

First Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0023.01 Chelsea Princell x4335

SENATE BILL 25-027

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Marchman,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Joseph,

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Senate Committees  
Education

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE USE OF TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES TO ADDRESS  
102 SCHOOL SAFETY.

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Bill Summary

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

On or before September 1, 2025, the bill requires the office of school safety (office) to convene and oversee a work group to develop best practices for the use of trauma-informed practices to conduct school safety drills.

No later than June 30, 2026, the bill requires the work group to develop recommendations to support schools in training school personnel on the use of trauma-informed practices in conducting school safety

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.

drills, how to best conduct school safety drills in a trauma-informed manner, and how to best respond to a school safety incident. The recommendations must be submitted to the office and the house and senate education committees, or their successor committees; the governor; the state board; the commissioner of education; and the department of education.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) Colorado is facing a growing mental health crisis among its  
5 youth, with increasing rates of anxiety, depression, and other mental  
6 health issues that significantly impact students' ability to learn and thrive  
7 in school environments;

8 (b) The rise in school shootings and climate-related disasters have  
9 increasingly disrupted the lives of Colorado youth, which contributes to  
10 the mental health challenges and trauma students face, and the long term  
11 effects of these events can impair a youth's emotional well-being, ability  
12 to focus, and academic success;

13 (c) The safety and well-being of students and school personnel in  
14 Colorado is a paramount concern;

15 (d) School safety drills are an essential part of school safety  
16 protocols to prepare students and school personnel for emergency  
17 situations;

18 (e) Traditional school safety drills can be distressing and  
19 traumatizing for students and educators, thereby necessitating a more  
20 considerate approach;

21 (f) Trauma-informed practices have been shown to reduce the  
22 psychological impact of school safety drills on participants, fostering a

1 safer and more supportive school environment;

2 (g) Recognizing the unique vulnerabilities of students, it is  
3 essential to include their perspectives and representation in efforts to  
4 create a safe and supportive school environment; and

5 (h) Implementing trauma-informed school safety drills helps  
6 maintain the mental health and emotional stability of students and school  
7 personnel during and after the school safety drills.

8 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 24-33.5-2705** as  
9 follows:

10 **24-33.5-2705. Trauma-informed practices for school safety**  
11 **drills - work group - creation - purpose - membership - definitions.**

12 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
13 REQUIRES:

14 (a) "PARENT" MEANS A PARENT, LEGAL GUARDIAN, OR ANY OTHER  
15 PERSON HAVING LEGAL CUSTODY OF A STUDENT.

16 (b) "SCHOOL SAFETY DRILL" MEANS AN OPERATIONS-BASED  
17 EXERCISE THAT IS DESIGNED TO PREPARE STUDENTS AND SCHOOL  
18 PERSONNEL TO RESPOND TO SPECIFIC EMERGENCIES IN AN EFFORT TO  
19 REINFORCE SAFETY PROTOCOLS, NURTURE READINESS, AND REDUCE PANIC  
20 DURING A SCHOOL SAFETY INCIDENT.

21 (c) "SCHOOL SAFETY INCIDENT" MEANS AN EVENT THAT OCCURS  
22 ON SCHOOL GROUNDS THAT PUTS PROPERTY OR THE HEALTH, SAFETY, OR  
23 WELL-BEING OF STUDENTS, SCHOOL STAFF, OR VISITORS IN DANGER AND  
24 REQUIRES AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE.

25 (d) "TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES" MEANS A SYSTEMATIC  
26 APPROACH THAT RECOGNIZES THE PREVALENCE OF ADVERSE AND  
27 TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES OF SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS AND EQUIPS SCHOOL

1 PERSONNEL WITH KNOWLEDGE TO RECOGNIZE TRAUMA AND STRATEGIES  
2 TO SUPPORT STUDENTS AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL WHO EXPERIENCE  
3 TRAUMA.

4 (2) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, THE OFFICE SHALL  
5 CONVENE AND OVERSEE A WORK GROUP AS DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION.  
6 THE PURPOSE OF THE WORK GROUP IS TO DEVELOP BEST PRACTICES FOR  
7 THE USE OF TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES TO CONDUCT SCHOOL SAFETY  
8 DRILLS.

9 (3) THE WORK GROUP SHALL OBTAIN INPUT FROM PARENTS AND  
10 STUDENTS WHO REFLECT THE DIVERSITY OF THE STATE WITH REGARD TO  
11 RACE, ETHNICITY, IMMIGRATION STATUS, SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS,  
12 GEOGRAPHY, AND DISABILITY.

13 (4) (a) (I) THE WORK GROUP CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING  
14 NONVOTING MEMBERS:

15 (A) THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, OR THE COMMISSIONER OF  
16 EDUCATION'S DESIGNEE;

17 (B) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
18 ADMINISTRATION CREATED IN SECTION 27-50-203, APPOINTED BY THE  
19 COMMISSIONER OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION;

20 (C) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
21 SAFETY, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR;

22 (D) A STUDENT WHO ATTENDS A COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOL,  
23 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

24 (II) THE WORK GROUP CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING VOTING  
25 MEMBERS:

26 (A) THE DIRECTOR, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE, WHO IS THE  
27 CHAIRPERSON OF THE WORK GROUP;

1           (B) THREE SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS, OR THEIR  
2 RESPECTIVE DESIGNEES, ONE OF WHOM MUST REPRESENT AN URBAN  
3 SCHOOL DISTRICT; ONE OF WHOM MUST REPRESENT A RURAL SCHOOL  
4 DISTRICT; AND ONE OF WHOM MUST REPRESENT A SUBURBAN SCHOOL  
5 DISTRICT, EACH APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, ON THE  
6 ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS SCHOOL  
7 EXECUTIVES;

8           (C) FOUR SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, OR THEIR RESPECTIVE DESIGNEES,  
9 ONE OF WHOM MUST REPRESENT AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, APPOINTED BY  
10 THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, ON THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE  
11 ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS SCHOOL EXECUTIVES; ONE OF WHOM  
12 MUST REPRESENT A MIDDLE SCHOOL, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE  
13 HOUSE, ON THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS  
14 SCHOOL EXECUTIVES; ONE OF WHOM MUST REPRESENT A HIGH SCHOOL,  
15 APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, ON THE ADVICE OF A  
16 STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS SCHOOL EXECUTIVES; AND  
17 ONE OF WHOM MUST REPRESENT EITHER A DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL, AS  
18 DEFINED IN SECTION 22-30.5-112.1, OR AN INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL,  
19 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-30.5-502, APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY  
20 LEADER OF THE SENATE, ON THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION  
21 THAT REPRESENTS SCHOOL EXECUTIVES;

22           (D) THREE TEACHERS, ONE OF WHOM MUST REPRESENT AN URBAN  
23 SCHOOL DISTRICT, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, ON THE  
24 ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS EDUCATORS;  
25 ONE OF WHOM MUST REPRESENT A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, APPOINTED  
26 BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, ON THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE  
27 ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS EDUCATORS; AND ONE OF WHOM MUST

1 REPRESENT A SUBURBAN SCHOOL DISTRICT, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT  
2 OF THE SENATE, ON THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT  
3 REPRESENTS EDUCATORS;

4 (E) TWO SPECIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS, AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
5 22-60.5-102, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, ON THE ADVICE  
6 OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS SPECIAL SERVICES  
7 PROVIDERS;

8 (F) TWO SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS OR SIMILAR SCHOOL  
9 PERSONNEL, ONE OF WHOM MUST REPRESENT A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
10 AND IS APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF  
11 REPRESENTATIVES, THE OTHER OF WHOM IS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER  
12 OF THE HOUSE;

13 (G) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENT OR  
14 A COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE,  
15 ON THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO  
16 PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
17 PERSONNEL;

18 (H) TWO PROFESSIONAL EXPERTS IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT,  
19 MENTAL HEALTH, OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, ONE OF WHOM IS APPOINTED  
20 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, ON THE ADVICE OF A MENTAL HEALTH  
21 PROFESSIONAL, AND ONE OF WHOM IS APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY  
22 LEADER OF THE SENATE, ON THE ADVICE OF A MENTAL HEALTH  
23 PROFESSIONAL;

24 (I) TWO PROFESSIONAL EXPERTS IN SCHOOL SAFETY, ONE OF WHOM  
25 IS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND ONE OF WHOM IS  
26 APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

27 (J) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION THAT

1 REPRESENTS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT  
2 OF THE SENATE;

3 (K) A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM,  
4 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-60.5-121, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE  
5 HOUSE;

6 (L) A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PROGRAM,  
7 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-60.5-102, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE  
8 HOUSE;

9 (M) A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES  
10 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES TO EDUCATORS AND HAS  
11 EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPING AND INCORPORATING TRAUMA-INFORMED  
12 PRACTICES, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE; AND

13 (N) A PROFESSIONAL EXPERT IN NATURAL DISASTER PREPARATION,  
14 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

15 (b) THE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL APPOINT THE MEMBERS  
16 OF THE WORK GROUP BY JULY 31, 2025.

17 (c) ANY VACANCY OCCURRING IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORK  
18 GROUP MUST BE FILLED IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE ORIGINAL  
19 APPOINTMENT.

20 (d) A MAJORITY OF THE VOTING MEMBERS OF THE WORK GROUP  
21 CONSTITUTES A QUORUM FOR THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS, AND A  
22 MAJORITY OF A QUORUM PRESENT AT ANY MEETING IS SUFFICIENT FOR ANY  
23 OFFICIAL ACTION TAKEN BY THE WORK GROUP.

24 (e) THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE WORK GROUP SHALL CONVENE THE  
25 FIRST MEETING OF THE WORK GROUP NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2025.  
26 THE WORK GROUP SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES IN 2025 AND AT  
27 LEAST THREE TIMES IN 2026. THE WORK GROUP SHALL ESTABLISH

1 PROCEDURES TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE WORK GROUP TO PARTICIPATE  
2 IN THE MEETINGS REMOTELY.

3 (f) THE MEMBERS OF THE WORK GROUP SERVE WITHOUT  
4 COMPENSATION BUT MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES DIRECTLY  
5 RELATING TO THEIR SERVICE ON THE WORK GROUP.

6 (g) UPON THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE WORK  
7 GROUP, THE OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE STAFF ASSISTANCE, MEETING SPACE,  
8 OR AUDIO-VISUAL COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES TO THE  
9 WORK GROUP AS NECESSARY FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS DUTIES.

10 (5) THE WORK GROUP SHALL:

11 (a) IDENTIFY THE INTENDED OUTCOMES OF THE  
12 TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES;

13 (b) IDENTIFY BEST PRACTICES FOR INCORPORATING  
14 TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES INTO SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS TO RESPOND  
15 TO DIFFERENT TYPES OF SCHOOL SAFETY INCIDENTS;

16 (c) USE THE BEST PRACTICES IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION (5)(b) OF  
17 THIS SECTION TO DETERMINE HOW TO BEST IMPLEMENT  
18 TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES FOR SCHOOLS TO:

19 (I) PLAN AND EXECUTE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SCHOOL SAFETY  
20 DRILLS;

21 (II) IMMEDIATELY RESPOND TO A SCHOOL SAFETY INCIDENT; AND

22 (III) BEST RESPOND TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE AN EMOTIONAL  
23 REACTION AS A RESULT OF SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS;

24 (d) DETERMINE THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY TO  
25 TRAIN SCHOOL PERSONNEL TO ADEQUATELY IMPLEMENT AND USE  
26 TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES WHEN CONDUCTING SCHOOL SAFETY  
27 DRILLS;



1 (e) DETERMINE THE NECESSARY FREQUENCY OF SCHOOL  
2 PERSONNEL TRAINING TO ENSURE THE ADEQUATE USE OF  
3 TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES DURING SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS;

4 (f) DETERMINE THE NECESSARY FREQUENCY OF SCHOOL SAFETY  
5 DRILLS TO ADEQUATELY PREPARE STUDENTS AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL FOR  
6 SCHOOL SAFETY INCIDENTS;

7 (g) DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF ADVANCE NOTICE GIVEN TO  
8 PARENTS BEFORE CONDUCTING A SCHOOL SAFETY DRILL;

9 (h) PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS ON TALKING TO STUDENTS  
10 ABOUT SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS;

11 (i) IDENTIFY STATE AND LOCAL RESOURCES NEEDED TO SUPPORT  
12 SCHOOLS IN IMPLEMENTING TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES FOR  
13 CONDUCTING SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS; AND

14 (j) IDENTIFY POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS IN  
15 INCORPORATING TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES INTO SCHOOL SAFETY  
16 DRILLS TO RESPOND TO DIFFERENT TYPES OF SCHOOL SAFETY INCIDENTS.

17 (6) THE WORK GROUP SHALL CREATE A REPORT CONTAINING  
18 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CREATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION  
19 (5) OF THIS SECTION. THE REPORT MUST ACCOUNT FOR THE DIFFERENT  
20 NEEDS OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

21 (7) NO LATER THAN JUNE 30, 2026, THE WORK GROUP MUST  
22 SUBMIT A REPORT CONTAINING THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
23 DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION TO THE OFFICE  
24 AND TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
25 AND THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES; THE GOVERNOR; THE  
26 STATE BOARD; THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION; AND THE DEPARTMENT  
27 OF EDUCATION.

1           **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-33.5-2702,  
2 **amend** (2)(g); and **add** (2)(g.5) as follows:

3           **24-33.5-2702. Office of school safety - created - duties - grants**  
4 **manager - crisis response unit.** (2) The office has the following duties:

5           (g) To administer the youth violence prevention grant program;  
6 **and**

7           (g.5) TO OVERSEE THE WORK GROUP CREATED IN SECTION  
8 24-33.5-2705; AND

9           **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
10 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
11 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
12 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
13 institutions.