

First Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 23-0902.02 Zach Blaes x4348

SENATE BILL 23-241

---

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Bridges and Kirkmeyer,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Bird and Bockenfeld,

---

Senate Committees  
Appropriations

House Committees

---

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101      **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY, AND,**  
102            **IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REQUIRING THE DIRECTOR OF THE**  
103            **OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY TO APPOINT A GRANTS MANAGER,**  
104            **CREATING A CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT WITHIN THE OFFICE OF**  
105            **SCHOOL SAFETY, SPECIFYING THAT THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL**  
106            **SAFETY HAS OVERSIGHT OVER THE SCHOOL SAFETY RESOURCE**  
107            **CENTER, SPECIFYING THAT THE SCHOOL ACCESS FOR**  
108            **EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM IS ADMINISTERED BY**  
109            **THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY, AND MAKING AN**  
110            **APPROPRIATION.**

---

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does*

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*  
*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

*not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)*

**Joint Budget Committee.** The bill creates the office of school safety (office) within the office of the executive director in the department of public safety. The office oversees the school safety resource center (center), which assists schools in preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies and crisis situations by offering training and other supportive services. The director of the office is required to appoint the director of the center and appoint a grants manager to assist schools in obtaining funding related to school safety.

The bill also creates the crisis response unit within the office to assist schools in responding to a crisis or emergency event.

Currently, the school access for emergency response grant program (SAFER) is administered by the division of homeland security and emergency management in the department of public safety. The bill moves the administration of SAFER to the office.

---

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-1802,  
3 **amend** (1) and (2); and **add** (3.5) as follows:

4 **24-33.5-1802. Definitions.** As used in this part 18, unless the  
5 context otherwise requires:

6 (1) "Advisory board" means the school safety resource center  
7 advisory board created in the OFFICE IN THE department pursuant to  
8 section 24-33.5-1804.

9 (2) "Center" means the school safety resource center created in the  
10 ~~department~~ OFFICE pursuant to section 24-33.5-1803.

11 (3.5) "OFFICE" MEANS THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY CREATED IN  
12 SECTION 24-33.5-2702.

13 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-1803,  
14 **amend** (1) and (2) as follows:

1           **24-33.5-1803. School safety resource center - created - duties.**

2           (1) There is hereby created within the ~~department~~ OFFICE the school  
3 safety resource center to assist schools in preventing, preparing for,  
4 responding to, and recovering from emergencies and crisis situations and  
5 to foster positive learning environments. The director of the center ~~shall~~  
6 ~~be~~ IS appointed by the ~~executive director~~ DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE  
7 pursuant to section 13 of article XII of the state constitution.

8           (2) The center ~~and the director shall exercise their powers and~~  
9 ~~perform their duties and functions under the department and the executive~~  
10 ~~director as if the same were transferred to the department by a type 2~~  
11 ~~transfer, as such transfer is defined in the "Administrative Organization~~  
12 ~~Act of 1968", article 1 of this title~~ IS A **TYPE 2** ENTITY, AS DEFINED IN  
13 SECTION 24-1-105, AND EXERCISES ITS POWERS AND PERFORMS ITS DUTIES  
14 AND FUNCTIONS UNDER THE OFFICE.

15           **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-1804,  
16 **amend** (1) as follows:

17           **24-33.5-1804. School safety resource center advisory board -**  
18 **created.** (1) There is hereby created in the ~~department~~ OFFICE the school  
19 safety resource center advisory board to recommend policies of the  
20 center.

21           **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 24-33.5-1805  
22 as follows:

23           **24-33.5-1805. Authorization to contract for services.** The  
24 ~~department~~ OFFICE is authorized to contract for services with any state,  
25 county, local, municipal, NONPROFIT ENTITY, or private agency to  
26 implement the provisions of this part 18 and fulfill the duties of the  
27 center, which duties are described in section 24-33.5-1803 (3).

1           **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 24-33.5-1806  
2 as follows:

3           **24-33.5-1806. Evaluation - report.** (1) NOTWITHSTANDING  
4 SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), on or before January 1, 2010, AND ON OR  
5 BEFORE JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, the director shall prepare  
6 and submit to the executive director a report evaluating the efficacy and  
7 value of the services provided by the center to schools.

8           (2) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), on or before  
9 January 15, 2010, AND ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 15 OF EACH YEAR  
10 THEREAFTER, the executive director shall prepare and submit to the  
11 education and judiciary committees of the house of representatives and  
12 the senate, or any successor committees, a report evaluating the efficacy  
13 and value of the services provided by the center to schools.

14           **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-2103,  
15 **amend** (3) as follows:

16           **24-33.5-2103. Definitions.** As used in this part 21, unless the  
17 context otherwise requires:

18           (3) "Director" means the director of the ~~division of homeland~~  
19 ~~security and emergency management created in section 24-33.5-1603~~  
20 OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-2702.

21           **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-2104,  
22 **amend** (1) and (3) as follows:

23           **24-33.5-2104. School access for emergency response grant**  
24 **program - created - rules.** (1) There is hereby created in the department  
25 in the ~~division of homeland security and emergency management~~ OFFICE  
26 OF SCHOOL SAFETY CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-2702 the school access  
27 for emergency response grant program to provide grants to schools and

1 public safety communications system owners to provide funding for  
2 needed interoperable communication hardware, software, equipment  
3 maintenance, and training to allow for seamless communications between  
4 new or existing school communications systems and first responder  
5 communications systems.

6 (3) The ~~division of homeland security and emergency~~  
7 ~~management~~ OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY CREATED IN SECTION  
8 24-33.5-2702 shall administer the grant program and, subject to available  
9 appropriations, shall award grants as provided in this part 21. Subject to  
10 available appropriations, grants ~~shall~~ MUST be paid out of the fund created  
11 in section 24-33.5-2107.

12 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-2105,  
13 **amend** (1) introductory portion as follows:

14 **24-33.5-2105. Grant program - application - criteria - awards.**

15 (1) A school is required to have a memorandum of understanding with  
16 its regional public safety 911 answering point or the local law  
17 enforcement agency or agencies that serve the school for communications  
18 interoperability to be eligible to apply for a grant. To receive a grant, a  
19 school must submit an application to the ~~division of homeland security~~  
20 ~~and emergency management~~ OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY CREATED IN  
21 SECTION 24-33.5-2702 in accordance with rules promulgated by the  
22 director. At a minimum, the application must include the following  
23 information:

24 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-2106,  
25 **amend** (1) introductory portion as follows:

26 **24-33.5-2106. Reporting requirements.** (1) On or before  
27 January 15, 2020, and on or before January 15 each year thereafter for the

1 duration of the grant program, each school that receives a grant through  
2 the grant program shall submit a report to the ~~division of homeland~~  
3 ~~security and emergency management~~ OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY CREATED  
4 IN SECTION 24-33.5-2702. At a minimum, the report must include the  
5 following information:

6 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 27 to  
7 article 33.5 of title 24 as follows:

8 **PART 27**

9 **OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY**

10 **24-33.5-2701. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 27, UNLESS THE  
11 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

12 (1) "CENTER" MEANS THE SCHOOL SAFETY RESOURCE CENTER  
13 CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-1803.

14 (2) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

15 (3) "DIRECTOR" MEANS THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE.

16 (4) "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" MEANS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
17 THE DEPARTMENT.

18 (5) "OFFICE" MEANS THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY CREATED IN  
19 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

20 (6) "SCHOOL" MEANS AN INSTITUTION AT WHICH INSTRUCTION IS  
21 PROVIDED BY INSTRUCTORS TO STUDENTS IN ONE OR MORE BUILDINGS ON  
22 A CAMPUS. "SCHOOL" INCLUDES A SCHOOL SERVING ANY OF GRADES  
23 PRESCHOOL THROUGH TWELVE AND AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER  
24 EDUCATION.

25 **24-33.5-2702. Office of school safety - created - duties - grants**  
26 **manager - crisis response unit.** (1) THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY IS  
27 HEREBY CREATED WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. THE

1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL APPOINT A DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE  
2 PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OF ARTICLE XII OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.  
3 THE OFFICE IS A **TYPE 2** ENTITY, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 24-1-105, AND  
4 EXERCISES ITS POWERS AND PERFORMS ITS DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS UNDER  
5 THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

6 (2) THE OFFICE HAS THE FOLLOWING DUTIES:

7 (a) TO OVERSEE THE CENTER;

8 (b) TO ADMINISTER THE SCHOOL ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY  
9 RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-2104;

10 (c) TO PROMOTE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SCHOOL SAFETY SUPPORT  
11 FOR ALL SCHOOLS;

12 (d) TO ASSIST SCHOOLS IN ASSESSING ANY SCHOOL SAFETY  
13 CHALLENGES;

14 (e) TO ASSIST SCHOOLS IN OBTAINING ANY AVAILABLE FUNDING OR  
15 GRANTS RELATED TO SCHOOL SAFETY;

16 (f) TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOLS TO IMPROVE  
17 SCHOOL SAFETY; AND

18 (g) ANY OTHER DUTIES THAT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DEEMS  
19 NECESSARY.

20 (3) THE DIRECTOR SHALL APPOINT A GRANTS MANAGER TO ASSIST  
21 SCHOOLS IN OBTAINING ANY FUNDING OR GRANTS AVAILABLE PURSUANT  
22 TO PART 18 OF ARTICLE 33.5 OF TITLE 24, ANY FUNDING AVAILABLE  
23 PURSUANT TO PART 21 OF ARTICLE 33.5 OF TITLE 24, AND ANY OTHER  
24 AVAILABLE FUNDING RELATED TO SCHOOL SAFETY.

25 (4) THE CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT IS HEREBY CREATED WITHIN THE  
26 OFFICE. THE UNIT SHALL ASSIST SCHOOLS IN RESPONDING TO A CRISIS OR  
27 EMERGENCY EVENT.

1           **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-1-128.6, **add**  
2 (10) and (11) as follows:

3           **24-1-128.6. Department of public safety - creation - repeal.**

4 (10) THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY, CREATED IN SECTION 24-33.5-2702,  
5 IS A **TYPE 2** ENTITY, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 24-1-105, AND EXERCISES ITS  
6 POWERS AND PERFORMS ITS DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS UNDER THE OFFICE OF  
7 THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

8           (11) THE SCHOOL RESOURCE CENTER, CREATED IN SECTION  
9 24-33.5-1803, IS A **TYPE 2** ENTITY, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 24-1-105, AND  
10 EXERCISES ITS POWERS AND PERFORMS ITS DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS UNDER  
11 THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY IN THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE  
12 DIRECTOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

13           **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 25-1.5-113, **amend**  
14 (1)(g) as follows:

15           **25-1.5-113. Crisis and suicide prevention training grant**  
16 **program - creation - process - reporting requirements - fund -**  
17 **definitions.** (1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise  
18 requires:

19           (g) "School safety resource center" means the school safety  
20 resource center in the OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN THE department of public safety, established  
22 pursuant to section 24-33.5-1803.

23           **SECTION 13. Appropriation.** (1) For the 2023-24 state fiscal  
24 year, \$14,798,091 is appropriated to the department of public safety for  
25 use by the office of school safety. This appropriation consists of  
26 \$9,401,600 from the general fund, \$5,000,000 from the school access for  
27 emergency response grant program cash fund created in section

1 24-33.5-2107 (1)(a), C.R.S., \$250,000 from the marijuana tax cash fund  
2 created in section 39-28.8-501 (1), C.R.S., \$146,491 from the school  
3 safety resource center cash fund created in section 24-33.5-1807 (1),  
4 C.R.S. To implement this act, the office may use this appropriation as  
5 follows:

6 (a) \$5,524,916, which consists of \$274,916 from the general fund,  
7 \$5,000,000 from the school access for emergency response grant program  
8 cash fund, and \$250,000 from the marijuana tax cash fund, for  
9 administrative services, which amount is based on an assumption that the  
10 office will require an additional 1.8 FTE;

11 (b) \$1,825,744, which consists of \$1,679,253 from the general  
12 fund and \$146,491 from the school safety resource center cash fund for  
13 the school safety resource center, which amount is based on an  
14 assumption that the office will require an additional 11.2 FTE;

15 (c) \$1,144,023 from the general fund for the crisis response unit,  
16 which amount is based on an assumption that the office will require an  
17 additional 3.7 FTE;

18 (d) \$303,408 from the general fund for threat assessment, which  
19 amount is based on an assumption that the office will require an  
20 additional 0.5 FTE; and

21 (e) \$6,000,000 from the general fund for the school security  
22 disbursement program.

23 (2) For the 2023-24 state fiscal year, \$313,951 is appropriated to  
24 the department of public safety for use by the executive director's office.  
25 This appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the  
26 office may use this appropriation as follows:

27 (a) \$108,422 for personal services, which amount is based on an

- 1 assumption that the office will require an additional 0.9 FTE;
- 2 (b) \$80,761 for health, life, and dental;
- 3 (c) \$1,141 for short-term disability;
- 4 (d) \$35,571 for amortization equalization disbursement;
- 5 (e) \$35,571 for supplemental amortization equalization
- 6 disbursement;
- 7 (f) \$9,135 for operating expenses;
- 8 (g) \$10,800 for vehicle lease payments; and,
- 9 (h) \$32,550 for leased space.

10 **SECTION 14. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
11 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
12 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.