

# STATE OF NEW YORK

9250--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

November 7, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. WOERNER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring the installation of school master key boxes for building access by law enforcement and emergency responders

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 409-o  
2 to read as follows:

3 § 409-o. Master key box. 1. (a) The board of education or trustees of  
4 every public school district, non-public school or educational institu-  
5 tion, board of cooperative education services, county vocational educa-  
6 tion and extension board within the state and chancellor of the city  
7 school district of the city of New York shall arrange for, require, and  
8 install (i) at least one exterior master key box on the campus of any  
9 such public school district, non-public school or educational institu-  
10 tion and (ii) on every instructional school building operated in a non-  
11 campus setting to permit emergency access to both law enforcement  
12 authorities and emergency responders from an exterior location desig-  
13 nated by such board or chancellor in collaboration with local law  
14 enforcement authorities, provided that such requirement shall be waived  
15 if the board of education or trustees of the public school district,  
16 non-public school or educational institution, board of cooperative  
17 education services, county vocational education and extension board, or  
18 chancellor of the city school district of the city of New York maintains  
19 a written agreement with local law enforcement authorities acknowledging  
20 and approving a determination to exclude one or more prescribed exterior  
21 master key boxes from their school safety plan.

22 (b) The board of education or trustees of a public school district,  
23 non-public school or educational institution, board of cooperative

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD13081-02-5

1 education services, county vocational education and extension board, or  
2 chancellor of the city school district of the city of New York shall  
3 collaborate with law enforcement authorities to consider including the  
4 following items in any master key boxes installed in accordance with  
5 their school safety plan:

6 (i) Master external and internal keys;

7 (ii) Access cards;

8 (iii) Maps of the school buildings.

9 2. Each master key box shall meet the basic commercial applications  
10 standard for antitheft alarms and devices as prescribed under the under-  
11 writers laboratories standard UL 1037.

12 § 2. Paragraph f of subdivision 2 of section 2801-a of the education  
13 law, as amended by chapter 227 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read  
14 as follows:

15 f. policies and procedures relating to school building security,  
16 including where appropriate the use of school safety officers and/or  
17 security devices or procedures. District-wide school safety teams shall  
18 consider, as part of its reviews of the comprehensive district-wide  
19 safety plan, the installation of a panic alarm system, and shall, in the  
20 absence of a written agreement with local law enforcement authorities to  
21 the contrary, include installation of one or more exterior secure master  
22 key boxes in accordance with section four hundred nine-o of this  
23 chapter. For purposes of this paragraph, "panic alarm system" shall mean  
24 a silent security system signal generated by the manual activation of a  
25 device intended to signal a life-threatening or emergency situation  
26 requiring a response from local law enforcement or, in the case of a  
27 school building located in a municipality in which there is no municipal  
28 police department, a location designated by the superintendent of state  
29 police and may include one or more of the following: wired panic button  
30 or buttons, wireless panic button or buttons or a mobile or computer  
31 application;

32 § 3. Paragraph c of subdivision 3 of section 2801-a of the education  
33 law, as amended by section 1 of part B of chapter 54 of the laws of  
34 2016, is amended to read as follows:

35 c. floor plans, blueprints, schematics or other maps of the school  
36 interior, school grounds and road maps of the immediate surrounding area  
37 and, if applicable, the location and contents of any exterior master key  
38 box installed on school grounds or at any instructional school building  
39 operated in a non-campus setting;

40 § 4. Subdivision 6-c of section 3602 of the education law, as amended  
41 by chapter 1 of the laws of 2013, and paragraph b as amended by section  
42 9 of part A of chapter 56 of the laws of 2023, is amended to read as  
43 follows:

44 6-c. a. Building aid for metal detectors, [~~and~~] security cameras,  
45 safety devices for electrically operated partitions, room dividers and  
46 doors, and exterior master key boxes. In addition to the apportionments  
47 payable to a school district pursuant to subdivision six of this  
48 section, the commissioner is hereby authorized to apportion to any  
49 school district additional building aid pursuant to this subdivision for  
50 its approved expenditures in the base year for the purchase of station-  
51 ary metal detectors, security cameras, safety devices for electrically  
52 operated partitions and room dividers required pursuant to section four  
53 hundred nine-f of this chapter, exterior master key boxes required  
54 pursuant to section four hundred nine-o of this chapter, or other secu-  
55 rity devices approved by the commissioner that increase the safety of  
56 students and school personnel, provided, however, that funds apportioned

1 to school districts pursuant to this section shall not supplant funds  
2 for existing district expenditures or for existing contractual obli-  
3 gations of the district for stationary metal detectors, security  
4 cameras, partition and room divider safety devices, exterior master key  
5 boxes, or security devices. Portable or hand held metal detectors shall  
6 not be eligible for aid pursuant to this subdivision. Such additional  
7 aid shall equal the product of the building aid ratio computed for use  
8 in the current year pursuant to paragraph c of subdivision six of this  
9 section and the actual approved expenditures incurred in the base year  
10 pursuant to this subdivision, provided that the limitations on cost  
11 allowances prescribed by paragraph a of subdivision six of this section  
12 shall not apply. The commissioner shall annually prescribe a special  
13 cost allowance for metal detectors, [~~and~~] security cameras, and exterior  
14 master key boxes, and the approved expenditures shall not exceed such  
15 cost allowance. The commissioner shall annually prescribe a special cost  
16 allowance for partition and room divider safety devices, and the  
17 approved expenditures shall not exceed such cost allowance.

18 b. For projects approved by the commissioner authorized to receive  
19 additional building aid pursuant to this subdivision for the purchase of  
20 stationary metal detectors, security cameras, exterior master key boxes,  
21 or other security devices approved by the commissioner that increase the  
22 safety of students and school personnel, provided that for purposes of  
23 this paragraph such other security devices shall be limited to electron-  
24 ic security systems and hardened doors, and provided that for projects  
25 approved by the commissioner on or after the first day of July two thou-  
26 sand thirteen such additional aid shall equal the product of (i) the  
27 building aid ratio computed for use in the current year pursuant to  
28 paragraph c of subdivision six of this section plus ten percentage  
29 points, except that in no case shall this amount exceed one hundred  
30 percent, and (ii) the actual approved expenditures incurred in the base  
31 year pursuant to this subdivision, provided that the limitations on cost  
32 allowances prescribed by paragraph a of subdivision six of this section  
33 shall not apply, and provided further that any projects aided under this  
34 paragraph must be included in a district's school safety plan. The  
35 commissioner shall annually prescribe a special cost allowance for metal  
36 detectors, [~~and~~] security cameras, and exterior master key boxes, and  
37 the approved expenditures shall not exceed such cost allowance.

38 § 5. This act shall take effect the first of July next succeeding the  
39 date on which it shall become a law.