

**JUNE  
2019**

501 Shelley Drive • Tyler, TX 75701 • (800) 765-2412 • [www.cas-services.com](http://www.cas-services.com)

# CAS Connection

## TEXAS SENATE BILL 11 SUMMARY UPDATE

Thursday, June 6, 2019, the Texas Legislature officially passed Senate Bill 11 (SB11) which specifically addresses policies, procedures, and measures for school safety and mental health promotion in Texas public schools. SB11 also establishes the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium as a collaboration of health-related institutions of higher education in an effort to leverage their expertise and capacity of mental health care systems specifically relating to children and adolescents.



### What does this mean for Texas public schools?

Texas schools are likely to experience significant changes to policies and procedures regarding school safety preparedness and mental health training and education during the 2019-2020 school year. The Texas Education Agency and Texas Security Center are currently developing rules and regulations pertaining to SB11, and districts should expect to start receiving updates in the coming months.

## How does SB11 pertain to risk management?

SB11 outlines many strategies aimed at "hardening" the current atmosphere of school safety and security which include specific changes that pertain to risk related topics such as:

### **MULTI-HAZARD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANS AND DRILLS**

- Plans must now address threat prevention strategies.
- A chain of command that outlines and identifies the final decision makers during a disaster or emergency situation must now be included with each plan.
- Immediate notification must be provided to parents, guardians, and other persons standing in parental relation in circumstances involving a significant threat to the health or safety of students.
- Plans must include provisions for supporting psychological safety of students, district personnel, and the community during the response and recovery phases of a disaster or emergency.

### **THREAT ASSESSMENTS, SAFETY AUDITS, AND REPORTING**

- Boards of trustees will be required to establish a threat assessment and a safe and supportive school team to serve at each campus of the district. Boards will adopt policies and procedures for these teams who will be responsible for implementing the safe and supportive school program.
- Teams will also be responsible for conducting threat assessments and reporting individuals who pose a potential threat to themselves or others in the district.
- Safety audits must now certify that the district used the funds provided by the school safety allotment for the purposes provided.

### **TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING**

- Districts will be required to ensure communications technology and infrastructure is adequate to allow for communication during an emergency.
- A portion of school safety allotment funds must be used to provide and maintain technology that facilitates communication and information sharing among students, personnel, and first responders in an emergency.
- All district employees, including substitute teachers, must have access to a telephone, including a cellphone, or other electronic communication device that allows for immediate contact with emergency and first responders.

## What can districts do right now?

We recommend that school administrators review SB11 and begin considering the changes that could affect your current risk management programs in the coming months. We also suggest taking some time to research any service options already available that directly address some of these changes.

## How can CAS help?

With over 27 years of experience as an administrator of risk services for public entities, CAS continually seeks new opportunities and innovative solutions to provide the highest level of service. We are happy to be a resource for any questions you might have regarding how SB11 could affect your current risk management program and provide any options you may want to consider.

We also recommend administrators consider Instant Alert Network (IAN) as a unique solution for safety and security services and technology. IAN is designed as a collaborative and integrated solution for multi-hazard emergency management programs, both internally and externally. IAN establishes a custom emergency network of every campus, staff member, and administrator in your district and integrates that network with local, county, and regional emergency responders.

## Who should we contact for questions?

- For questions related to SB11 and how it could affect your risk management program: **800-765-2412**
- For questions related to the Instant Alert Network and any services they provide: **800-428-7173**