



Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 20-0050
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Crowder

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Bill Status: Senate SVMA
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Bill Topic: SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS

- Summary of Fiscal Impact:
- State Revenue
- State Expenditure
- State Transfer
- TABOR Refund
- School District
- Statutory Public Entity

The bill requires school districts to conduct school security evaluations at each school, and the state to review and fund approved recommendations. The bill increases school district costs in FY 2020-21, and state expenditures and school district revenue in FY 2021-22.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required in FY 2020-21.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 20-027

Table with 3 columns: Category, FY 2020-21, FY 2021-22. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (General Fund), Transfers, and TABOR Refund.

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill requires that each school district board of education contract with a safety specialist to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the safety of each school in the district. The safety specialist must be selected by January 2, 2021, and have security training and experience with securing facilities.

The safety specialist must present the evaluation and recommendations to the district school board by June 30, 2021. The district school board must vote on the recommendations and compile the recommendations into a report for the State Board of Education (SBE) by September 1, 2021.

The SBE must review each districts' recommendations and either approve or reject each one by December 1, 2021. For any approved recommendations, the SBE must provide funding to cover the costs of implementation. The SBE must report on approved recommendations by March 1, 2022. The bill is repealed July 1, 2022.

**State Expenditures**

The bill increases state expenditures in the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) by at least \$213,600 and up to \$416.8 million in FY 2021-22. Costs are listed in Table 2 and discussed below. This analysis does not include any costs to review recommendations by or provide funding to state Charter School Institute schools.

**Table 2  
Expenditures Under SB 20-027**

	<b>FY 2020-21</b>	<b>FY 2021-22</b>
<b>Department of Education</b>		
Contracted Consultant	-	at least \$213,600
Funding for Approved Projects	-	up to \$416,566,814
<b>Total Cost</b>	-	<b>up to \$416,780,414</b>

**SBE review.** CDE is required to review the recommendations submitted by school districts between September and December, 2021. The department will hire a one-time consultant to complete the required review, at a rate of \$150 per hour. Assuming the consultant will spend 8 hours on each of the 178 school districts, the cost is \$213,600.

**Funding for approved projects.** The total amount of funding for approved projects is at the discretion of the General Assembly; the amount appropriated will impact which and how many projects are approved by the SBE.

The cost of implementing approved recommendations will vary by district. For comparison purposes, the School Safety Disbursement grants average \$705,263 for districts, and BEST Security and Safety grants average \$1.0 million for districts and \$635,000 for individual schools. Assuming that districts receive a maximum of three projects approved (one at the level of each comparison program), costs for approved projects may be up to \$416.6 million.

## **School District**

The bill increases expenditures and revenue for school districts, as discussed below.

**Evaluations.** In FY 2020-21, the bill increases costs for school districts to contract with a safety specialist to conduct evaluations and provide recommendations. Based on districts' past experiences, costs are estimated to be approximately \$4,500 per high school, \$4,000 per middle school, and \$2,000 per elementary school, in addition to covering the travel costs of a consultant. For context, a school safety consultant previously hired by the Department of Public Safety charged \$225 per hour. Actual district costs will vary significantly across the state, depending on the number of schools in the district, available resources, and the district location and complexity. Workload also increases for the boards of education to evaluate the recommendations and report to the SBE.

**Approved recommendations.** In FY 2021-22, the bill increases revenue to districts whose recommendations are approved by the SBE for funding. The state expenditures section above contains more detail on estimated costs of approved recommendations. Implementing approved recommendations will also likely incur additional workload for existing staff to manage project implementation.

## **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 and Local Government Contacts**

Education                      Public Safety                      School Districts