

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) adopts the repeal of §61.1031, concerning school safety requirements. The repeal is adopted without changes to the proposed text as published in the March 27, 2026 issue of the *Texas Register* (51 TexReg 1949) and will not be republished. The repeal relocates the requirements to new 19 TAC §103.1215. The new rule includes updates to implement House Bill (HB) 3 and Senate Bill (SB) 838, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, and HB 33 and HB 121, 89th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, and clarifies requirements for school safety.

REASONED JUSTIFICATION: Section 61.1031 prescribes minimum school safety standards to address the safety of students and staff in Texas public schools. The adopted repeal of §61.1031 moves the requirements to new §103.1215. The relocation is necessary due to a comprehensive reorganization of 19 TAC Chapter 61.

Adopted new §103.1215 was updated to modify the definition for "exterior secured area"; clarify the applicability of the safety standards; address security reviews required under TEC, §37.1087; update alert requirements; and require door numbering site plans to be provided to emergency service districts.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND AGENCY RESPONSES: The public comment period on the proposal began March 27, 2026, and ended April 27, 2026. Following is a summary of the public comment received and the agency response.

Comment: A Texas administrator commented that, while the proposal is framed as a relocation of existing requirements with updates tied to recent legislation, it represents yet another shift in rule structure that adds complexity for school systems without clear benefit, further stating that this type of administrative restructuring contributes to compliance burden rather than enhancing safety practices.

Response: The agency disagrees that the repeal and relocation create unnecessary confusion or lack substantive value. The purpose of the restructuring is to consolidate school safety requirements to improve accessibility, consistency, and long-term clarity across the administrative code. Relocating provisions does not alter substantive obligations but instead reduces fragmentation.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The repeal is proposed under Texas Education Code (TEC), §7.061, which requires the commissioner of education to adopt and amend rules to ensure a safe and secure environment for public schools, which includes best practices for design and construction of new facilities and improving, renovating, and retrofitting existing facilities. The section requires the commissioner to review all rules by September 1 of each even-numbered year and take action as necessary to ensure school facilities for school districts and open-enrollment charter schools continue to provide a safe and secure environment; TEC, §37.1083, which establishes the Office of School Safety and Security within the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and charges TEA with monitoring the implementation and operation requirements of school district safety and security. Monitoring efforts must include technical assistance related to multihazard emergency operations plans and safety and security audits. Further, the statute establishes that any document or information collected, identified, developed, or produced related to the monitoring of district safety and security is confidential under Texas Government Code, §418.177 and §418.181, making them not subject to disclosure under Texas Government Code, Chapter 552. Subsection (k) allows the commissioner to adopt rules as necessary to implement the section; TEC, §37.115(b), which allows TEA, in coordination with the Texas School Safety Center, to adopt rules to establish a safe and supportive school program, including providing for physical and psychological safety; TEC, §37.117, which requires that each school district or open-enrollment charter school have silent alert panic technology allowing for immediate contact with district or school emergency services and emergency services agencies, law enforcement agencies, health departments, and fire departments. The statute also requires that each school district and open-enrollment charter school provide the Department of Public Safety, local law enforcement, and emergency first responders an accurate map of each district campus and school campus, in accordance with standards outlined in TEC, §37.351. Additionally, school systems must provide these emergency services personnel an opportunity to conduct a walk-through of each campus and school building using the map provided; TEC, §37.351, which requires school districts to comply with each school facilities standard, including performance standards and operational requirements, related to safety and security adopted under TEC, §7.061, or provided by other law or TEA rule. Additionally, school districts must develop and maintain documentation of the district's implementation of and compliance with school safety and security facilities standards for each district facility; and TEC, §37.355, which outlines that any document or information collected, identified, developed, or produced relating to a safety or security requirement under TEC, Chapter 37, Subchapter J,

is confidential under Texas Government Code, §418.177 and §418.181, and not subject to disclosure under Texas Government Code, Chapter 552.

CROSS REFERENCE TO STATUTE. The repeal implements Texas Education Code, §§7.061, 37.1083, 37.115(b), 37.117, 37.351, and 37.355.

<rule>

§61.1031. School Safety Requirements.