

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 22.1-279.8 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by*
 3 *adding a section numbered 22.1-23.6, relating to Department of Education; development of guidelines*
 4 *and information relating to virtual or online learning; public health emergencies.*

5 [S 1380]

6 Approved

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**8 **1. That § 22.1-279.8 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is**
 9 **amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-23.6 as follows:**10 **§ 22.1-23.6. Guidelines relating to virtual or online learning.**11 *A. The Department shall develop and post on its official website guidelines and information relating to*
 12 *virtual learning, including (i) statewide policies relating to virtual learning, (ii) the availability of online or*
 13 *virtual learning options and pertinent information on such options, and (iii) guidelines for educators and*
 14 *schools relating to online or virtual learning policies and best practices. In addition, the Department shall*
 15 *provide for the guidelines to allow dissemination to each school board for distribution to parents.*16 *B. The guidelines established by the Department pursuant to this section shall be updated annually.*17 **§ 22.1-279.8. School safety audits and school crisis, emergency management, and medical**
 18 **emergency response plans required.**19 *A. For the purposes of this section, unless the context requires otherwise:*20 *"School crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan" means the essential*
 21 *procedures, operations, and assignments required to prevent, manage, and respond to a critical event or*
 22 *emergency, including natural disasters involving fire, flood, tornadoes, or other severe weather; loss or*
 23 *disruption of power, water, communications or shelter; bus or other accidents; medical emergencies,*
 24 *including cardiac arrest and other life-threatening medical emergencies; student or staff member deaths;*
 25 *explosions; bomb threats; gun, knife or other weapons threats; spills or exposures to hazardous substances;*
 26 *the presence of unauthorized persons or trespassers; the loss, disappearance or kidnapping of a student;*
 27 *hostage situations; violence on school property or at school activities; incidents involving acts of terrorism;*
 28 *and other incidents posing a serious threat of harm to students, personnel, or facilities. The plan shall include*
 29 *a provision that the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries*
 30 *Compensation Fund shall be contacted immediately to deploy assistance in the event of an emergency as*
 31 *defined in the emergency response plan when there are victims as defined in § 19.2-11.01. The Department of*
 32 *Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund shall be the lead*
 33 *coordinating agencies for those individuals determined to be victims, and the plan shall also contain current*
 34 *contact information for both agencies.*35 *"School safety audit" means a written assessment of the safety conditions in each public school to (i)*
 36 *identify and, if necessary, develop solutions for physical safety concerns, including building security issues,*
 37 *and (ii) identify and evaluate any patterns of student safety concerns occurring on school property or at*
 38 *school-sponsored events. Solutions and responses shall include recommendations for structural adjustments,*
 39 *changes in school safety procedures, and revisions to the school board's standards for student conduct.*40 *B. The Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety, in consultation with the Department of Education,*
 41 *shall develop a list of items to be reviewed and evaluated in the school safety audits required by this section.*
 42 *Such items shall include (i) those incidents reported to school authorities pursuant to § 22.1-279.3:1; (ii) a*
 43 *school inspection walk-through using a standardized checklist provided by the Virginia Center for School and*
 44 *Campus Safety, which shall incorporate crime prevention through environmental design principles; and (iii)*
 45 *specific technology systems, including physical security technologies, emergency telecommunication*
 46 *systems, and associated technology including equipment and software.*47 *The Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety shall prescribe a standardized report format for school*
 48 *safety audits, additional reporting criteria, and procedures for report submission, which may include*
 49 *instructions for electronic submission.*50 *Each local school board shall require all schools under its supervisory control to annually conduct school*
 51 *safety audits, as defined in this section, consistent with such list and in collaboration with the chief*
 52 *law-enforcement officer of the locality or his designee. As part of each such audit, the school board shall*
 53 *create a detailed and accurate floor plan for each public school building in the local school division or shall*
 54 *certify that the existing floor plan for each such school is sufficiently detailed and accurate. In addition, a*
 55 *component of each such audit shall include a review of the school's comprehensive plan for closures public*
 56 *health emergencies.*

ENROLLED

SB1380ER

57 The results of such school safety audits shall be made public within 90 days of completion pursuant to this
58 subsection. The local school board shall retain authority to withhold or limit the release of any security plans,
59 walk-through checklists, floor plans, and specific vulnerability assessment components as provided in
60 subdivision 4 of § 2.2-3705.2. The completed walk-through checklist shall be made available to the chief
61 law-enforcement officer of the locality or his designee. Each school shall maintain a copy of the school safety
62 audit, which may exclude such security plans, walk-through checklists, and vulnerability assessment
63 components, within the office of the school principal and shall make a copy of such report available for
64 review upon written request.

65 Each school shall submit a copy of its school safety audit to the relevant school division superintendent.
66 The division superintendent shall collate and submit all such school safety audits, in the prescribed format
67 and manner of submission, to the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety and shall make available to
68 the chief law-enforcement officer of the locality the results of such audits for his review and
69 recommendations.

70 C. The division superintendent shall establish a school safety audit committee to include, if available,
71 representatives of parents, teachers, local law-enforcement, emergency services agencies, local community
72 services boards, and judicial and public safety personnel. The school safety audit committee shall review the
73 completed school safety audits and submit any plans, as needed, for improving school safety to the division
74 superintendent for submission to the local school board.

75 D. Each school board shall ensure that every school that it supervises shall develop a written school crisis,
76 emergency management, and medical emergency response plan, consistent with the definition provided in
77 this section, and shall include the chief law-enforcement officer, the fire chief, the chief of the emergency
78 medical services agency, the executive director of the relevant regional emergency medical services council,
79 and the emergency management official of the locality, or their designees, in the development of such plans.
80 Each school division shall designate an emergency manager. The Department of Education and the Virginia
81 Center for School and Campus Safety shall provide technical assistance to the school divisions of the
82 Commonwealth in the development of the school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency
83 response plans that describe the components of a medical emergency response plan developed in coordination
84 with local emergency medical services providers, the training of school personnel and students to respond to
85 a life-threatening emergency, and the equipment required for this emergency response. The local school
86 board, the chief law-enforcement officer, the fire chief, the chief of the emergency medical services agency,
87 the executive director of the relevant regional emergency medical services council, and the emergency
88 management official of the locality, or their designees, shall annually review the written school crisis,
89 emergency management, and medical emergency response plans. The local school board shall have the
90 authority to withhold or limit the review of any security plans and specific vulnerability assessment
91 components as provided in subdivision 4 of § 2.2-3705.2. The local school division superintendent shall
92 certify this review in writing to the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety no later than August 31 of
93 each year.

94 Upon consultation with local school boards, division superintendents, the Virginia Center for School and
95 Campus Safety, and the Coordinator of Emergency Management, the Board of Education shall develop, and
96 may revise as it deems necessary, a model school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency
97 response plan for the purpose of assisting the public schools in the Commonwealth in developing viable,
98 effective crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plans. Such model shall set forth
99 recommended effective procedures and means by which parents can contact the relevant school or school
100 division regarding the location and safety of their school children and by which school officials may contact
101 parents, with parental approval, during a critical event or emergency.

102 E. Each school board shall ensure that every public school it supervises employs at least one school
103 administrator who has completed, either in-person or online, school safety training for public school
104 personnel conducted by the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety in accordance with subdivision A
105 1 of § 9.1-184. However, such requirement shall not apply if such required training is not available online.

106 F. Each division superintendent shall annually designate an employee in the local school division as the
107 division safety official whose duty is to receive all reports required pursuant to subsection A of § 19.2-83.1
108 and §§ 19.2-291.1 and 19.2-299.3 and shall include such designation in the collated packet of school safety
109 audits submitted to the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety pursuant to subsection B. The
110 designation required by this subsection shall include updated contact information for the division safety
111 official, including (i) a current mailing address, (ii) a current working daytime phone number, (iii) a current
112 functional email address, and (iv) a current functional fax number. It shall be the duty of the division
113 superintendent to update contact information required by this subsection within 48 hours of any change to
114 such contact information.