

# STATE OF KANSAS

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DOUG JORGENSEN, STATE FIRE MARSHAL

July 13, 2018

Attention All Superintendents and Principals

The Office of the State Fire Marshal will be issuing a State-Wide Variance of the Kansas Fire Prevention Code, K.A.R. 22-18-2(a). The recent passing of House Substitute for Senate Bill 109, taking effect July 1, 2018, amends K.S.A. 31-133 with a new legislative initiative requiring 16 emergency preparedness drills during the school year.

There was no individual bill passed by the legislature and the changes were made under the "State Fire Marshal" appropriations and are detailed on page 41 of the above appropriations bill:

expenditures shall be made by the above agency from such moneys appropriated from any special revenue fund or funds for fiscal year 2019 to require administrators of public and private schools and educational institutions, except community colleges, colleges and universities, to conduct at least 16 emergency preparedness drills during the school year at some time during school hours, aside from the regular dismissal at the close of the day's session, and to prescribe the manner in which such emergency preparedness drills are to be conducted: Provided, That such emergency preparedness drills shall include at least: (1) Four fire drills; (2) three tornado drills conducted pursuant to the tornado procedures established by administrators of public and private schools and educational institutions, except community colleges, colleges and universities and subject to approval by the state fire marshal; and (3) nine crisis drills that shall include, but not be limited to, intruder response drills and lockdown drills.

Current state regulations prohibit emergency preparedness drills from being announced beforehand. Due to concerns from several Kansas school administrators that these types of drills could be used by individuals meaning harm to the students and staff in the school, our office is issuing a statewide variance allowing the emergency preparedness drills (Fire, Tornado and Crisis Drills) to be pre-announced with the following stipulation: that the Emergency Preparedness Drill (Fire, Tornado and Crisis Drills) only be announced within 5 minutes of the drill taking place.

If you have any further questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact our office at 785-296-3401