

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

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  
Appropriations

**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 - fund -**  
12 **definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT  
13 OTHERWISE 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, \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS, GEOGRAPHY, AND  
12 DISABILITY.

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

16 (A) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
17 SAFETY, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;

18 (B) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE OFFICE, APPOINTED BY THE  
19 GOVERNOR;

20 (C) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE OFFICE OF GUN VIOLENCE  
21 PREVENTION CREATED IN SECTION 25-20.5-1202, APPOINTED BY THE  
22 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
23 ENVIRONMENT;

24 (D) THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OR  
25 THE COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE; AND

26 (E) A STUDENT WHO ATTENDS A COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOL,  
27 APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR;".

1           (II) THE WORK GROUP CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING VOTING  
2           MEMBERS:

3           (A) A SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT WHO REPRESENTS  
4           EITHER A RURAL OR SUBURBAN SCHOOL DISTRICT, APPOINTED BY THE  
5           PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

6           (B) A SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, OR THE PRINCIPAL'S DESIGNEE,  
7           APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF  
8           REPRESENTATIVES;

9           (C) TWO TEACHERS, ONE OF WHOM MUST REPRESENT AN URBAN  
10          SCHOOL DISTRICT, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, AND ONE  
11          OF WHOM MUST REPRESENT AN URBAN SCHOOL DISTRICT, APPOINTED BY  
12          THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES;

13          (D) A SCHOOL NURSE OR PEDIATRICIAN, APPOINTED BY THE  
14          MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES;

15          (E) TWO MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, ONE OF WHOM MUST  
16          SPECIALIZE IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT OR TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE,  
17          APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE, AND ONE OF WHOM  
18          MUST SPECIALIZE IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF  
19          THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES;

20          (F) A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER OR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT  
21          REPRESENTATIVE WITH EXPERIENCE IN RURAL OR URBAN SCHOOL  
22          SETTINGS, APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE;

23          (G) A PROFESSIONAL EXPERT IN PUBLIC HEALTH OR SCHOOL  
24          SAFETY, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

25          (H) A PARENT OF A STUDENT CURRENTLY ATTENDING A  
26          COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOL, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
27          OF REPRESENTATIVES; AND

1           (I) AN AT-LARGE MEMBER, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

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

4           (c) ANY VACANCY OCCURRING IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORK  
5 GROUP MUST BE FILLED IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE ORIGINAL  
6 APPOINTMENT.

7           (d) A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE WORK GROUP  
8 CONSTITUTES A QUORUM. IF THE WORK GROUP IS UNABLE TO REACH A  
9 QUORUM DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, THE WORK GROUP MAY  
10 PROCEED WITH A REDUCED QUORUM OF NO FEWER THAN SIX VOTING  
11 MEMBERS.

12           (e) THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE WORK GROUP SHALL CONVENE THE  
13 FIRST MEETING OF THE WORK GROUP NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2025.  
14 THE WORK GROUP SHALL MEET AT LEAST FOUR TIMES IN 2025 AND AT  
15 LEAST THREE TIMES IN 2026. THE WORK GROUP SHALL ESTABLISH  
16 PROCEDURES TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE WORK GROUP TO PARTICIPATE  
17 IN THE MEETINGS REMOTELY.

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

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

25           (5) THE WORK GROUP SHALL:

26           (a) IDENTIFY THE INTENDED OUTCOMES OF THE  
27 TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES;

1           (b) IDENTIFY BEST PRACTICES FOR INCORPORATING  
2 TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES INTO SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS TO RESPOND  
3 TO DIFFERENT TYPES OF SCHOOL SAFETY INCIDENTS;

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

7           (I) PLAN AND EXECUTE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SCHOOL SAFETY  
8 DRILLS;

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

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

12          (d) DETERMINE THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY TO  
13 TRAIN SCHOOL PERSONNEL TO ADEQUATELY IMPLEMENT AND USE  
14 TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES WHEN CONDUCTING SCHOOL SAFETY  
15 DRILLS;

16          (e) DETERMINE THE NECESSARY FREQUENCY OF SCHOOL  
17 PERSONNEL TRAINING TO ENSURE THE ADEQUATE USE OF  
18 TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES DURING SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS;

19          (f) DETERMINE THE NECESSARY FREQUENCY OF SCHOOL SAFETY  
20 DRILLS TO ADEQUATELY PREPARE STUDENTS AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL FOR  
21 SCHOOL SAFETY INCIDENTS;

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

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

26          (i) IDENTIFY STATE AND LOCAL RESOURCES NEEDED TO SUPPORT  
27 SCHOOLS IN IMPLEMENTING TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES FOR

1 CONDUCTING SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS; AND

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

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

9 (7) NO LATER THAN JUNE 30, 2026, THE WORK GROUP MUST  
10 SUBMIT A REPORT CONTAINING THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
11 DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION TO THE OFFICE  
12 AND TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
13 AND THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES; THE GOVERNOR; THE  
14 STATE BOARD; THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION; AND THE DEPARTMENT  
15 OF EDUCATION.

16 (8) THE OFFICE MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS,  
17 OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF  
18 THIS SECTION. THE OFFICE SHALL TRANSMIT ALL MONEY RECEIVED  
19 THROUGH GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS TO THE STATE TREASURER, WHO  
20 SHALL CREDIT THE MONEY TO THE TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES FOR  
21 SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS FUND CREATED IN SUBSECTION (9) OF THIS  
22 SECTION.

23 (9) THE TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES FOR SCHOOL SAFETY  
24 DRILLS FUND IS CREATED IN THE STATE TREASURY. THE  
25 TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES FOR SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS FUND  
26 CONSISTS OF GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS CREDITED TO THE FUND  
27 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (8) OF THIS SECTION AND ANY OTHER MONEY

1 THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE OR TRANSFER TO THE  
2 FUND. THE STATE TREASURER SHALL CREDIT ALL INTEREST AND INCOME  
3 DERIVED FROM THE DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF MONEY IN THE  
4 TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES FOR SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS FUND TO THE  
5 FUND.

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

8 **24-33.5-2702. Office of school safety - created - duties - grants**  
9 **manager - crisis response unit.** (2) The office has the following duties:

10 (g) To administer the youth violence prevention grant program;

11 **and**

12 (g.5) TO OVERSEE THE WORK GROUP CREATED IN SECTION  
13 24-33.5-2705; AND

14 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
15 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
16 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
17 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
18 institutions.