2 Washington and across the country;
- 3 (c) Develop and maintain a public website to increase the  
4 availability of information, research, and other materials related to  
5 school safety;
- 6 (d) Serve as the lead school safety center, and work in  
7 conjunction with the regional school safety centers, to support  
8 school districts' efforts to meet state requirements regarding school  
9 safety including the development and implementation of:
- 10 (i) Comprehensive safe school plans as required by RCW  
11 28A.320.125; and
- 12 (ii) Plans for recognition, initial screening, and response to  
13 emotional or behavioral distress in students as required by RCW  
14 28A.320.127;
- 15 (e) Develop model school safety policies and procedures and  
16 identify best practices in school safety, including how substitute  
17 teachers and other temporary employees receive necessary information  
18 about school safety policies and procedures;
- 19 (f) Work in conjunction with the regional school safety centers  
20 to plan for the provision of school safety trainings and to provide  
21 technical assistance;
- 22 (g) Hold an annual school safety summit as required by RCW  
23 28A.300.273;
- 24 (h) Support the required activities of the regional school safety  
25 centers, established in RCW 28A.310.510; and
- 26 (i) Perform other functions consistent with the purpose of the  
27 center, as described in this section.

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