

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3872

To require the Secretary of Education to enter into an agreement with the National Academies to conduct a study on the possible mental health effects of a lockdown drill or active shooter drill in elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. MACE, and Mr. MOSKOWITZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Education to enter into an agreement with the National Academies to conduct a study on the possible mental health effects of a lockdown drill or active shooter drill in elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “School Safety Drill
5 Research Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY AND REPORT ON MENTAL EFFECTS OF**
2 **LOCKDOWN DRILL OR ACTIVE SHOOTER**
3 **DRILL IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY**
4 **SCHOOLS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education shall
6 enter into an agreement with the National Academies of
7 Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under which the Na-
8 tional Academies shall conduct a study on the mental
9 health effects resulting from a lockdown drill or active
10 shooter drill in elementary and secondary schools.

11 (b) ELEMENTS.—The study conducted under sub-
12 section (a) shall include—

13 (1) an assessment of the extent to which a
14 lockdown drill or active shooter drill results in ad-
15 verse psychological effects on students, faculty, and
16 staff of elementary and secondary schools;

17 (2) a comparison of the mental effects of a
18 lockdown drill or active shooter drill, including—

19 (A) the effects of active shooter simula-
20 tions, full-scale lockdowns, and secured-perim-
21 eter lockouts;

22 (B) the effects of announced versus unan-
23 nounced drills; and

24 (C) the effects of drills of varying fre-
25 quencies;

1 (3) an analysis of the effects of a lockdown drill
2 or active shooter drill on—

3 (A) students of different ages or grade lev-
4 els; and

5 (B) students with intellectual or develop-
6 mental disabilities;

7 (4) the identification of best practices for—

8 (A) accommodating—

9 (i) students of different ages and
10 grade levels;

11 (ii) students and staff with a history
12 of prior trauma;

13 (iii) students for whom English is a
14 second language; and

15 (iv) students with developmental and
16 physical disabilities;

17 (B) training faculty and staff to recognize
18 traumatic stress reactions;

19 (C) the provision of mental health supports
20 during and after a drill by a school-based men-
21 tal health services provider;

22 (D) discussing school violence with stu-
23 dents; and

24 (E) keeping parents and the community in-
25 formed about drills, including—

1 (i) the type of information commu-
2 nicated to parents, emergency dispatchers,
3 and the community before and after a drill;
4 and

5 (ii) the resources given to assist par-
6 ents in talking with children about con-
7 cerns or fears related to violence at school;
8 and

9 (5) an analysis of other studies and reports ex-
10 amining the effects of a lockdown drill or active
11 shooter drill on student and staff mental health.

12 (c) REPORT.—The agreement entered into under sub-
13 section (a) shall include a requirement that, not later than
14 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the
15 National Academies shall—

16 (1) compile a report on the results of the study
17 conducted under subsection (a);

18 (2) make such report publicly available on the
19 website of the National Academies; and

20 (3) provide a briefing to Congress on the results
21 of the study conducted under subsection (a).

22 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 to carry out this
24 Act.

1 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act, the following defini-
2 tions apply:

3 (1) ACTIVE SHOOTER SIMULATION.—The term
4 “active shooter simulation” means a drill in which
5 acts mimicking an active shooter situation are simu-
6 lated, including any of the following:

7 (A) The activation of emergency alarms.

8 (B) The presence of an active shooter or
9 law enforcement officer, or both, inside a
10 school.

11 (C) The firing of a gun with blanks.

12 (D) The sound of a gun being fired.

13 (E) An attempt by an intruder to breach
14 classroom doors inside a school.

15 (F) The expectation that individuals inside
16 the school will fight an intruder.

17 (2) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.—The term “elemen-
18 tary school” has the meaning given the term in sec-
19 tion 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
20 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

21 (3) FULL-SCALE LOCKDOWN.—The term “full-
22 scale lockdown” means a drill in which all doors of
23 a school are locked, all windows of the school are
24 covered, and students and faculty must remain silent

1 and hidden, but in which an active shooter is not
2 simulated.

3 (4) LOCKDOWN DRILL OR ACTIVE SHOOTER
4 DRILL.—The term “lockdown drill or active shooter
5 drill” means a procedure in which a school practices
6 an emergency protocol designed to protect students
7 and faculty against assault by an armed assailant.

8 (5) MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDER.—
9 The term “mental health services provider” means a
10 State-licensed or State-certified school counselor,
11 school psychologist, or school social worker, or a
12 mental health professional qualified under State law
13 to provide mental health services to children and
14 adolescents.

15 (6) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-
16 ondary school” has the meaning given the term in
17 section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
18 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

19 (7) SECURED-PERIMETER LOCKOUT.—The term
20 “secured-perimeter lockout” means a drill in which
21 the outside building doors of a school are locked and
22 there is no entry or exit allowed to or from the
23 school, but teachers continue with instruction.

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