

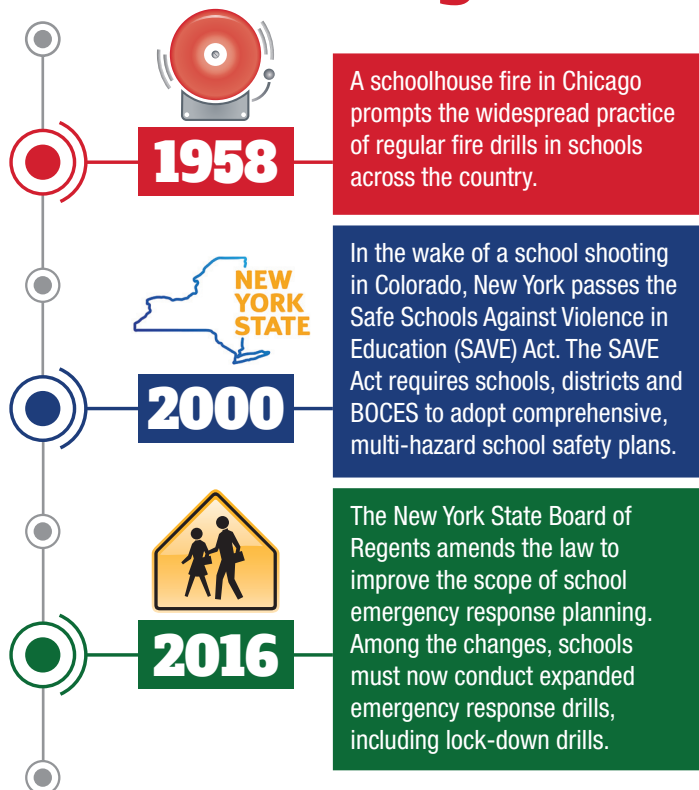


The type and frequency have changed over the years, but the purpose of practice drills has always been the same: to ensure students and staff are prepared to quickly make their way to safety in the event of an emergency situation.

12 = Number of drills that schools must conduct each academic year

(Eight must be evacuation drills, and four must be lock-down drills. At least eight of the 12 must be conducted by Dec. 31.)

A Brief History of School Safety Drills



Types of Required Drills

- ➔ **Lock-down** (four per school year): Secures school buildings and grounds during incidents that pose the highest level of threat in or around the school building. Students and staff are instructed to clear hallways, lock doors and take positions out of sight until law enforcement can arrive. The participation of local law enforcement agencies in the drills, while not required by state law, is encouraged to help students and staff practice interacting with and being released from lock-down by uniformed officers.
- ➔ **Evacuation** (eight per school year): Evacuate students and staff from the building. A fire drill is a type of evacuation drill. Another type is an early dismissal drill, also known as a “go-home-early” drill, in which students are released from school not more than 15 minutes before normal dismissal. An early dismissal drill must be conducted once a year, and parents or guardians must be notified one week in advance. Typically, it does not count toward the eight-per-year requirement.

Other Drills

(RECOMMENDED, BUT NOT REQUIRED)

- ➔ **Shelter-in-place**: Shelter students and staff indoors because it is safer inside the building or room than outside. Depending on the threat or hazard, students and staff may be required to move to rooms that can be sealed (to safeguard against airborne hazards) or without windows (as with a dangerous weather event).
- ➔ **Hold-in-place**: Limit movement of students and staff while dealing with short-term emergencies such as disciplinary issues, medical emergencies or maintenance problems.
- ➔ **Lock-out**: Secure school buildings and grounds during incidents outside of the school building that pose an imminent concern. Classes may continue inside as normal, but no one is allowed to enter or exit the building.

