

Date of Hearing: June 27, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Patrick O'Donnell, Chair

SB 1203 (Bates) – As Amended June 18, 2018

**SENATE VOTE:** 37-0

**SUBJECT:** School safety: lockdown training

**SUMMARY:** Requires all public and private schools to have procedures for conducting lockdown training. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires every private school, that enrolls pupils in any of kindergarten to grade 12, and has an enrollment of 50 or more pupils, to have procedures for conducting lockdown training.
- 2) Requires the comprehensive school safety plans that must be developed by school districts and county offices of education (COE) for its schools to include procedures for conducting lockdown training.
- 3) Requires a charter petition to establish a charter school to include procedures for conducting lockdown training.
- 4) Defines “lockdown” as a situation that presents an immediate and ongoing danger to the safety of pupils, faculty, staff, and visitors by a person using firearms or other types of weapons or displaying erratic behavior.
- 5) Makes other technical and clarifying amendments.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Requires each school district or COE to be responsible for the overall development of all comprehensive school safety plans for its schools operating kindergarten or any of grades 1 through 12 (EC 32281).
- 2) Specifies that the schoolsite council or a school safety planning committee is responsible for developing the comprehensive school safety plan (EC 32281).
- 3) Specifies that the comprehensive school safety plan must include an assessment of the current status of school and identification of appropriate strategies to provide or maintain a high level of school safety, including child abuse reporting procedures; disaster procedures; an earthquake emergency procedure system; policies regarding suspension or expulsion; procedures to notify teachers of dangerous pupils; a discrimination and harassment policy; the provisions of any schoolwide dress code; procedures for safe ingress and egress; a safe and orderly environment conducive to learning; and rules and procedures on school discipline (EC 32282).
- 4) Authorizes the portions of a school safety plan that include tactical responses to criminal incidents to be developed by school district or COE administrators in consultation with law enforcement officials and with a representative of an exclusive bargaining unit of school

district or COE employees, if he or she chooses to participate. Authorizes the school district or COE to elect not to disclose those portions of the comprehensive school safety plan that include tactical responses to criminal incidents (EC 32281).

- 5) Defines “tactical responses to criminal incidents” as steps taken to safeguard pupils and staff, to secure the affected school premises, and to apprehend the criminal perpetrators (EC 32281).

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown.

**COMMENTS:** *Need for the bill.* According to the author:

“Given the unfortunate threats to California’s schools today, students, volunteers, staff, teachers, and administrators cannot be prepared enough for the unknown. From devastating wildfires to active shooters on campus, we need to ensure that all people on school campuses are prepared to act immediately with children’s utmost safety in mind. Some school districts have taken it upon themselves to provide training for students in the event that intruders or active shooters are on campus, but it is necessary to ensure that all students and schools are prepared regardless of their geographic location.

However, shootings are not the only threats to today’s schools. There have been a number of intruders on campus carrying other types of weapons or making bomb threats that occur more frequently. These types of active threat trainings are critical and are even being used in other private and professional settings, such as hospitals to prepare their staff for the unknown.”

***Nationally most schools preparing for active shooter incidents.*** As reported by CNN in May 2018, there have been 288 school shootings in the U.S. since 2009. This represents 57 times as many school shootings as other major industrialized countries combined.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, in 2015-16, 92.4 percent of public schools in the U.S. had a written plan in place describing procedures to be performed in an active shooter scenario. Additionally, they estimate that 94.6 percent of schools drilled students on the use of lockdowns in emergency situations. They define lockdown as:

“A procedure that involves occupants of a school building being directed to remain confined to a room or area within a building with specific procedures to follow. A lockdown may be used when a crisis occurs outside of the school and an evacuation would be dangerous. A lockdown may also be called for when there is a crisis inside and movement within the school will put students in jeopardy. All exterior doors are locked and students and staff stay in their classrooms.”

***Best practices for active shooter drills.*** A 2014 guidance document, authored by the National Association of School Psychologists and the National Association of School Resource Officers, identifies key elements in planning and conducting active shooter drills. They note that such drills have the potential to empower staff and save lives, but also have the potential to cause harm to participants. Among their recommendations are the following:

- Include mental health professionals on school safety teams.
- Tailor the drill to the context of the school environment.

- Ensure physical and psychological safety as well as skills and knowledge acquisition.
- Give all participants advance warning and the ability to opt out.

***Lockdown training encompasses more than drills.*** This bill does not require specific drills, but does require that K-12 schools in California have procedures in place for conducting lockdown training. According to the literature, this could include any or all of the following steps:

- Working with law enforcement and relevant school staff to review the overall security of the school.
- Developing a protocol and process for how the school goes into lockdown.
- Developing and delivering training on lockdown protocols and procedures to all school staff.
- Planning and conducting lockdown drills on a regular basis, evaluating the results, and making any necessary changes to the protocol and procedures.

This bill does not prescribe any of these specific actions, but presumably these would be steps that a school would undertake to comply with the requirement in the bill to have procedures for lockdown training.

***Proposed committee amendments:***

- 1) This bill defines “a lockdown” as a situation that presents an immediate and ongoing danger to the safety of pupils, faculty, staff, and visitors by a person using firearms or other types of weapons or displaying erratic behavior”. ***Committee staff recommends*** that this definition be amended to clarify that a lockdown is a response to a situation involving danger to the safety of the pupils and staff of the school by a person or persons using firearms or other types of weapons or engaging in behaviors deemed to pose a threat to the safety of the school.
- 2) This bill requires all schools to develop procedures for lockdown training. In order to ensure that such trainings reflect the role of law enforcement and other first responders, and to ensure that the psychological and emotional needs of students and staff are fully considered in the development of lockdown trainings, or drills, ***committee staff recommends*** that the bill be amended to require schools to consult with local first responder agencies and mental health professionals in the development of lockdown trainings.

***Similar or prior legislation.*** AB 1747 (Rodriguez) of this Session expands the required elements of school safety plans, including procedures to respond to active shooter situations, requires schools to conduct annual active shooter drills, and requires the CDE to provide additional guidance and oversight of safety plans. This bill is pending in the Senate Education Committee.

AB 58 (Rodriguez) of the 2015-16 Session makes each COE the entity responsible for the overall development of all comprehensive school safety plans and requires school safety plans to include procedures in response to individuals with guns on school campuses. This bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 49 (Lieu) of the 2013-14 Session requires school safety plans to include procedures related to response to a person with a gun on campus, extends from annually to every third year the frequency of review of safety plans, and requires charter school petitions to include a description of a school safety plan, as specified. This bill was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 680 (Block), Chapter 438, Statutes of 2011, authorizes a school district or COE, in consultation with law enforcement officials, to choose not to have its schoolsite council develop and write those portions of its comprehensive school safety plan that include tactical responses to criminal incidents that may result in death or serious bodily injury at the schoolsite and authorizes, instead, school district and COE administrators to write those portions of the school safety plan.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:****Support**

Orange County Sheriff's Department (Sponsor)  
California Catholic Conference, Inc  
California State PTA  
Peace Officers Research Association of California

**Opposition**

None on file

**Analysis Prepared by:** Debbie Look / ED. / (916) 319-2087