



**Legislative
Council Staff**

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FISCAL NOTE

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Prime Sponsors:

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Bill Status: Bill Request
Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram | 303-866-3561
 Josh.Abram@state.co.us

Bill Topic: **SCHOOL SAFETY SURVEY**

**Summary of
Fiscal Impact:**

- State Revenue
- State Expenditure
- State Transfer
- TABOR Refund
- Local Government
- School District

The bill requires that the School Safety Resource Center in the Department of Public Safety develop a school safety climate survey for administration in all public schools. The bill increases state expenditures in FY 2020-21, and increases school district expenditures biennially to administer the survey. The bill may increase expenditures in future fiscal years.

**Appropriation
Summary:**

For FY 2020-21, the bill requires an appropriation of \$450,000 to the Department of Public Safety.

**Fiscal Note
Status:**

The fiscal note reflects the bill draft requested by the School Safety Committee.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under Bill 9**

		FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$450,000	-
Transfers		-	-
TABOR Refund		-	-

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires that the School Safety Resource Center in the Department of Public Safety (DPS) develop a school safety climate survey to be administered by school districts and the State Charter School Institute (CSI). The survey may include different questions for school employees, students, and students' parents and guardians. When developing the survey, the DPS must examine surveys related to school safety previously administered by school districts or schools in Colorado.

Beginning in the 2020-21 school year, and biennially thereafter, school districts and the CSI are required to administer the survey to employees, students, and parents. A school district may include the school climate survey as part of a general survey provided so long as the school climate questions are clearly designated and participants may answer those questions anonymously. A school district that administers its own survey is not required to use the state version. Survey results must be published online, reported to the Colorado Department of Education and to the School Safety Resource Center at DPS, and made available to schools and parents.

Background

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado, Boulder (the center), in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Law, created the Safe Communities Safe Schools (SCSS) Initiative to develop a comprehensive model for safe schools. The center created the Safe Communities Safe Schools Climate surveys as part of the initiative, and currently administers the surveys in public schools. It is estimated that approximately \$450,000 was spent developing the surveys, piloting administration in multiple schools, and processing data and reports for use by participants.

Safe Communities Safe Schools Climate surveys are offered to all Colorado schools and school districts for a cost recovery fee. Fees range from \$400 - \$600 per school for student surveys, \$100 per school for surveying adult employees, and \$100 per school for surveying parents. These prices are slated for increase in the coming fiscal year. The center's fees also support the physical administration of the survey, question customization, companion reports, and recommendations for resources and strategies to address survey results. The center offers additional consultation and technical assistance for purchase by schools and districts.

State Expenditures

Assuming that DPS creates a school climate survey similar to the one developed by the center at the University of Colorado, state expenditures increase by at least \$450,000 in FY 2020-21, and by an indeterminate amount thereafter.

New state expenditures may also include additional FTE for the School Safety Resource Center to provide data analysis and reports, and to provide technical assistance to schools and districts choosing to administer the survey. These additional expenses have not been estimated, and will depend largely on the number of schools and districts that choose to use the new state survey. This fiscal note will be revised as additional information becomes available.

School District Impact

For districts that do not currently administer any school climate survey, the bill may increase expenditures to administer surveys every other year beginning with the 2020-21 school year. Some school districts already administer an existing school climate survey; costs for these schools and districts will remain constant. This fiscal note will be revised as additional information on school surveys becomes available.

Technical Note

The bill requires that DPS develop the survey for administration by school districts and CSI beginning with the 2020-21 school year; however, the bill does not take effect until August 5, 2020, assuming the General Assembly adjourns on May 6. The bill requires that the school climate survey be administered no later than March 2020. If DPS receives state appropriations in August, it may be impracticable for the department to develop the survey in time for schools and districts to administer during the 2020-21 school year.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2020, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2020, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2020-21, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$450,000 to the Department of Public Safety.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education Public Safety