

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Office of School Safety and Security utilize a multi-tiered Enhanced Monitoring Plan for campuses with persistent Intruder Detection Audit (IDA) findings. This plan provides for escalating monitoring for campuses that have failed to create a safe environment for students and staff. At each tier, enhanced monitoring increases school system accountability, while also providing school systems with technical assistance needed to create a safe environment for students and staff in accordance with Texas Education Code (TEC) §37.1083, §37.1084, §37.1085, and Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §103.1219.

Please direct all questions regarding this policy to the Office of School Safety and Security at SafeSchools@tea.texas.gov

Tier 1 — Enhanced Intruder Detection Audit Monitoring

A pattern of repeated IDA findings indicates a persistent, unresolved security deficiency creating an unsafe environment requiring proactive intervention. Any campus found noncompliant in IDAs for three (3) consecutive school years will be placed in Tier 1 Enhanced IDA Monitoring.

- **Notification:** The TEA Office of School Safety and Security will send an official notification (via email) to the district superintendent or applicable charter school leadership, informing them that the campus received IDA findings for three consecutive years. This notification outlines the Tier 1 status and additional requirements to improve campus safety.
- **Increased Audits:** The identified campus will be subjected to two (2) Intruder Detection Audits during the subsequent school year, an increase from the standard annual audit. At least one of the audits will be conducted with the direct involvement of a TEA Readiness Specialist. These additional audits are intended to closely monitor the campus's progress in remedying security issues.
- **TEA Support:** TEA Readiness Specialists will be available to provide school systems with technical assistance as requested by the school system.
- **Exit Criteria (Return to Standard Monitoring):** All Tier 1 campuses will remain on enhanced monitoring for a minimum of one school year. The campus must achieve at least one IDA without findings to demonstrate an improvement in campus security, to exit Tier 1 and return to the standard IDA schedule.

Tier 2 — Elevated Intruder Detection Audit Monitoring

A campus is subject to Tier 2 Elevated IDA Monitoring if it fails to meet the exit criteria in Tier 1 or continues to have unresolved safety deficiencies leading to the continuous unsafe environment at the campus.

- **Formal Notification (Certified Letter):** The TEA Office of School Safety and Security will issue a certified letter titled "Elevated Intruder Detection Audit Monitoring Notice" to the school system's superintendent and the president of the school system's board. This letter will formally document the campus's escalation to Tier 2, summarize the campus's failure to achieve compliance under Tier 1, and detail the additional requirements of Tier 2.
- **Board Involvement:** The superintendent is required to notify the school system's board of the campus' Tier 2 status within 90 days of receipt of the certified letter. This notification must occur in a closed session or

Executive Session to ensure confidentiality of security information. In that session, the superintendent shall present:

- a) a summary of the campus's IDA history and persistent findings,
 - b) the fact that the campus is subject to Tier 2 monitoring due to ongoing safety concerns, and
 - c) a plan for addressing the deficiencies.
 - d) The board approved plan must be submitted to TEA's Office of School Safety and Security.
- **Increased Audits:** Under Tier 2, the campus will be subjected to four (4) Intruder Detection Audits during the subsequent school year. This increase in monitoring is designed to assess whether corrective actions are being implemented and sustained.
 - **Exit Criteria (Return to Standard Monitoring):** All campuses will remain in enhanced monitoring for a minimum of one school year. A campus must demonstrate significant improvement in school campus security by achieving at least two (2) IDAs without findings to exit Tier 2 and return to the standard IDA schedule.

Tier 3 — Critical Intruder Detection Audit Monitoring

A campus is subject to Tier 3 - Critical IDA Monitoring if it has not resolved the safety issues after Tier 2 interventions. When a campus reaches Tier 3, it has demonstrated an ongoing pattern of non-compliance and an unsafe environment that has persisted despite enhanced monitoring and corrective plans. Tier 3 indicates that the situation is critical and that immediate and significant corrective action is required.

- **Formal Notification:** The TEA Office of School Safety and Security will issue a certified letter titled "Critical Intruder Detection Audit Monitoring Notice" to the school system's superintendent and the president of the school system's board. This letter will formally document the campus's escalation to Tier 3, summarize the campus's failure to achieve compliance under Tier 1 and Tier 2, and detail the additional requirements of Tier 3.
- **Public Hearing:** Upon receiving a certified letter from TEA's Office of School Safety and Security, the school system will have 90 days to hold a public meeting or hearing to inform the broader school community that there are significant safety concerns being addressed in the school system. During this meeting, the school system must disclose that at least one campus is subject to increased safety monitoring by TEA. The school system should also outline the general nature of the issues and the steps being taken. The school system should not publicly identify the specific campus by name during this public hearing. The notice to the community and the hearing agenda must be submitted to TEA's Office of School Safety and Security.
- **Increased Audits:** Under Tier 3, the campus will be subjected to eight (8) Intruder Detection Audits during the subsequent school year. This increase in monitoring is designed to assess whether corrective actions are being implemented and sustained.
- **District Vulnerability Assessment:** In addition to the increased IDA monitoring, TEA may conduct a comprehensive District Vulnerability Assessment (DVA) to monitor and assess the school system's security practices.
- **Intensive Technical Assistance & Security Improvement Plan:** Upon entering Tier 3, the school system will be assigned a TEA School Safety Agent to provide intensive, on-site technical assistance. This Safety Agent will assist

school system leaders in developing a Campus Security Improvement Plan. The plan will be a written document outlining specific steps, timelines, and responsible parties for remedying all identified security deficiencies and must be submitted to TEA within (90) days of receipt of the “Critical Intruder Detection Audit Monitoring Notice”. The plan must be approved by the TEA Director of School Safety and Security and school system superintendent and board.

- **Exit Criteria (Return to Standard Monitoring):** All campuses will remain in critical monitoring for a minimum of one school year. A campus must demonstrate significant improvement in school campus security by achieving at least four (4) IDAs without findings to exit Tier 3 and return to the standard IDA schedule.

Tier 4 – TEA Appointed Safety Conservator

A school system may be escalated to Tier 4 when Tier 3 actions have not resulted in substantial safety improvements as determined by the Commissioner of Education and the Director of School Safety and Security.

State Intervention – Assignment of a Conservator

If a school system fails to comply with required safety and security measures, the Commissioner of Education may assign a School Safety Conservator to the school system. In Tier 4, the Commissioner may appoint a TEA Conservator with a specific mandate to oversee and enforce safety and security requirements.

- **Conservator’s Authority:** Under TEC §37.1085, §39A.003, and TAC §103.1219, the conservator has the legal authority to direct the school system and campus administration on all matters related to school safety and security. This individual effectively takes charge of the decision-making process for school system security operations. The conservator can issue directives that the school system must follow, such as staff reassignments, facility improvements, changes to procedures, or any other actions deemed necessary to remedy the safety issues and bring the campus into compliance with state law. The school system’s administration is legally obligated to comply with the conservator’s instructions. The conservator may also coordinate with law enforcement and emergency management as needed and will regularly report to the Commissioner on the school system and campus progress.
- **Public Oversight and Reporting:** The appointment of a conservator is typically made public, and the school system community will be informed that the state has taken this action due to the severity of the ongoing safety issues. The conservator will provide updates to the Commissioner and Director of School Safety and Security on actions being taken and improvements achieved.
- **Duration of Conservatorship:** The conservator will remain in place until the Commissioner of Education determines that the school system has adequately addressed all safety and security deficiencies and can maintain compliance with all requirements going forward.