

Required Drills or Rapid Dismissals¹ for Educational Occupancies

	My School has a sprinkler system in all classroom buildings	My School has a smoke detector ² in all classroom buildings	My School has a sprinkler system in some classroom buildings and a smoke detector in other classroom buildings- BUT all classroom building have one or the other, or both	My School has one or more classroom building(s) that does not have a smoke detector or a sprinkler system in it
Drills or rapid dismissals³				
How many	6 during the school year	6 during the school year	6 during the school year	9 during the school year
First drill must be	Within 10 days of the beginning of classes	Within 10 days of the beginning of classes	Within 10 days of the beginning of classes	Within 10 days of the beginning of classes
At what time	Must vary and be at unexpected times	Must vary and be at unexpected times	Must vary and be at unexpected times	Must vary and be at unexpected times
Who must participate	All occupants	All occupants	All occupants	All occupants
Tornado Drills				
How many / When	Once a month when school is in session during tornado season (April 1 – July 31)	Once a month when school is in session during tornado season (April 1 – July 31)	Once a month when school is in session during tornado season (April 1 – July 31)	Once a month when school is in session during tornado season (April 1 – July 31)
Safety Drills⁴				
How many	3 during the school year + 1 theoretical	3 during the school year + 1 theoretical	3 during the school year + 1 theoretical	3 during the school year + 1 theoretical
When	Unspecified	Unspecified	Unspecified	Unspecified
With other	May <u>not</u> be combined with my 6 drills or rapid dismissals	May <u>not</u> be combined with my 6 drills or rapid dismissals	May <u>not</u> be combined with my 6 drills or rapid dismissals	<u>May</u> be combined with my 9 drills or rapid dismissals

Please note: regardless of what type or how many drills a school is required to have, the Ohio Revised Code requires that either one drill or rapid dismissal or one school safety drill must be conducted during each month of the school year.

¹ The fire marshal or his designee is responsible for annually determining whether each school has conducted the required number of drills or rapid dismissals. The fire marshal or his designee is not required to determine if school officials have conducted the required number of school safety drills. Therefore, the within document does not address school safety drills except to the extent they affect drills or rapid dismissals.

² Provisions of the OFC require that when a smoke detector is installed in an educational occupancy, it must be connected to the building fire alarm system. **OFC § 907.2.3.** Therefore, mere installation of a smoke detector in a school building may technically reduce the number or drills or rapid dismissals a principal is required to conduct, but doing so without proper connection to the fire alarm system – subject to inspection, testing, Ohio Building Code compliance and conformance with the applicable certificate of occupancy – could necessarily result in a violation of the Ohio Fire and Building Codes.

³ It is not permissible to only conduct rapid dismissals or to always conduct drills or rapid dismissals at the same time of day, such as during homeroom, or at 11:10 a.m., or at the end of the day. In order to be compliant with the OFC, drills and rapid dismissals must be at varied times during the day.

⁴ School safety drills are distinct from ‘drills or rapid dismissals’ in that ‘drills or rapid dismissals’ concern the evacuation of students from school buildings in response to any sudden emergency. ‘School safety drills’ are specifically designed to educate students and staff regarding evacuation procedures to be used in response to a sudden emergency that is caused by an act of violence, such as an act of terrorism or a person possessing a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance.