



SENATE BILL 5: School Safety Omnibus.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Education - K-12. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	July 10, 2019
Introduced by:	Sens. Brown, Harrington, Krawiec	Prepared by:	Kara McCraw
Analysis of:	Third Edition		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: SB 5 would do the following:

- Establish that school safety requirements apply to all public schools, and encourage non-public schools to participate in school safety plans.
- Clarify the powers and duties of the Center for Safer Schools.
- Require county boards of education to develop county state of emergency plans for all public school units in the county.
- Define the term "school resource officer" and require training for SROs.
- Require annual vulnerability assessments for each public school building.

PART I. REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL SAFETY FOR ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CURRENT LAW: Charter schools, regional schools, innovative schools, and lab schools are encouraged, but not required, to participate in all school safety requirements that are required for local school administrative units.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1.(a) would reorganize statutes in Article 8C of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes to create a Part entitled, "Maintaining Safe and Orderly Schools".

Sections 1.(b) through 1.(p) would require charter schools, regional schools, innovative schools, and lab schools to meet all the school safety requirements that exist for local school administrative units. These include adoption of School Risk Management Plans (SRMPs), annual school-wide tabletop drills and exercises, and provision of schematic diagrams of the schools to local law enforcement and the Division of Public Safety (DPS).

Sections 1.(q) and 1.(r) would encourage, but not require, nonpublic schools to adopt SRMPs, hold school safety exercises and provide schematic diagrams to local law enforcement and the DPS.

Section 1 would apply beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

PART II. CLARIFY THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE CENTER FOR SAFER SCHOOLS

CURRENT LAW: The Center for Safer Schools (Center) is administratively located in the Department of Public Instruction and is headed by an Executive Director. The Center does not have specific powers and duties delineated in statute.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 2 would create specific responsibilities for the Center, including the following:

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- Serving as a resource and referral center on school safety concerns.
- Providing training for public school personnel.
- Collecting, analyzing, and disseminating school safety data.

The Center would receive guidance from the Task Force for Safer Schools, and would collaborate with other State agencies in its work.

PART III: STATE OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONAL STATUS REPORTING

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 3 would define the term "countywide state of emergency" as a state of emergency covering a county declared by the President, General Assembly, Governor, or governing body of that county. It would require each public school unit in a county under a countywide state of emergency to report the operational status of its schools to the local board of county commissioners or designee for as long as the countywide state of emergency is in place. This section would apply beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

PART IV: SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DEFINED/TRAINING

BILL ANALYSIS: For all school resource officers employed beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, Section 4.(a) would define the term "school resource officer" (SRO) as a law enforcement officer assigned to a public school at least 20 hours per week to assist with various school safety or security responsibilities consistent with the memorandum of understanding between the public school unit and law enforcement agency. Sections 4.(b) and (c) would require that training standards for SROs be established. These standard would include, at a minimum, training on mental health, students with disabilities, racial equity, and crisis intervention and de-escalation. Section 4.(d) would require initial training standards for SROs be established by January 15, 2020, by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission and the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission. Section 4.(e) would require each public school unit to report annually to the Center for Safer Schools the number of SROs and the placement of each SRO within the public school unit. The Center for Safer Schools would be required to report an executive summary of this information and the disaggregated data to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee annually.

PART V. SCHOOL BUILDING VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-521 requires that, when considering erection of school buildings, local boards of education must follow State Board of Education facilities guidelines, and in the case of temporary classrooms, must use units that meet the approval of the School Planning Division of the Department of Public Instruction.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 5.(a) would require the Center for Safer Schools to collaborate with the Department of Public Instruction to develop a facility vulnerability assessment tool in the form of a checklist. It would also require public school units to perform facility vulnerability assessments using the tool developed by the Center for Safer Schools for each school building annually.

Section 5.(b) would require that any facility vulnerability assessments be integrated into the School Risk and Response Management System as a part of the School Risk Management Plan.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, SB 5 would become effective when it becomes law.

**This bill summary was substantially contributed to by Samantha Yarborough, Committee Counsel.*