

# House Bill 2902

Sponsored by Representative GOMBERG; Senators ANDERSON, WEBER (Pre-session filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires schools to provide instruction on preparing for, and recovering from, fires, earthquakes, safety threats and natural disasters. Directs Department of Education to prepare curriculum and provide professional development.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to school emergency preparedness; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 336.071.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 336.071 is amended to read:

5 336.071. (1) All schools are required to instruct and drill students on emergency procedures so  
6 that the students can respond to an emergency without confusion or panic. The emergency proce-  
7 dures shall include drills and instruction on:

8 (a) Fires;

9 (b) Earthquakes, which shall include tsunami drills and instruction in schools in a tsunami haz-  
10 ard zone; and

11 (c) Safety threats.

12 (2)(a) Drills and instruction on fire emergencies shall include routes and methods of exiting the  
13 school building.

14 (b) Drills and instruction on earthquake emergencies shall include the earthquake emergency  
15 response procedure known as "drop, cover and hold on." A school may drill earthquake emergency  
16 response procedures in addition to "drop, cover and hold on" when the school determines, based on  
17 evaluation of specific engineering and structural issues related to a building, that "drop, cover and  
18 hold on" may not be the most effective earthquake emergency response procedure to prevent or limit  
19 injury or loss of life.

20 (c) Drills and instruction on tsunami emergencies shall include immediate evacuation after an  
21 earthquake when appropriate or after a tsunami warning to protect students against inundation by  
22 tsunamis.

23 (d) Drills and instruction on safety threats shall include:

24 (A) Procedures related to lockdown, lockout, shelter in place and evacuation; and

25 (B) Other appropriate actions to take when there is a threat to safety.

26 (3)(a) At least 30 minutes in each school month shall be used to instruct students on the emer-  
27 gency procedures described in subsection (1) of this section.

28 **(b) At least three hours in each school year shall be used to instruct students, in an**  
29 **age-appropriate manner, on preparing for, and recovering from, events that are:**

30 **(A) Described in subsection (1) of this section; and**

31 **(B) Natural disasters specific to the region where the school is located, including any**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **relevant weather-related events such as flooding, drought or excessive snowfall.**

2 [(b)] (c) At least two drills on earthquakes shall be conducted each year.

3 [(c)] (d) At least two drills on safety threats shall be conducted each year.

4 [(d)] (e) In schools in a tsunami hazard zone, at least three drills on earthquakes and tsunamis  
5 shall be conducted each year.

6 **(4) For the purpose of the instruction provided as described in subsection (3)(b) of this**  
7 **section, the Department of Education shall:**

8 **(a) Develop a curriculum and make the curriculum available to school districts; and**

9 **(b) Provide professional development to teachers and administrators relating to the cur-**  
10 **riculum.**

11 [(4)] (5) All schools shall maintain all exit doors so that the doors can be opened from the inside  
12 without a key during school hours.

13 [(5)] (6) Units of local government and state agencies associated with emergency procedures  
14 training and planning shall:

15 (a) Review emergency procedures proposed by schools; and

16 (b) Assist schools in the instruction and drilling of students in emergency procedures.

17 [(6)] (7) As used in this section, “school” means any:

18 (a) Kindergarten through grade 12 public or private school; or

19 (b) Educational institution having an average daily attendance of 50 or more students.

20 **SECTION 2. (1) The amendments to ORS 336.071 by section 1 of this 2023 Act become**  
21 **operative on July 1, 2024.**

22 **(2) The amendments to ORS 336.071 by section 1 of this 2023 Act first apply to the**  
23 **2024-2025 school year.**

24 **(3) Notwithstanding the operative date set forth in subsection (1) of this section, the**  
25 **Department of Education may take any action before the operative date set forth in sub-**  
26 **section (1) of this section that is necessary for a school district to provide instruction de-**  
27 **scribed in ORS 327.071 (3)(b), as amended by section 1 of this 2023 Act, during the 2024-2025**  
28 **school year.**