

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**July 12, 2022**

***SUBJECT:***

Approval of the following policy:

Policy EBCB Safety Plans and Drills, First Reading

***BACKGROUND INFORMATION:***

Effective July 2, 2018, in the South Carolina Code of Laws Section 59-17-160, “each school district board of trustees and the governing body of each charter school shall adopt a policy and program for school facility fire and safety, including inspections, before the beginning of the 2020-2021 School Year.” In a memorandum dated May 25, 2021 from the Director of Governmental Affairs, the requirement for policy adoption was extended to July 1, 2022.

***ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:***

Policy EBCB Safety Plans and Drills meets the adoption of policy requirement of South Carolina Code of Laws Section 59-17-160. The policy provides guidance to the district to develop a program for the district and schools that ensures the safety of learning environment. Revisions to the policy were recommended by the South Carolina School Boards Association to ensure that the policy reflected currently regulations.

***RECOMMENDATION:***

Approve the following administrative rule and policies:

Policy EBCB Safety Plans and Drills, First Reading

***ATTACHMENTS:***

Policy EBCB Safety Plans and Drills

***PREPARED BY:***

Dr. Tim Yarborough  
Dr. Salvatore Minolfo

# SAFETY DRILLS

Code **EBCB** Issued **10/017/22**

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~~Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the conduct of school safety drills.~~

## **Fire drills**

~~Schools will conduct fire drills at least once each month without notice. The staff will fully cooperate to carry out this legal requirement and will train students in prompt and orderly evacuation.~~

## **Tornado drills and other natural disasters**

~~The district will develop a plan to provide for the protection of students in the event of any disaster that may threaten the school community. Each school will conduct at least one emergency drill within the first month of school to ensure safety against such disasters.~~

The district is committed to providing a safe learning environment that supports academic achievement. School safety is a community issue that requires collaboration between the administration, emergency response agencies, parents/legal guardians, and the community.

The district will collaborate with state and local law enforcement, fire, and emergency management agencies.

The board directs the superintendent or his/her designee to implement plans and procedures in accordance with this policy.

## **Assessment**

The district will conduct monthly assessments for each building/facility owned by the district. The (option: title of staff member or his/her designee) is responsible for conducting the monthly assessments. Documentation will be maintained and made accessible to the fire code official during an inspection.

The monthly assessments should address the automatic fire sprinkler systems, fire detection and alarm systems, fire-rated assemblies, emergency lighting, emergency power supply system generators, portable fire extinguishers, emergency responder radio coverage, smoke and heat removal systems, and commercial kitchen requirements. The state Model Fire and Safety Program Guidelines will be followed when assessing each of these areas.

## **Inspections**

The district will coordinate with the local fire department or fire code official responsible for code enforcement. The district will identify the entity that will be performing fire inspections for each facility and the frequency at which each facility will be inspected.

## **Evacuation Plans and Drills**

The district will implement plans and conducts drills for evacuating or locking down facilities in emergency situations. Plans will include safety measures for indoor and outdoor assemblies, events, and gatherings (e.g. recess) detailing crowd management and security. Safety drills will be conducted throughout the school year in accordance with the state Model Fire and Safety Program

Guidelines. District staff will fully cooperate to carry out all drills and will train students in prompt and orderly evacuation.

### Fire drills

Schools will conduct, at a minimum, two fire drills per year (one each semester). The first fire drill should occur within 10 days of the start of the school year.

Recognizing that providing a safe school environment is necessary to support the academic success of each student, and acknowledging that maintaining a safe environment requires both a partnership with local emergency officials and responsible care by the facility owners; and in accordance with the requirements of SC Code of Law 59-17-160, the district adopts the Model Fire and Safety Policies and Program Guidelines as published by the SC Office of State Fire Marshall and the SC Department of Education to include:

- A. Partnership with the local fire code official who will perform routine fire and life safety inspections and partnership with the State Fire Marshal's Office where the local government or local fire department does not provide such services.
- B. Performance of monthly Safety Self-Assessments in accordance with the guidance provided by the SC Office of State Fire Marshal and SC Department of Education.
- C. Performance of monthly fire drills.
- D. Reporting of the above via the electronic resource provided by the SC Department of Education.

Resources to carry out this policy are made available on the SC Department of Education website. The SC Office of State Fire Marshal will provide support when requested. In accordance with the SC Code of Laws 59-17-160, this policy will be posted on the district website following the adoption in an open school board meeting.

### Active shooter/intruder drills

Schools will conduct, at a minimum, two active shooter/intruder drills each school year (one each semester). The district will utilize a nationally recognized training method that will be conducted in a developmentally appropriate manner for all participants. All drills will be inclusive and necessary accommodations for participants with disabilities will be provided. To the extent possible, all school personnel will participate in active shooter/intruder drills. All personnel will receive active shooter/intruder and security training, at a minimum, twice per year.

### Severe weather/earthquake drills

Schools will conduct, at a minimum, two severe weather/earthquake drills each school year (one each semester).

### **Classroom and Hallway Safety**

Staff members will be informed of restrictions regarding decorations and interior finishes, electrical safety, laboratories, entryways, and storage.

### **Construction and Renovation**

Staff will refer to policies FA, *Facilities Development Goals and Priority Objectives*, and FB, *Facilities Planning*, when renovating and constructing buildings and campus access to ensure compliance with state standards and specifications. Maximum occupancy requirements will be followed at all times.

Adopted 11/9/71; Revised 1975, 10/23/01, 7/26/22

Legal references:

~~A. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:~~

- ~~1. Section 59-23-210, et. seq. - School building codes, specifications and inspections.~~
- ~~2. Sections 59-63-910 through 59-63-930 - Fire drills.~~

~~B. State Board of Education Regulations:~~

- ~~1. R-43-181 - Building and grounds management - fire prevention.~~
- ~~2. R-43-182 - Emergency drills.~~
- ~~3.2. R-43-166 - Emergency and disaster plans.~~

A. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 59-17-160 - Model fire and safety policy and program guidelines; posting requirement.
2. Section 59-63-910, et seq. - Required public school drills.

B. S.C. State Board of Education Regulations:

1. R43-166 - Student and school safety; emergency and disaster plans.

C. S.C. Department of Education Guidance:

1. 2018 Guidelines for Active Shooter/Intruder Drills and Training Materials.
2. 2020 Model Fire and Safety Program Guidelines.