



201 TOWNSEND STREET, SUITE 7400  
 P.O. BOX 30036  
 LANSING, MI 48909-7536  
 PHONE: (517) 373-2420  
 TOLL-FREE: (866) DIST-022  
 FAX: (517) 373-2764  
 SenLTheis@senate.michigan.gov

MICHIGAN STATE SENATOR

**LANA THEIS**

22ND DISTRICT

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

COMMITTEES:

INSURANCE AND BANKING, CHAIR  
 EDUCATION AND CAREER READINESS, CHAIR  
 ADVICE AND CONSENT, VICE CHAIR  
 REGULATORY REFORM, VICE CHAIR  
 HEALTH POLICY AND HUMAN SERVICES  
 OVERSIGHT  
 JOINT COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES  
 APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON K-12 AND  
 MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Doug A. Ringler, CPA, CIA  
 Auditor General  
 Office of the Auditor General  
 201 N. Washington Square, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Mr. Ringler,

After the recent events that occurred at Oxford Public Schools, I began to research the status of the safety drills outlined in MCL 29.19(5) and what I found was alarming.

Under PA 207 of 1941 section (19), subsection (5), school districts are currently required to conduct:

“A minimum of 3 drills in which the occupants are restricted to the interior of the building and the building secured is required for each school year at a school that operates any of grades kindergarten to 12. At least 1 of these drills shall be conducted by December 1 of the school year, and at least 1 shall be conducted after January 1 of the school year, with a reasonable spacing interval between each drill. A drill conducted under this subsection shall include security measures that are appropriate to an emergency such as the release of a hazardous material or the presence of a potentially dangerous individual on or near the premises. The governing body of a school shall seek input from the administration of the school and local public safety officials on the nature of the drills to be conducted under this subsection.”

Furthermore, subsection (11) of that section states, “The department of state police emergency management and homeland security division shall develop a model to be used by a school in conducting a drill under subsection (5).”

Public Act 207 of 1941 also contains reporting requirements under section (19), subsections (7) and (8).

“For a school that operates any of grades kindergarten to 12, the governing body of the school shall ensure that documentation of a completed school safety drill is

posted on its website within 30 school days after the drill is completed and is maintained on the website for at least 3 years. For a school operated by a school district or intermediate school district, the documentation may be posted on the district website. The documentation posted on the website shall include at least all of the following:

- (a) The name of the school.
- (b) The school year of the drill.
- (c) The date and time of the drill.
- (d) The type of drill completed.
- (e) The number of completed drills for that school year for each type of drill required under subsections (3) to (5).
- (f) The signature of the school principal or his or her designee acknowledging the completion of the drill.
- (g) The name of the individual in charge of conducting the drill, if other than the school principal.

(8) Not later than September 15 of each school year, the chief administrator of a school that operates any of grades kindergarten to 12, or his or her designee, shall provide a list of the scheduled drill days for the school buildings operated by the school, school district, intermediate school district, or public school academy to the county emergency management coordinator appointed under section 9 of the emergency management act, 1976 PA 390, MCL 30.409. A scheduled drill that is not conducted on a scheduled drill day due to conditions not within the control of school authorities, such as severe storms, fires, epidemics, utility power unavailability, water or sewer failure, or health conditions as defined by the city, county, or state health authorities, will not result in a violation of this section as long as the school conducts the minimum number of drills required under subsections (3), (4), and (5), the school reschedules the drill to occur within 10 school days after the scheduled date of the canceled drill, and the chief administrator notifies the county emergency management coordinator of the rescheduled date for the drill. The county emergency management coordinator shall provide this information to the appropriate local emergency management coordinator appointed under that section, if any, and, consistent with applicable federal, state, and local emergency operations plans, to the department of state police district coordinator and the county sheriff for the county or the chief of police or fire chief for the municipality where the school is located, or the designee of the sheriff, chief of police, or fire chief. The information provided under this subsection is exempt from disclosure under the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246.”

In response to our initial inquiry on February 14, 2022, the Department of State Police stated, “...currently based on Act 207 of 1941 the schools send their annual drill schedule to the local emergency manger (EM) and the EM sends them to the State Police District Coordinators (DC) for awareness.” The Department of State Police continued, “However, the DC does not check that it has been shared with local law enforcement or fire. It is not a requirement of the

Emergency Management Grant Program (EMPG) and not collected in a statewide report that we are aware.”

This raises two serious concerns: Whether or not school districts are completing the safety drills as required in MCL 29.19(5); and that no audit has ever been conducted ensuring compliance with MCL 29.19(7).

I write today to ask that the Office of the Auditor General perform a series of audits in order to provide a comprehensive review of the following:

1. Over the past three school years, have school districts in Michigan completed the safety drills as required in MCL 29.19(5); and
2. Over the past three school years, have school districts in Michigan maintained the proper documentation and reporting requirements as outlined in MCL 29.19(7)?

Thank you so much for considering my request. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Lana Theis  
State Senator  
Michigan's 22<sup>nd</sup> District