
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 582 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, KINKEAD, MADDEN, HOHENSTEIN, SANCHEZ,
HILL-EVANS, PARKER, GIRAL, D. WILLIAMS AND CONKLIN,
MARCH 20, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 20, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study,
6 further providing for fire and emergency evacuation drills.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 1517 heading, (a) and (e) of the act of
10 March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code
11 of 1949, are amended and the section is amended by adding
12 subsections to read:

13 Section 1517. Fire, School Security and Emergency Evacuation
14 Drills.--(a) Except as provided under subsection (a.1), in all
15 school buildings of school entities where fire-escapes,
16 appliances for the extinguishment of fires, or proper and
17 sufficient exits in case of fire or panic, either or all, are
18 required by law to be maintained, fire drills shall be
19 periodically conducted, not less than one a month, [by the

1 teacher or teachers in charge] while the school entity is in
2 session and students are present, under [rules and regulations
3 to be promulgated] policies adopted by the chief school
4 administrator under whose supervision such school entities are.
5 In such fire drills the pupils and teachers shall be instructed
6 in, and made thoroughly familiar with, the use of the fire-
7 escapes, appliances and exits. The drill shall include the
8 actual use thereof, and the complete removal of the pupils and
9 teachers, in an expeditious and orderly manner, by means of
10 fire-escapes and exits, from the building to a place of safety
11 on the ground outside.

12 * * *

13 (a.2) A record of all fire drills, school security drills
14 and emergency evacuation drills shall be completed by the
15 principal or person in charge at each school building and shall
16 be accurate and up-to-date and kept on file in the respective
17 school office. The principal or person in charge shall submit
18 the record to the chief school administrator and the Department
19 of Education by June 30 each year for review by the department
20 for compliance with this section. The Department of Education
21 shall determine the manner and form of the record to be used to
22 document the fire, school security and emergency evacuation
23 drills by the principal or person in charge at each school
24 building. The record must include, at a minimum, the following:

25 (1) The date and time of the drill.

26 (2) The duration of the drill.

27 (3) The drill type.

28 (4) The signature of the principal or person in charge.

29 * * *

30 (e) On or before the tenth day of April of each year, each

1 chief school administrator shall certify to the Department of
2 Education that the fire drill, emergency evacuation drills and
3 school security drills herein required have been conducted in
4 accordance with this section[.] and documented in the record by
5 the principal or person in charge of each school building.

6 (e.1) The Department of Education, by September 1, 2024, and
7 each August 1 thereafter, shall provide annually a report on
8 Statewide compliance with the provisions of this section to the
9 Education Committee of the Senate, the Education Committee of
10 the House of Representatives and the State Fire Commissioner and
11 shall make the report available on the department's publicly
12 accessible Internet website.

13 * * *

14 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.