

School Safety Updates

November 17, 2022

School Safety Standards Rule - Overview

- TAA announced proposed rule language and supporting grant opportunities on November 3, 2022
- Creates minimum safety standards for all pre-existing instructional facilities
- Creates minimum safety operating requirements, e.g., weekly exterior door sweeps
- Includes annual maintenance requirements to ensure proper upkeep and ongoing operability
- 2022-2023 SY - School systems must certify requirements are met starting with the 2022-23 school year
- August 2023 - Deadline to have contractor procured with a final timeline to complete all work required

Instructional Facilities

Instructional facility--this term has the meaning assigned in Texas Education Code (TEC), §46.001, and includes any real property, an improvement to real property, or a necessary fixture of an improvement to real property that is used predominantly for teaching curriculum under TEC, §28.002. For purposes of this section, an instructional facility does not include real property, improvements to real property, or necessary fixtures of an improvement to real property that are part of a federal, state, or private correctional facility or facility of an institution of higher education, medical provider, or other provider of professional or social services over which a school system has no control.

School Safety Standards Rule – Components

Exterior Doors, exterior Classroom doors, portable doors, must operate as intended and be constructed of material that make them resistant to entry by an intruder. All exterior doors are required to be closed, latched, and locked, unless within a secured area or actively monitored by an adult.

Windowed doors on the ground level or windows that are adjacent to or near a door and are large enough to allow someone to enter if broken must be reinforced with entry-resistant film unless within a secured area.

Other facility components that are required in the proposed rule include exterior door numbering, radio signal repeaters (where needed), and exterior secure master key lock boxes.

Definition of Secured Area

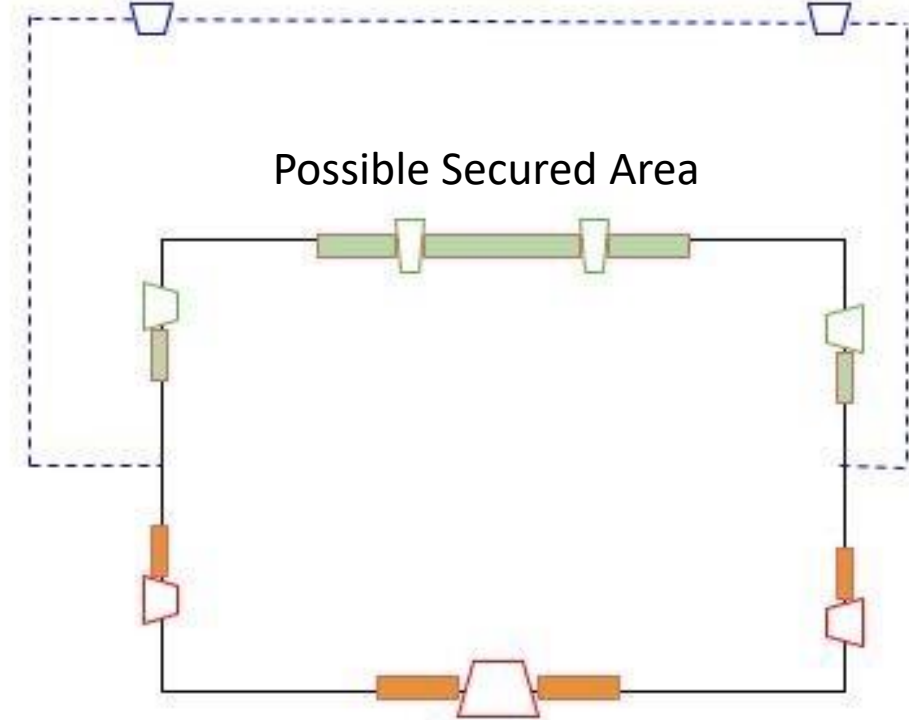
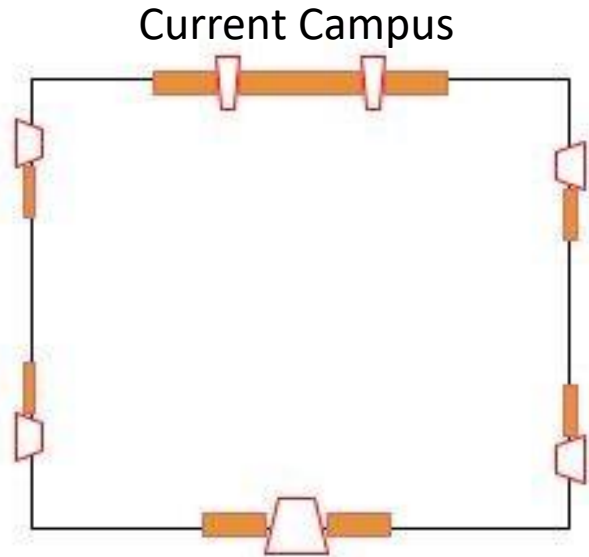
Exterior secured area--an area fully enclosed by a fence and/or wall that:

- (A) if enclosed by a fence or wall, utilizes a fence or wall at least 6 feet high with design features that prevent it from being easily scalable, such as stone, wrought iron, chain link with slats or wind screen, or chain link topped with an anti-scaling device, or utilizes a fence or wall at least 8 feet high;
- (B) is well maintained; and
- (C) if gated, features locked gates with emergency egress hardware and has features to prevent opening from the exterior without a key or combination mechanism.

A secured area and security fencing is not a required component of the rule but is provided as means to allow operational flexibility within the instructional facility.

Secured Area Examples

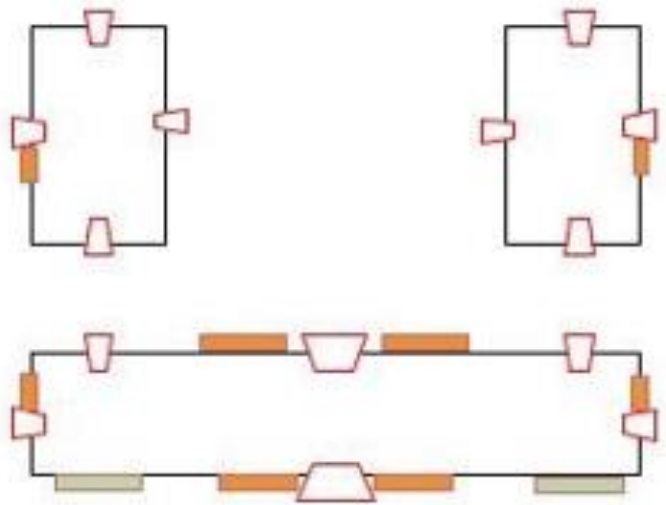
-  Exterior Door - Required to be locked and reinforced if glass
-  Exterior Door - Not required to be locked or reinforced if glass
-  Emergency egress gate - Required to remain closed and locked
-  Ground window required to be reinforced
-  Ground window not required to be reinforced
-  Secured Fencing



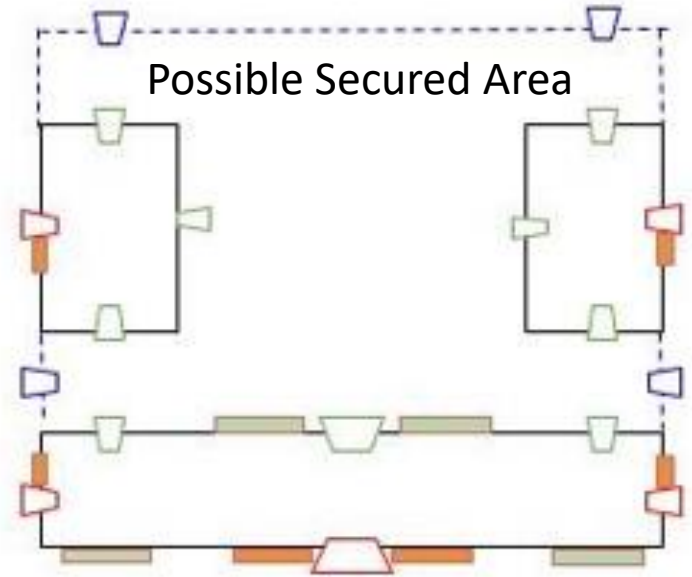
	Original Plan	With Possible Secured Area
Does this require fencing a new secured area?	No	Yes
Does this require fencing upgrades?	No	No
Total Number of Exterior Doors	7	7
Total Number of Exterior Doors that would need to be reinforced and would need to remain closed, latched and locked	7	3
Number of Windows Near or Adjacent to Doors	9	9
Number of Windows Near or Adjacent to Doors that would need reinforcement	9	4

-  Exterior Door - Required to be locked and reinforced if glass
-  Exterior Door - Not required to be locked or reinforced if glass
-  Emergency egress gate - Required to remain closed and locked
-  Ground window required to be reinforced
-  Ground window not required to be reinforced
- Secured Fencing

Current Campus

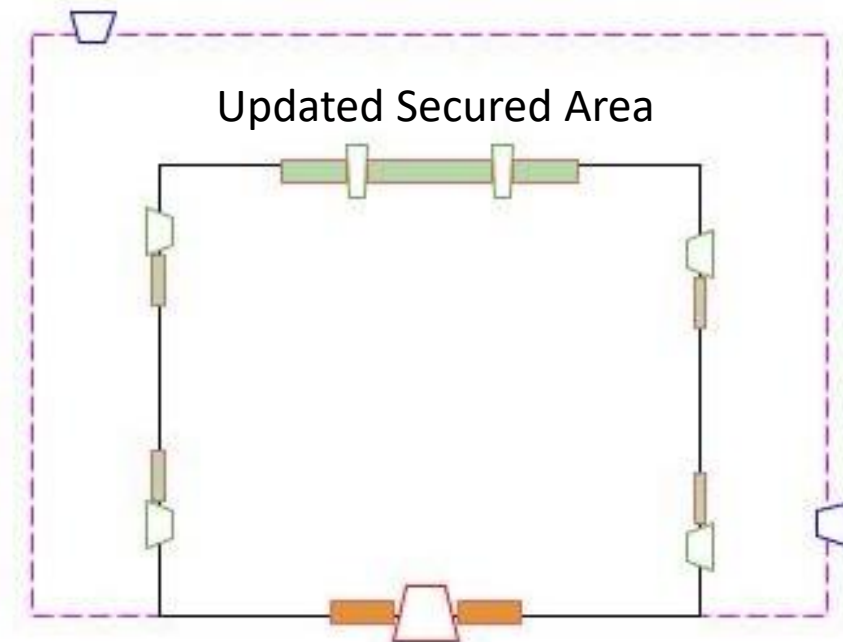
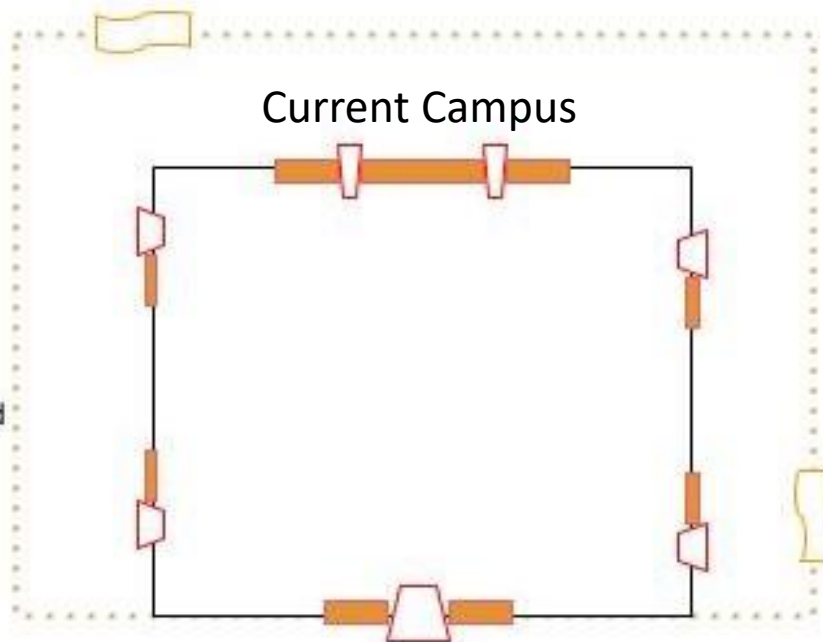


Possible Secured Area



	Original Plan	With Possible Secured Area
Does this require fencing a new secured area?	No	Yes
Does this require fencing upgrades?	No	No
Total Number of Exterior Doors	14	14
Total Number of Exterior Doors that would need to be reinforced and would need to remain closed, latched and locked	14	5
Number of Windows Near or Adjacent to Doors	8	8
Number of Windows Near or Adjacent to Doors that would need reinforcement	8	6

-  Exterior Door - Required to be locked and reinforced if glass
-  Exterior Door - Not required to be locked or reinforced if glass
-  Emergency egress gate - Required to remain closed and locked
-  Ground window required to be reinforced
-  Ground window not required to be reinforced
-  Non-compliant existing fence
-  Existing fence with upgrades
-  Opening in fence



	Original Plan	With Possible Secured Area
Does this require fencing a new secured area?	No	No
Does this require fencing upgrades?	No	Yes
Total Number of Exterior Doors	7	7
Total Number of Exterior Doors that would need to be reinforced and would need to remain closed, latched and locked	7	1
Number of Windows Near or Adjacent to Doors	9	9
Number of Windows Near or Adjacent to Doors that would need reinforcement	9	2

School Safety Standards Rule – Components

A communications infrastructure shall be implemented that must:

- (B) include a panic alert button, duress, or equivalent alarm system, via standalone hardware or integrated into other telecommunications devices, that includes the following functionality.
 - (i) An alert must be capable of being triggered manually by campus staff.
 - (ii) An alert must be triggered automatically in the event a district employee calls 911 using the hardware described in this subparagraph from any location within the school system.
 - (iii) With any alert generated, the location of where the alert originated shall be included.
 - (iv) The alert must notify a set of designated school administrators as needed to provide confirmation of response, and, if confirmed, notice must be issued to law enforcement and emergency responder agencies of an emergency situation requiring a law enforcement and/or emergency response. A notice can simultaneously be issued to all school staff of the need to follow appropriate emergency procedures.
 - (v) For any exterior doors that feature electronic locking mechanisms that allow for remote locking, the alert system will trigger those doors to automatically lock and to automatically notify relevant campus staff of any door where the lock cannot engage.

2023-2025 School Safety Standards Grant

- Will be ready to release in a few weeks.
- Pre-award back to June 1, 2022
- Allowable costs include School Safety Rule Components as well as items allowed in SB500 and the School Safety Allotment.
- LEAs must comply with the rule first before spending on items outside the scope of the rule.
- \$200k floor for small rural schools.
- LEAs must be participating in any required school safety audits now and in the future.

Silent Panic Alert Technology (SPAT) Grant

- Released on October 28, 2022
- Required components are aligned with School Safety Standards Rule
- Formula based grant
- Grant allocations are posted on the [Grant Entitlements webpage](#).
- The grant application is available on the [TEA Grant Opportunities page](#).
 - NOTE: You must be an authorized eGrants system user to access the application.
- See the [School Safety Related Grant Programs webpage here](#).

Questions?

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