

Mandatory Safety Drills In Missouri Schools

WHEREAS, There are currently no state requirements for number of safety drills held by a school district each year, other than earthquakes, and schools frequently have new staff and substitutes in the building throughout the year and 65% of students will change school 2 or more times by the eighth grade leaving many transfer students unfamiliar with a building's safety plan; and

WHEREAS, The most powerful tool in an emergency is a school's safety plan, and plans should be assembled by teams including emergency management personnel, community partners and school-based staff and include components such as prevention-mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery; and

WHEREAS, The United States has the highest number of tornadoes per year with an average of one thousand two hundred fifty three (1,253) and Missouri averaging forty five (45) tornadoes per year, and there were an average of six thousand two hundred sixty (6,260) fires in school buildings during the years 2005-2009, and the number of unprovoked violent acts has increased in recent years; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers (Missouri PTA), its units and councils, encourage the Missouri State Legislature to require school districts to work with local and state emergency management personnel, community partners and school-based staff to develop and annually update detailed multi-hazard management plans; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Missouri PTA, its units and councils, encourage the Missouri State Legislature to legislation requiring monthly safety drills, including but not limited to fire, tornado, earthquake, intruder/lockdown and evacuation, during the school year, with schools being able to alternate the type of safety drill each month; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Missouri PTA, its units and councils, work with local school districts to ensure the proper training and education of staff, students and parents in regards to the school's multi-hazard management plans.

Adopted 2013