

Silent Panic Alert Technology (SPAT)

1. Can you clarify what constitutes the ability for a substitute to trigger an alarm?
Substitutes would need access to the system and/or button and have the ability to trigger an alert in the event of an emergency.
2. Can we get the rule for SPAT?
Silent Panic Alert Technology is included in the School Safety Standards, 19 TAC 61.1031. Please see the rule here: <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/laws-and-rules/commissioner-rules-tac/coe-tac-currently-in-effect/ch061cc.pdf>
3. Can you have a cell phone based SPAT system?
Installation on personal devices could possibly constitute usage on a district-controlled device if installation were accompanied by policies controlling consistent availability and accessibility of those devices to satisfy SPAT rule requirements.
4. Does an alert have to be silent only? What are the silent component requirements?
Requirements for SPAT can be found in (c)(10) of the School Safety Standards rule.
5. For the silent panic alert - can it be an icon on the teacher's desktop?
It would also have to meet the other requirements of the SPAT system. Feel free to email us at safeschools@tea.texas.gov to discuss further.
6. Does Raptor software qualify as a SPAT?
TEA cannot recommend or otherwise endorse a specific vendor for Silent Panic Alert Technology. Please speak with potential vendors regarding their ability to comply with SPAT requirements.
7. Why does SPAT have to be school owned? We were also wanting to train mature, responsible students. Most of the cell phone apps do not come with all components. Please provide clarification.
Installation on personal devices could possibly constitute usage on a district-controlled device if installation were accompanied by policies controlling consistent availability and accessibility of those devices to satisfy SPAT rule requirements..
8. Does dialing 9-1-1 from the classroom phone meet the silent panic requirement? Admin & law enforcement is immediately notified of the name and location of the 9-1-1 call.
It would also have to meet the other requirements of the SPAT system.
9. For the panic button, does a VOIP Phone in the classroom with the capability to call 9-1-1 satisfy the requirement?
It would also have to meet the other requirements of the SPAT system.

Exterior Secured Area

Fencing

10. Would fencing requirements also include the fencing that is around a playground?
No, it would not. Fencing is not a required component of the rule, and existing fencing does not need to be modified unless the campus needs the added flexibility of the Exterior Secured Area, as outlined in the rule.
11. Would a school with a small practice Football Field need a non-scalable fence?
No
12. Would a 1 strand of barbed wire on top of the fence meet the requirement for non-scalable?
Razor wire is not an allowable cost for School Safety Allotment funding. Feel free to email us at safeschools@tea.texas.gov to discuss further.

Forced Entry-Resistant Film

13. If we apply Film on all doors and windows, it's not required to have fencing?
Correct, however, a few points to clarify - fencing is not a requirement, but it is allowable to ensure operational flexibility. If you cannot reinforce windows or need to allow certain doors to remain unlocked during the instructional day, then you would need to fence in those areas to create a secured area. Additionally, not all windows need to be reinforced, only those that are adjacent to or near exterior doors.
14. "I understand that not all windows need to be reinforced because they are not near the door. What if the window is large enough for someone to fit through?
Only windows that are adjacent to or near exterior doors need to be reinforced.
15. What is the minimum requirement for resistant film?
Given the vast differences in needs across the state there is not a specific standard other than it has to be forced-entry resistant. The film or glass standard used is a local decision.
16. How can people get out of a window if there is an emergency, fire, etc. in the interior of the building if the film is on the classroom windows?
By design, windows are not intended for evacuation. Schools should follow the fire evacuation routes established prior to implementation of the School Safety Standards.
17. Are we saying now that the entire glass entrance need impact resistance film? The entire entrance in lots of scenarios touch that entry door?
Identifying the windows that are "near" exterior doors is a local decision.

Grant Funding

18. How do we apply for the SB30 funding?

The new funding will come in the form of a grant; the first cycle is expected to be launched in September.

19. If we submitted the School Safety Grant in June, when can we expect to receive a NOGA?
The team is working through those applications, but if you email us at safeschools@tea.texas.gov, we can connect you to our grants team for more information.
20. We are having trouble gaining quotes for the services in order to provide vendor names on the Safety Standards grant application.
Please contact safeschools@tea.texas.gov so we can assist.
21. When do you need to apply for the 2023-2025 Safety Grant?
The application deadline is 8/1/2023.
22. Once we have certified that we are compliant, we would like to use the grant funds for badge access. Are we only allowed to use the funds on instructional buildings? Or does it expand to other settings such as auxiliary buildings, warehouse, central office, etc.?
Yes, badge access is an allowable cost once compliant.

Secure Master Key Box

23. The Knox Box requirement confuses me - we are doing a lot to reinforce and prevent entry, but placing a key outside that an intruder could gain access to - that does not seem to make good sense.
A secure master key box (e.g., Knox box) is not the only allowable manner by which to provide access to first responders. Please see section (c)(9) of the rule: <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/laws-and-rules/commissioner-rules-tac/coe-tac-currently-in-effect/ch061cc.pdf>, 07/24/2023

Exterior Door Numbering

24. We have already numbered our exterior doors at all buildings but now we have added a portable building at our elementary school, how do we need to number that portable building?
Please contact safeschools@tea.texas.gov so we can assist.