

MEMORANDUM

To: School Superintendents and Principals

From: David Woodward, Director of School Building Physical Security & Safety
Office of Indiana School Safety Specialist Academy

Date: May 18, 2018

Re: 2018 Special Session House Enrolled Act 1230 – School Safety (IC 22-11-17-2)

Background:

The Indiana General Assembly recently passed legislation addressing unplanned fire alarm activation and blocking or barricading doors. Effective May 14, 2018 any school with one or more employees may barricade or block a door for up to three minutes during an unplanned fire alarm activation. This will allow a designated school official to investigate the source of the alarm. After the three minute period expires, the school must initiate an evacuation of the building unless an active shooter has been verified. If an active shooter is verified on school grounds, doors may remain barricaded or blocked and an evacuation of the building is not required.

Guidance:

It is not required that doors be barricaded in the event of an unplanned fire alarm. The state fire marshal will issue guidance on or before August 1, 2018, and schools may choose to wait for this guidance. If schools proceed, it is highly recommended that school officials consult with their local fire marshal, insurance carrier, and legal counsel before a policy is put in place. If it is determined that a three minute delay will be allowed during an unplanned fire alarm activation, please ensure all corporation and building safety plans reflect the new protocol. Any revisions of a safety plan should be approved by the local school board, authorizing agency or governing committee.

If you have any questions, please contact David Woodward at (317) 232-6975 or email dwoodar@doe.in.gov.