

Implementation Guidance

School Threat Accountability and Safety Act

Act 619 (2026 Regular Session)

The Louisiana Legislature enacted [Act 619 of the 2026 Regular Session](#), known as the School Threat Accountability and Safety Act, to strengthen school safety and increase accountability for threats directed toward schools, including school property, school-sponsored activities, and firearm-free zones.

The Act creates enhanced criminal penalties for terrorizing and menacing school property and requires annual dissemination of information to students and parents about these offenses and their consequences.

This provides implementation guidance for compliance with R.S. 17:416.20.1.

Purpose

The purpose of this guidance is to assist local education agencies (LEAs), charter schools, and school administrators in implementing the statutory requirements of Act 619 and ensuring that students and families understand the serious legal, educational, and safety consequences of school threats.

Statutory Requirements

Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, the principal of each public school shall disseminate information regarding the crime and consequences of terrorizing or menacing:

- School property;
- School-sponsored functions; and
- Firearm-free zones as provided in law.

The information shall be provided:

- During the first five (5) days of each school year;
- To all students enrolled in grades six (6) and above; and
- To each student's parent or legal guardian.

Schools may incorporate the required information into existing orientation programs, student handbook reviews, registration activities, advisory periods, or other annual school safety activities.

Parent Acknowledgment Requirement

The Act requires schools to provide the information to each student's parent or legal guardian in writing, on a form with a signature line acknowledging receipt and understanding of the information, and review with the student.

Schools shall:

- Obtain signed acknowledgments from parents or legal guardians;
- Maintain documentation demonstrating compliance; and
- Retain records in accordance with local records retention policies.

Electronic acknowledgment systems may be utilized when permitted by local policy.

Age-Appropriate Communication

The information provided must be:

- Age-appropriate;
- Grade-appropriate; and
- Developed with consideration for students participating in special education programs or other specialized educational settings.

Schools should ensure that materials are accessible to all students and families, including those who require accommodations, language supports, or alternative communication methods.

Information To Be Provided

At a minimum, schools shall communicate that:

Terrorizing a School

Terrorizing is the intentional communication of information that the commission of a crime of violence, as defined in R.S. 14:2 (B) is imminent or in progress or that a circumstance dangerous to human life exists or is about to exist, with the intent of causing members of the general public to be in sustained fear for their safety; or causing evacuation of a building, a public structure, or a facility of transportation; or causing other serious disruption to the general public.

Louisiana law provides enhanced penalties for intentionally communicating threats or false information indicating that violence, a dangerous event, or other circumstances threatening human life are imminent or occurring at:

- School property;
- School-sponsored functions; or
- Firearm-free zones.

Individuals convicted may face:

- Fines of up to \$15,000;
- Imprisonment at hard labor for five (5) to fifteen (15) years without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence; or
- Both.

Menacing a School

Menacing is the intentional communication of information that the commission of a crime of violence, as defined in R.S. 14:2(B), is imminent or in progress or that a circumstance dangerous to human life exists or is about to exist, when committed under any of the following circumstances:

- (a) The actions of the offender cause members of the general public to be in sustained fear for their safety, and a reasonable person would have known that such actions could cause such sustained fear.
- (b) The actions of the offender cause the evacuation of a building, a public structure, or a facility of transportation, and a reasonable person would have known that such actions could cause an evacuation.
- (c) The actions of the offender cause any other serious disruption to the general public, and a reasonable person would have known that such actions could cause serious disruption to the general public.

Individuals who threaten or intimidate others in a manner prohibited by law and directed toward:

- School property;
- School-sponsored activities; or
- Firearm-free zones

may face:

- Fines up to \$1,000;
- Imprisonment for two (2) to five (5) years; or
- Both.

Juvenile Consequences

Students should understand that threats made as jokes, pranks, social media posts, text messages, verbal statements, or other online communications may result in a criminal investigation and juvenile court proceedings.

For certain offenses, courts may order:

- Mental health evaluations;
- Probation;
- Juvenile detention;
- Participation in intervention programs;
- Other court-ordered services and conditions.

Parental Liability

The Act establishes financial consequences for parents or legal guardians in certain circumstances involving juvenile offenders.

Potential consequences may include:

- Upon adjudication of a felony grade delinquent act of subsequent violation of R.S. 14:40.1, the parent, custodian, or other legal guardian shall be subject to a civil fine of not less than five thousand dollars nor more than ten thousand dollars.
- Court-ordered reimbursement of law enforcement response costs;
- Court-ordered reimbursement of emergency management expenses;
- Court-ordered reimbursement of other governmental response expenditures.

Relationship To Existing School Safety Requirements

Nothing in Act 619 replaces or supersedes existing requirements related to:

- District Crisis Teams (R.S. 17:416.16);
- School Threat Assessment and Management procedures;
- Mandatory reporting requirements (R.S. 17:409 and R.S. 17:410);
- Emergency Operations Plans;
- Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) practices;
- School discipline policies;
- Student support services.

Schools shall continue to investigate, assess, document, and respond to threats consistent with state law and local policy.

Recommended Implementation Practices

The Louisiana Department of Education recommends that schools:

- Incorporate the information into student orientation activities;
- Review threat reporting procedures with students;
- Include the information in student handbooks;
- Discuss the consequences of false threats during safety presentations;
- Coordinate with local law enforcement and school resource officers;
- Engage school threat assessment teams in prevention and intervention efforts;
- Emphasize anonymous reporting systems and available student supports.

Compliance Checklist

Each school should verify the following:

- Information distributed during the first five school days.
- Information provided to students in grades 6-12.
- Information provided to parents and legal guardians.
- Parent acknowledgments collected and maintained.
- Materials provided in accessible formats when necessary.
- Documentation retained for monitoring purposes.
- School safety and threat assessment teams informed of implementation requirements.

Technical Assistance

The Louisiana Department of Education will provide model informational materials and a parent acknowledgment form to assist schools in meeting the requirements of Act 619.

Questions regarding implementation may be directed to: healthyschools@la.gov

The Louisiana Department of Education remains committed to supporting school systems in maintaining safe, secure, and supportive learning environments for all students and staff.