



HOUSE BILL 380: Statewide School Safety Management

**This Bill Analysis
reflects the contents
of the bill as it was
presented in
committee.**

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	House Education - K-12, if favorable, Appropriations	Date:	April 21, 2015
Introduced by:	Reps. Holloway, Glazier, Blackwell, Faircloth	Prepared by:	Denise Adams
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H380-CSTB-12		Legislative Analyst

SUMMARY: *House Bill 380 would direct the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to implement a statewide School Risk and Response Management System (SRRMS), make conforming changes to other school safety requirements, and subject to additional funds, provide for grants for school counselors.*

The PCS to HB 380 would make additional changes to a variety of school safety measures.

CURRENT LAW and BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1: Under current law, local boards of education (local boards) are required, in coordination with local law enforcement, to adopt emergency response plans relating to incidents of school violence. Current law provides these plans are not a public record.

Section 1 of the PCS would replace the term and definition of "emergency response plans" with "School Risk Management Plans," (SRMP) and in the development of the plans, require local boards to (i) also coordinate with emergency management agencies and (ii) utilize the SRRMS. Local boards would have to adopt SRMPs by March 1, 2017.

Section 2: Under current law, each local school administrative unit (LEA) is encouraged to hold a full systemwide school safety and school lockdown exercise with local law enforcement agencies at least every two years. Each school is encouraged to hold a full school-wide school safety and lockdown exercise with local law enforcement agencies at least once a year.

Section 2 of the PCS would make change to school safety exercises, which include:

- Requiring DPS, the Division of School Management (Division), and the Center for Safer Schools (Center) to provide guidance and recommendations to LEAs on the hazards to plan and respond to, including intruders on school grounds.
- Directing LEAs to require each school under its control to hold a school-wide tabletop exercise and drill based on procedures documented in its SRMP, including a practice school lockdown due to an intruder on school grounds. Schools are also encouraged to hold additional exercises and drills for other hazards.
- Defining the terms "tabletop exercise" and "drill" in relation to school safety exercises.



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Section 3: Section 3 of the PCS creates a new Article in Chapter 115C of the General Statutes, entitled School Risk and Response Management System (SRRMS). DPS, the Division, and the Center would be directed to construct and maintain this statewide system which should fully integrate and leverage existing data and applications that support school risk planning and exercise, monitoring, and emergency response, including the School Risk Management Planning tool. Section 3 of the PCS provides that all data and information acquired and stored in the SRRMS are not considered public records.

Section 4: Under current law, LEAs are encouraged to develop and operate anonymous tip lines, in coordination with local law enforcement and social services agencies, to receive anonymous tips on risks to school buildings and school-related activities. The PCS to Section 4 would make a conforming change to include "school population" to this group and would make an additional conforming change.

Section 4 of the PCS would also direct DPS, the Division, and the Center to implement and maintain an anonymous safety tip line application for purposes of receiving anonymous student information on internal or external risks to the school population, school buildings, and school-related activities. Section 4 of the PCS would also direct DPS, the Division, and the Center to implement and maintain a statewide Panic Alarm system for the purposes of launching real-time 911 messaging to Public Safety Answer Points of internal and external risks to the school population, school buildings, and school-related activities. DPS would be charged with the responsibility to ensure that the anonymous safety tip line application is integrated with and supports the statewide SRRMS. The PCS would also provide that all data and information gathered anonymous safety tip line application are not considered a public record. The Division may collect the annual aggregate number and type of tip that are sent to the tip line application. DPS would be required to implement the anonymous tip line application and statewide panic alarm system by July 1, 2016.

Section 5: Section 5 of the PCS would make a conforming change to the school safety statute governing school crisis kits by replacing the term "emergency response plan" with "School Risk Management Plan".

Section 6: Under current law, each LEA is required to provide, and update as needed, the following to local law enforcement agencies: (i) schematic diagrams and (ii) emergency access to key storage devices for all school buildings.

Section 6 of the PCS would clarify that LEAs could provide, and update as needed, keys to the main entrance of all school buildings or access to key storage devices.

Section 7: Section 7 of the PCS would make a conforming change to the school safety statute governing what emergency response information must be shared with the Division by replacing the term "emergency response plan" with "School Risk Management Plan".

Section 8: Under current law, charter schools are encouraged to adopt emergency response plans, which, like those required by traditional public schools, are not considered a public record.

Section 8 of the PCS would make a conforming change by replacing the term and definition of "emergency response plans" with "School Risk Management Plans" in the statutes that govern the operating requirements for charter schools. Section 8 of the PCS would provide that in constructing and

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maintaining these plans, charter schools may utilize the SRRMS. Charter schools are encouraged to adopt SRMPs by March 1, 2017. Section 8 of the PCS also encourages charter schools to hold an annual school-wide lockdown exercise and provide schematic diagrams and emergency response information to the Division.

Section 9: Under current law, regional schools are encouraged to adopt emergency response plans, which, like those required by traditional public schools, are not considered a public record.

Section 9 of the PCS would make a conforming change by replacing the term and definition of "emergency response plans" with "School Risk Management Plans" in the statutes that govern the powers and duties of regional schools. Section 9 of the PCS would provide that in constructing and maintaining these plans, regional schools may utilize the SRRMS. Regional schools are encouraged to adopt SRMPs by March 1, 2017. Section 9 of the PCS also encourages regional schools to hold an annual school-wide lockdown exercise and provide schematic diagrams and emergency response information to the Division.

Section 10: Section 10 of the PCS would add to the powers and duties of the Division of Emergency Management the requirement to serve as the lead State agency for the implementation and maintenance of the SRRMS.

Section 11: Section 11 of the PCS would require DPS, the Division, and the Center to report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Commission on Governmental Operations on (i) the implementation of SRRMS and (ii) the anticipated annual cost to operate and maintain the system.

Section 12: Section 12 of the PCS would state that it is the intent of the General Assembly, subject to the availability of funds, to provide funds during the 2015-2017 fiscal biennium to provide grants to LEAs, regional schools, and charter schools for additional school psychologists, school counselors, and school social workers. These funds will be matched on the basis of \$1.00 in State funds for every \$1.00 in local funds. The State Board of Education must include need-based considerations in its criteria for awarding these grants and must give lower priority to those who received a grant for a school resource officer in the 2013 budget.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The PCS would become effective when it becomes law. Sections 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 of the PCS would apply beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.