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**WHITE PAPER:**

# Implementing the Arkansas L.E.A.R.N.S. Act:

Strategos International's Comprehensive Approach



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# White Paper: Implementing the Arkansas L.E.A.R.N.S. Act: Strategos International's Comprehensive Approach

**Introduction:** The Arkansas L.E.A.R.N.S. Act represents a transformative approach to ensuring the safety and well-being of students and staff in educational settings across Arkansas. This landmark legislation sets forth rigorous standards and procedures designed to enhance school security, emergency preparedness, and response capabilities. This white paper delves into the Act's multifaceted requirements, highlighting how Strategos International's comprehensive services and expertise align with and support these legislative mandates. It underscores the importance of a collaborative, proactive approach in creating safer educational environments, where every stakeholder plays a vital role in protecting our schools.

For a detailed overview of the Arkansas L.E.A.R.N.S. Act, please visit/click **Arkansas L.E.A.R.N.S. Act**.

## Executive Summary: Implementing the Arkansas L.E.A.R.N.S. Act

The Arkansas Learning Environment and Academic Resources, Nurturing Students (L.E.A.R.N.S.) Act represents a significant legislative effort to enhance school safety and create a conducive learning environment in Arkansas. This white paper provides a comprehensive overview of the Act's requirements and outlines how Strategos International's expertise and services align with these mandates.

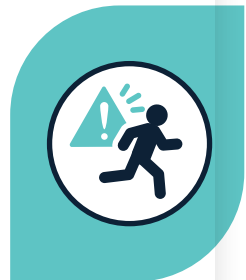
### 1. Comprehensive School Safety Audit Assessments:

- Mandates that public school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools conduct a detailed school safety audit assessment every three years.
- Assessments must encompass the safety, security, accessibility, and emergency preparedness of school buildings and grounds, in collaboration with local law enforcement, fire, and emergency management officials.



### 2. Annual Lockdown Drills and Emergency Planning:

- Schools are required to conduct annual lockdown drills to prepare for potential threats on campus.
- These drills are part of a broader mandate to develop and continuously assess plans for emergency response and campus security.



### 3. Provision of Information to First Responders:

- Schools must provide current floor plans and emergency contact information to appropriate first responders.
- The obligation includes annual updates and additional updates following substantial building modifications.

**4. Role of the Arkansas Center for School Safety:**

- The Act positions the Arkansas Center for School Safety as the state school safety clearinghouse, responsible for providing training, education, and resources.
- The Center collaborates with various entities, including the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, to build the capacity of educators, leaders, and law enforcement professionals.

**5. Communication and Technology Integration:**

- Schools are encouraged to install communications equipment interoperable with the Arkansas Wireless Information Network system.
- This facilitates direct communication with law enforcement and enhances coordinated emergency responses.



**6. Architectural Review and School Bus Safety Initiatives:**

- The Act calls for the review of architectural plans for new school facilities by a school safety expert.
- It also promotes the development of a customized, state-level school bus safety initiative.

**7. Crisis Response and Mental Health Support:**

- The Act emphasizes the importance of crisis response training for school personnel and mental health support for students.
- It includes the establishment of behavioral threat assessment teams and utilization of resources like the Arkansas State Fusion Center.



**8. Law Enforcement Presence and Specialized Training:**

- Strategies to increase the presence of uniformed law enforcement and specialized training for school resource officers are outlined.
- The Act also encourages the implementation of strategies to promote reporting of suspicious activities and threats.

**9. Review of Security Policies and Medical Response Training:**

- District Safety and Security Teams are tasked with reviewing emergency operations plans and security policies.
- Training in emergency medical response, including opioid overdose and bleeding control, is mandated for school nurses and staff.



**10. Cybersecurity and Communication Plans:**

- Schools are required to conduct an annual review and update of cybersecurity policies.
- The establishment of a comprehensive, common communication plan for emergency situations is also outlined.

**This summary provides an overview of the pivotal components of the Arkansas L.E.A.R.N.S. Act, underscoring the comprehensive approach required to ensure school safety and student well-being.**

In the following sections, this white paper will detail how Strategos International's solutions and expertise are uniquely positioned to support schools in fulfilling these requirements, thereby enhancing the safety and security of Arkansas's educational environments.

## Strategos International's Alignment with Arkansas L.E.A.R.N.S. Act Requirements

In response to the comprehensive safety mandates outlined in the Arkansas L.E.A.R.N.S. Act, Strategos International stands as a pivotal ally for Arkansas educational institutions. Our specialized solutions and services are finely tuned to align with the Act's multifaceted requirements.

From conducting thorough school safety audits to developing robust emergency response plans, Strategos International's expertise in physical security, crisis management, and specialized training positions them uniquely to assist schools in meeting and exceeding these critical safety standards. Their approach not only addresses compliance but also fosters a safer, more secure learning environment.

### **REQUIREMENT #1 Solution – Comprehensive School Safety Audit Assessments:**

Strategos International offers thorough physical security assessments for schools, focusing on prevention, response, and recovery from natural hazards and active threats. Their on-site visits review building construction, access controls, and criminal deterrence and response capabilities. These assessments also consider school and district policies, emergency drill execution, and the effectiveness of emergency response training.



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### **REQUIREMENT #2 Solution – Annual Lockdown Drills and Emergency Planning:**

Strategos International specializes in developing annual supervised lockdown drills, ensuring they are well planned and scripted to avoid unnecessary alarm. Their approach includes the acclaimed "3 OUT Response Model," a non-linear model, providing comprehensive training for staff. This training covers scenarios of school violence and active shooter situations, focusing on preparedness and response. For additional details, please touch/click:

- **IN PERSON Training: 4-Hr School Active Shooter Intruder Response Training**
- **ONLINE Training:**
  - **PREVAIL for Early Childhood & Elementary Schools**
  - **PREVAIL for Middle & High Schools**



### **REQUIREMENT #3 Solution – Provision of Information to First Responders:**

Strategos International has the expertise to assist schools in preparing and delivering comprehensive “Tactical Site Mapping” packages. These packages, which include both hard copy and electronic formats complete with site plans, floor plans, gas/water shutoffs, points of contact, etc. and are specifically designed to meet this requirement of providing essential information to first responders.

### **REQUIREMENT #6 Solution – Architectural Review and School Bus Safety Initiatives:**

Their training for bus drivers encompasses awareness, safety, and intruder response, ensuring that transportation staff are prepared for various emergency scenarios. This training is part of a broader initiative to enhance overall school safety. For more information, touch/click:

- **4-Hr Bus Driver Awareness, Safety, and Intruder Response Training**



### **REQUIREMENT #7 Solution – Crisis Response and Mental Health Support:**

Strategos International offers specialized training in behavior pattern recognition and assessment to aid in crisis response and mental health support. This training helps school personnel identify and address potential threats and contributes to a safer school environment. For detailed information, touch/click:

- **2-Day Behavior Pattern Recognition & Assessment**
- **1-Hr Behavior Pattern Indicators of School Violence.**



### **REQUIREMENT #8 Solution – Law Enforcement Presence and Specialized Training:**

Strategos International's School Protection Specialists provide a wide range of training courses for law enforcement professionals and armed protection specialists. Their expertise enhances the security presence in schools and equips personnel with the necessary skills for effective school safety. For detailed information, touch/click:

- **School Protection Specialists Services.**

### **REQUIREMENT #9 Solution – Review of Security Policies and Medical Response Training:**

Strategos International's solutions include reviewing security policies as part of their Physical Security Assessments & Audits services. They also offer training in crisis casualty care for school personnel, equipping them with skills for medical emergencies. For detailed information, touch/click:

- **1-Day Crisis Casualty Care for School Personnel.**



## Implementing the Arkansas L.E.A.R.N.S. Act: Strategos International's Comprehensive Approach

### Conclusion:

Strategos International's role in implementing the Arkansas L.E.A.R.N.S. Act extends beyond just meeting the legislative requirements. Their extensive experience in uniting school personnel, law enforcement professionals, and community stakeholders is critical in achieving the objectives of the Act. This collaborative approach ensures that all aspects of school safety, from physical security to crisis response, are addressed comprehensively, creating an environment where students and staff can thrive. The synergy between Strategos International's expertise and the collective efforts of the community stakeholders embodies the spirit of the L.E.A.R.N.S. Act, paving the way for safer, more resilient schools in Arkansas.

### References:

1. Arkansas Code § 6-15-1303 - Safe Schools Initiative Act. This section of the Arkansas Code outlines the requirements for school safety including comprehensive safety audits, emergency response planning, and collaboration with local law enforcement.
2. Arkansas L.E.A.R.N.S. Act - This Act encompasses a wide range of educational reforms, including significant provisions for enhancing school safety and security across Arkansas.

These references provide the legislative background and detailed requirements that Strategos International's services are designed to address, ensuring comprehensive compliance and enhanced safety in Arkansas schools.



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