

TENNESSEE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION		
SCHOOL SAFETY		3201
ADOPTED: April 9, 2021	REVISED:	MONITORING: Review: Annually

Each authorized charter school shall adopt procedures for keeping school facilities safe and free from hazards to the life and safety of children and teachers. The school is responsible for ensuring that safety is a part of the instructional program of the school and that it is appropriately geared to students at different grade levels.¹ Necessary precautions shall be taken to minimize the possibilities of fire, explosion, and comparable dangerous incidents from occurring. All staff members shall report current and potential hazards to their immediate supervisor(s). All staff members shall be periodically reminded of their responsibility for promptly reporting both current and potential hazards to their supervisors. Supervisors are expected to promptly and effectively follow up on these reports.

The safety program shall include:

- (1) Fire prevention;
- (2) Accident prevention;
- (3) Warning systems;
- (4) Emergency drills (fire, severe weather, earthquake, and intruder);
- (5) Traffic safety;
- (6) Traffic and parking controls;
- (7) Safety inspections;
- (8) First aid;
- (9) Disaster preparation; and
- (10) A disaster preparedness plan for a nuclear or other major emergency.

SAVE Act.² The Commission will utilize the template created by the state-level safety team to develop and adopt a district-wide emergency response plan. The district emergency response plan shall be developed by a district school safety team and approved by the Director of Schools. Additionally, each authorized charter school shall utilize the template created by the state-level safety team to prepare a building-level emergency response plan developed by the building-level school safety team.

The emergency response plan shall address, at minimum, crisis intervention, emergency response, and emergency management.

Any meeting concerning school security or school safety plans shall not be subject to the open meetings laws defined in state law. Though closed to the general public, reasonable notice of the meeting shall be provided to the general public prior to such a meeting. The school's governing

board and/or the Commission shall not discuss or deliberate on any other issues or subjects during such a meeting.

The school and the Commission shall provide the school's and district's emergency response plans, as well as information, records, and plans that are related to school security to the local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the school.

The district-wide school safety team shall be appointed by the Director of Schools and shall include all members as required by law. A building-level school safety team shall be appointed by the building school leader and shall include all members as required by law.³ The emergency response plan shall be reviewed by the appropriate school safety team on at least an annual basis and updated as needed.

The Commission shall file a copy of its comprehensive district emergency response plan with the Commissioner of Education, and all amendments to the plan shall be filed with the Commissioner no later than thirty (30) days after their adoption. A copy of the building-level school emergency response plan and any amendments to the plan shall be filed with the appropriate local law enforcement agency and with the Department of Safety within thirty (30) days of their adoption.

School emergency response plans shall be confidential and shall not be subject to any open or public records requirements.

A school may ask the Commission to seek grant funding from the school safety center to assist with compliance.⁴ The school shall ensure that all safety and emergency response plans required by this part are developed in such a manner as to be consistent with harassment and bullying policies.⁵

The school may adopt a policy addressing who can possess a firearm on school property compliant with all state and federal laws, rules, and regulations.⁶ The school shall post in prominent locations about the school a sign, at least six inches high and fourteen inches wide stating: "FELONY. STATE LAW PRESCRIBES A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF SIX (6) YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE NOT TO EXCEED THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000) FOR CARRYING WEAPONS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY."⁷

Cyber-Security. Each authorized charter school shall adopt a policy surrounding cyber security preparedness to identify cyber security risk, implement mitigation planning, and protect cyber infrastructure against cyber attacks and other cyber security threats and incidents. For purposes of this policy, cyber security includes the definition set forth by T.C.A. § 49-6-805(9).⁸

School Safety Zones.⁹ A school may develop a method of marking school safety zones, including the use of signs. Signs or other markings shall be located in a visible manner on or near the school indicating that such area is a school safety zone, that such zone extends 1,000 feet from school property and that the delivery or sale of a controlled substance or controlled substance analogue to a minor in the school safety zone will subject the offender to an enhanced punishment. The district shall assist the school in complying with the preceding provisions, as needed.

As defined for this section:

- (1) School property means all property used for school purposes, including, but not limited to, school playgrounds; and
- (2) A school safety zone is the territory located within 1,000 feet of school property.

Safety Instruction. Whenever any state funds are used in any of the public schools of the state, it is the duty of the school leader of the school or schools, including all other school administrators and teachers, to instruct pupils in the art of safety against injury on the public thoroughfares, highways and streets of the state, and other places where the students may come in contact with, or be in danger of, bodily injury, for at least fifteen (15) minutes in each week during the time the school is in session.¹⁰

Each authorized charter school shall comply with all state laws with regard to laboratory safety and toxic art supplies.¹¹

Legal References:

¹ T.C.A. § 49-6-1024

² T.C.A. §§ 49-6-801- 815

³ T.C.A. § 49-6-806

⁴ T.C.A. § 49-6-4302

⁵ T.C.A. § 49-6-4503; T.C.A. § 49-6-812

⁶ T.C.A. § 49-6-815; T.C.A. § 39-11-106; T.C.A. §§ 39-17-1350- 1351

⁷ T.C.A. § 39-17-1309

⁸ [T.C.A. § 49-6-805\(9\)](#)

⁹ T.C.A. § 49-2-116

¹⁰ T.C.A. § 49-6-1003

¹¹ T.C.A. § 49-50-501; T.C.A. §§ 49-50-1201- 1204

Cross References:

Emergency Preparedness 3202