

Regular Session, 2013

ACT No. 50

HOUSE BILL NO. 718 (Substitute for House Bill No. 79 by Representative Hensgens)

BY REPRESENTATIVES HENSGENS, COX, HUNTER, JEFFERSON, PRICE, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, SMITH, AND ST. GERMAIN

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:416.16 and to enact R.S. 17:3996(B)(33), relative to school crisis management and response plans; to provide relative to the preparation, content, rehearsal, review, revision, approval, and provision of copies of such plans; to provide relative to training; to provide relative to rules and regulations with respect to public and nonpublic schools; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:416.16 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:3996(B)(33) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§416.16. School crisis management and response plans

A.(1) For the purposes of this Section, a "crisis management and response plan" means a plan to address school safety and the incidence of a shooting or other violence at schools, on school buses, and at school-related activities; to respond effectively to such incidents; and to ensure that every student, teacher, and school employee has access to a safe, secure, and orderly school that is conducive to learning. Such plans shall also address the management of any other emergency situation.

(2) A school crisis management and response plan shall be prepared by each public school principal jointly with local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials. ~~in accordance with guidelines adopted pursuant to school board policy.~~ In preparing the plan, the principal and such officials shall consider and include, ~~where~~ if appropriate, input from students enrolled in the school and their parents, teachers at the school, other school employees, and community

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 ~~leaders, local law enforcement, and fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness~~
2 ~~officials.~~

3 (3) The plan, which shall focus on preventing the loss of life and the injury
4 of students and teachers and other school employees, shall detail the roles and
5 responsibilities of each school employee and the relevant coordination agreements,
6 services, and security measures of a school in the event of a shooting or other violent
7 incident or emergency situation.

8 (4) The plan may ~~include provision~~ provide for the counseling of students
9 by mental health professionals in the event of a shooting or other violent incident or
10 emergency situation, encouraging peer helper programs, and identifying students
11 who may have experienced rejection or other traumatic life events.

12 B.(1) Each public school principal, jointly with local law enforcement, fire,
13 public safety, and emergency preparedness officials, shall review the plan at least
14 once annually and shall revise the plan as necessary. In reviewing and revising the
15 plan, the principal and such officials shall consider and include input, if appropriate,
16 from students enrolled in the school and their parents, teachers at the school, other
17 school employees, and community leaders. Each principal shall submit such plan in
18 writing to the local school board superintendent for approval at least once annually,
19 including upon each revision.

20 (2) ~~Not later than January 1, 2002, each city, parish, and other local public~~
21 ~~school board shall have approved a crisis management and response plan for each~~
22 ~~public school under its jurisdiction. The superintendent shall make an annual report~~
23 ~~to the public school governing authority on the status of the plan of each school~~
24 ~~under the governing authority's jurisdiction.~~

25 C. ~~Each school crisis management and response plan shall be reviewed by~~
26 ~~the public school annually and revised as necessary. Any revised school plan shall~~
27 ~~be resubmitted to the school board for review and approval of the revisions. (1)~~
28 Within the first thirty days of each school year, each public school principal shall
29 conduct a safety drill to rehearse the components of the plan. Not later than seven
30 days after the drill, the principal shall submit a written report summarizing the details

1 of the drill to the local superintendent. The superintendent may comment on the drill
2 to the principal, who may consider such comments in revising the plan.

3 (2) Each public school principal shall notify all teachers and other school
4 employees regarding revisions made to the plan.

5 D. Each plan shall provide that classroom doors with locks that are in
6 compliance with all fire safety standards promulgated by the office of state fire
7 marshal code enforcement and building safety of the Department of Public Safety
8 and Corrections shall remain locked during instructional time. Each plan shall
9 provide that a locked door shall not obstruct egress.

10 E. If a school has a resource officer as authorized in R.S. 17:416.19 or a
11 Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor, he shall join the principal and local
12 law enforcement, fire, public safety, and emergency preparedness officials in
13 preparing the plan and participate in any review or revision of the plan.

14 F. Each school year, each public school principal shall be responsible for
15 providing in-service training, which may be incorporated into a meeting or training
16 session held for another purpose, for all teachers and school employees pertaining
17 to the plan and may involve local law enforcement, fire, public safety, and
18 emergency preparedness officials in the preparation and presentation of the training.

19 G. Each public school principal shall keep a copy of the approved plan in his
20 office and shall provide a copy to the following individuals, each of whom shall be
21 responsible for keeping in his respective office a copy of the plan that is readily
22 accessible in the event of a school shooting or other violent incident or emergency
23 situation:

24 (1) The president of the local school board.

25 (2) The local school superintendent.

26 (3) The chief of police of the municipality or the sheriff of the parish where
27 the school is located, as applicable, as well as the local fire chief whose office is in
28 closest geographic proximity to the school.

