

School Emergency Drills

2020–2021 REQUIREMENTS



As of July 1, 2019, Senate Bill 147 (from New Mexico's 54th legislature) established new school emergency drill requirements for public and private schools.

The school emergency drill requirements are as follows:

- An emergency drill shall be conducted in each public and private school once a week during the first four weeks of the school year. Of these:
 - ▶ One shall be shelter-in-place that includes preparation to respond to an active shooter;
 - ▶ One shall be an evacuation drill;
 - ▶ Two shall be fire drills.
- During the rest of the school year, each school shall conduct at least four additional emergency drills, at least two of which shall be fire drills.



In locations where a fire department is maintained, a member of the fire department shall be requested to be in attendance during emergency drills for the purpose of giving instruction and constructive criticism.

For school year 2020–2021, schools will need to meet the emergency drill obligations while maintaining social distancing requirements. In advance of any emergency drills, students and staff will need to be taught and to practice how to participate in the emergency drills while maintaining social distancing. For fire drills and evacuation drills, social distancing requirements may necessitate new or additional evacuation locations. Emergency drills in preparation for an active shooter will also likely need amended to account for social distancing.

As New Mexico public schools will be participating in hybrid (in-person and online) instructional models at the outset of the 2020–2021 school year, only part of the student body will be on campus for any particular school day. The New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) encourages emergency drills be scheduled on alternating A/B schedules in order to provide all students opportunities to practice emergency operations and sufficiently prepare for potential emergencies.

Schools are required to document their executed drills in their Safe Schools Plans. Schools submit Emergency Drill Assurances to NMPED when their Safe Schools Plans are up for review, triennially.