

S.C. Code Ann. § 59-63-910 (formerly S.709)

Pursuant to Section 59-63-910, “All public schools, including charter schools whose instruction is not primarily delivered online, shall conduct fire, active shooter/intruder, and severe weather/earthquake drills. Within each school year, schools **must conduct at least ... two active shooter/intruder drills** ... with at least one of each drill conducted each semester.” [Please note that this law does not amend § 405.2 of the S.C. Fire Code, which requires monthly fire and evacuation drills]. Further, the State Department of Education (SCDE) and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) are directed to “develop guidelines for the conduct of active shooter/intruder training required in this section, and developmentally appropriate training materials.” In addition, Section 59-63-910 directs that the “principal or charter school leader of each school shall comply with the requirements of Section 59-63-910 and document their compliance.”

Guidelines for Active Shooter/Intruder Drills

There are several nationally recognized training methods addressing this topic. SLED currently teaches the Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) method; however, other functionally equivalent training methods, such as ALICE, ALERT, Run/Hide/Fight, etc., also provide a satisfactory level of instruction and would be acceptable to use. SLED will evaluate any method of active shooter/intruder training upon the request of a school, a school district, or any local law enforcement authority to ensure that all training conducted pursuant to Section 59-63-910 meets appropriate minimum standards and maintain a list of those programs.

Any and all active shooter/intruder drills should be conducted in a manner that is developmentally appropriate for the participants. Consideration should be given to preparing drill logistics that ensure the physical and psychological safety of participants while maximizing skill development and knowledge acquisition. All drills shall be inclusive and account for the differentiated needs of participants. Necessary accommodations for participants with disabilities shall be provided.

Schools are encouraged to engage local and/or state law enforcement officials and school mental health professionals in the planning, monitoring, assessment, and execution of such drills. Any school wishing to have specific assistance in the planning, implementation or assessment of active shooter/intruder drills may contact SLED or local law enforcement authorities.

To the extent possible, all school personnel should participate in all active shooter/intruder drills.

Guidelines for Training Materials

All faculty and staff at every school should receive active shooter/intruder and security training at least twice per year. While in person training allows for question and answer sessions, active shooter/intruder and security training can be either in person or through video or online presentations. Any school wishing to have training may contact SLED or local law enforcement authorities as appropriate.

All training and materials provided to students must be developmentally appropriate. Training provided in elementary schools should be focused toward staff and the protection of students.

The SCDE and SLED may partner with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, other school mental health professionals, or the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs to ensure that training materials are developmentally appropriate and accessible for all students, including students with disabilities.