

In accordance with House Bill 33 (89R Legislative Session), effective September 1, 2025, each school system must have at least one breaching tool and one ballistic shield available at each campus. The following is guidance related to these required tools.

Breaching Tools

Breaching tools are devices designed to break through doors, windows, gates, and other barriers, allowing access to restricted or fortified spaces. These tools are commonly used by emergency responders to access buildings, vehicles, and other locked enclosures. Manual breaching tools can include, but are not limited to:

- Halligan Tool
- Sledgehammers, with the recommended weight ranging from 8 to 12 pounds
- Door rams, and
- Pry bars

School systems should determine which tool or combination of tools would best meet their needs during an active incident. Tool examples are provided below.



Ballistic Shields

Ballistic shields are designed to stop or deflect projectiles. A recommended feature of ballistic shields includes a carrying system that allows them to be held long-term without fatigue. The recommended sizes for ballistic shields vary based on intended use, with common sizing being between 20x30 inches and 24x36 inches.

The materials used to fabricate a shield are engineered to stop specific ballistic threats. Ballistic shields are rated according to the National Institute of Justice's (NIJ) Threat Protection Levels IIA – IV. Level IIA is the lightest and most maneuverable armor, and Level IV is the heaviest but most protective shield available. NIJ's recommended minimum protection level for ballistic shields is Level IIIA. For enhanced protection against rifles, school systems should consider Level III or higher. Shield examples are provided below.





Device Storage

Proper storage ensures that tools will remain in good condition and are ready for use when needed. When storing equipment, school systems should:

- Keep items in a cool, dry place
- Do not stack other items on top of the equipment
- Store ballistic shields in protective carry bags when not deployed

School systems should conduct a district-wide assessment to determine the appropriate area for storage, ensuring ease in access by first responders during a crisis event. School systems are encouraged to consult with local law enforcement when deciding on an appropriate storage location.

Funding Options

School Safety Allotment

Ballistic shields and breaching tools are allowable purchases with School Safety Allotment funds.

SAFE Grant Cycle 2, Tier 2

Ballistic shields and breaching tools are allowable purchases for the SAFE Grant Cycle 2, Tier 2.

Note: School districts must be compliant with the School Safety Facilities Standards, [19 Texas Administrative Code, §61.1031](#), to be eligible to purchase Tier 2 items.