



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 7077

January Session, 2025



AN ACT CONCERNING CRISIS RESPONSE DRILLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Not later than April 1, 2026,
2 the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in
3 collaboration with the Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis
4 Prevention at Western Connecticut State University, shall (1) develop a
5 clear definition for crisis response drills for purposes of section 10-231
6 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (2) develop standardized
7 terminology for the administration and review of crisis response drills,
8 (3) develop guidance on (A) standardized responses to crises, and (B)
9 standardized debriefing protocols following a crisis, and (4) develop an
10 evaluation template for crisis response drills that allows school districts
11 to use feedback from participants of the crisis response drill to assess the
12 efficacy of the crisis response drill and make adjustments to subsequent
13 crisis response drills to improve preparedness while preventing
14 emotional harm and supporting psychological safety.

15 (b) The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, in
16 collaboration with the Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis
17 Prevention at Western Connecticut State University, shall conduct a
18 study of the impact of crisis response drills on the school community.

19 (c) (1) Not later than April 1, 2026, the department shall submit a

20 report on the items described in subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of
21 subsection (a) of this section, including any recommendations, to the
22 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
23 matters relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of
24 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

25 (2) Not later than July 1, 2028, the department shall submit a report
26 on the study conducted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section,
27 including any recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the
28 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
29 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

30 Sec. 2. Section 10-231 of the general statutes is repealed and the
31 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

32 (a) Each local and regional board of education shall provide for a fire
33 drill to be held in the schools of such board not later than thirty days
34 after the first day of each school year and at least once each month
35 thereafter, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

36 (b) Each such board shall substitute a crisis response drill for a fire
37 drill once every three months and shall develop the format of such crisis
38 response drill [in consultation] in accordance with the crisis response
39 protocols described in section 3 of this act and with the appropriate local
40 law enforcement agency. A representative of such agency may
41 supervise and participate in any such crisis response drill.

42 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) For the school year commencing
43 July 1, 2026, and each school year thereafter, each crisis response drill
44 conducted pursuant to section 10-231 of the general statutes, as
45 amended by this act, shall be conducted as follows: (1) Utilize the (A)
46 definition for crisis response drills, (B) standardized terminology for the
47 administration and review of crisis response drills, and (C) guidance on
48 standardized responses to crises and debriefing protocols following a
49 crisis, developed by the Department of Emergency Services and Public
50 Protection pursuant to section 1 of this act, (2) the school security and
51 safety committee, as described in section 10-222m of the general statutes,

52 as amended by this act, shall collaborate with the school climate
53 committee, as described in section 10-222ff of the general statutes, to
54 plan crisis response drills that prioritize the physical and psychological
55 safety of students and school personnel, (3) crisis drills shall be trauma-
56 informed, including utilizing an approach that takes into account prior
57 traumatic experiences and designed to prevent emotional harm to and
58 support the psychological safety of students and school personnel, with
59 mental health professionals' participation integrated throughout the
60 crisis response drill, (4) prior to conducting a crisis response drill, school
61 personnel shall provide age-appropriate education for students and
62 training for school personnel to build knowledge and skills to reduce
63 the potential for confusion or emotional distress, including a review of
64 the purpose and procedures for crisis response drills prior to the first
65 crisis response drill of the school year and notification to students,
66 school personnel and parents and guardians one week in advance of
67 conducting a crisis response drill, (5) school personnel shall
68 communicate, in a clear manner to ensure understanding, the nature
69 and purpose of crisis response drills to the parents and guardians of
70 students at the school prior to conducting a crisis response drill, (6) all
71 communication regarding crisis response drills shall be provided in the
72 native language of each student, school personnel and parents and
73 guardians, (7) at the commencement of the crisis response drill, students
74 and school personnel shall be informed that they are participating in a
75 crisis response drill to avoid confusion when an actual emergency
76 situation is occurring, (8) accommodations for students with cognitive,
77 physical or sensory disability shall be provided, to the extent
78 practicable, during a crisis response drill to ensure the safety and
79 participation of such students, (9) crisis response drills conducted with
80 students shall not include an active assailant simulation or simulated
81 violence with highly sensorial elements such as fake assailants, firearms,
82 gunfire sounds, blood or injuries, and a crisis response drill that is
83 conducted outside of the regular school day and exclusively for school
84 personnel, first responders and other school volunteers may include an
85 active assailant simulation or such simulated violence, and (10) evaluate
86 each crisis response drill using the evaluation template developed

87 pursuant to section 1 of this act.

88 Sec. 4. Section 10-222m of the general statutes, as amended by section
89 63 of public act 23-167, is repealed and the following is substituted in
90 lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

91 (a) For the school year commencing July 1, 2014, and each school year
92 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall develop and
93 implement a school security and safety plan for each school under the
94 jurisdiction of such board. Such plans shall be based on the school
95 security and safety plan standards developed by the Department of
96 Emergency Services and Public Protection, pursuant to section 10-222n.
97 Each local and regional board of education shall annually review and
98 update, if necessary, such plans.

99 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2014, and each school year
100 thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall establish a
101 school security and safety committee at each school under the
102 jurisdiction of such board. The school security and safety committee
103 shall be responsible for assisting in the development of the school
104 security and safety plan for the school and administering such plan.
105 Such school security and safety committee shall consist of a local police
106 officer, a local first responder, a teacher and an administrator employed
107 at the school, a mental health professional, as defined in section 10-76t,
108 a parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the school and any other
109 person the board of education deems necessary. Any parent or guardian
110 serving as a member of a school security and safety committee shall not
111 have access to information reported to such committee that would result
112 in a violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974,
113 20 USC 1232g, as amended from time to time.

114 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall (1) annually
115 submit the school security and safety plan for each school under the
116 jurisdiction of such board, developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this
117 section, to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
118 and (2) make any portion of such school security and safety plan that is

119 not prohibited from disclosure pursuant to section 1-210 available to
120 members of the school community upon request.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-231
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	10-222m

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 3, "in accordance with the following protocols" was changed to "as follows", for proper form; "age-appropriate education and training to allow students and school personnel" was changed to "age-appropriate education for students and training for school personnel", for clarity; and "for the purpose of avoiding" was changed to "to avoid" and "except" was changed to "and", for proper form.

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*