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Whitney Howard
Principal Research Analyst
785-296-4382
Whitney.Howard@klrd.ks.gov

Education

C-4 School Safety and Security

During the 2018 and 2019 Sessions, the Kansas Legislature passed provisions regarding school safety and security. House Sub. for SB 109 (2018) included school safety grants, statewide standards for securing schools, school safety plans, and emergency preparedness drills (also known as safety drills). House Sub. for SB 25 (2019) included additional requirements for school safety grants. SB 128 (2019) amended law related to the minimum number of safety drills required to be conducted in schools each school year.

School Safety and Security Grants

House Sub. for SB 109 (2018) created the School Safety and Security Grant Fund (Fund) in the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) and transferred \$5.0 million from the State General Fund (SGF) to the Fund for fiscal year (FY) 2019. The Fund, controlled by the State Board of Education (State Board), provides grant moneys to school districts for school safety and security improvements. School districts are required to match the amount of the grant on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

For FY 2019, the State Board awarded grants to 156 of the state's 286 school districts. The average grant was \$32,268. The smallest grant was awarded to Healy (USD 468) for \$1,043, and the largest was awarded to Wichita (USD 259) for \$922,613.

House Sub. for SB 25 (2019) appropriated \$5.0 million from the SGF to the Fund for FY 2020. The bill required FY 2020 disbursements to be for the acquisition and installation of security cameras and any other systems; equipment and services necessary for security monitoring of facilities operated by a school district; and for securing doors, windows, and any entrances to such facilities.

For FY 2020, the State Board awarded grants to 169 of the state's 286 school districts. The average grant was \$29,585. The smallest grant was awarded to Moscow (USD 209) for \$670, and the largest was awarded to Wichita (USD 259) for \$921,475.

Statewide Standards for Securing Schools

House Sub. for SB 109 (2018) required the State Board to develop and adopt statewide standards for making all public schools safe

and secure by January 1, 2019. The bill required those standards to include, but not be limited to, the infrastructure of school buildings, security technology utilized in schools, and communication systems. The State Board was required to consult with the Adjutant General's Department, Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI), Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), and the State Fire Marshal when developing these standards. The State Board was permitted to consult with other state or local agencies or school districts. These standards were adopted and can be found on KSDE's Safe and Secure Schools Unit webpage: <https://www.ksde.org/Kansas-Safe-Schools>.

School Safety Plans

The State Board was required to adopt statewide standards for school safety and security plans by January 1, 2019. House Sub. for SB 109 (2018) required those standards to include, but not be limited to, the evaluation of school building infrastructure; training of school district employees on safety policies; procedures for notification, securing a building during an emergency, emergency evacuation, and recovery after an emergency; incorporation of school safety plans into existing emergency response plans; distribution of school safety plans to pertinent local agencies; and procedures to ensure school safety plans are implemented.

The State Board was required to consult with the Adjutant General's Department, KBI, KDHE, and the State Fire Marshal when developing these standards. The State Board was permitted to consult with other state or local agencies or school districts. These standards were adopted and can be found on KSDE's Safe and Secure Schools Unit webpage: <https://www.ksde.org/Kansas-Safe-Schools>.

House Sub. for SB 109 (2018) required, during FY 2019, local boards of education to adopt a comprehensive school safety plan based on the standards adopted by the State Board, school districts to consult with local law enforcement and emergency management agencies to review school infrastructure and existing emergency

response plans, and adopted school safety plans to be sent to the State Board and each local agency the school district consulted with during the creation of the plan. These safety plans are required for a school district to receive school safety grant disbursements from the Fund.

Emergency Preparedness (Safety) Drills

House Sub. for SB 109 (2018) required the State Fire Marshal to expend moneys to require administrators of public and private schools to conduct at least 16 emergency preparedness drills during the 2018-2019 school year and to prescribe the manner in which such drills are to be conducted. These 16 emergency preparedness drills included 4 fire drills; 3 tornado drills; and 9 crisis drills, such as intruder response drills and lock-down drills.

SB 128 (2019) amends law related to the minimum number of safety drills required to be conducted in schools each school year. The bill requires the State Fire Marshal to adopt rules and regulations requiring administrators of public and private schools and educational institutions, except community colleges, colleges, and universities, to conduct at least four fire drills, two tornado drills (one in September and one in March), and three crisis drills each school year.

The bill requires the three crisis drills to be conducted at some time during school hours, aside from the regular dismissal at the close of the day's session. Continuing law requires fire and tornado drills to be conducted at some time during school hours, aside from the regular dismissal at the close of the day's session. The bill states the manner in which such crisis drills are conducted may be subject to approval by the Safe and Secure Schools Unit of KSDE.

The bill authorizes the State Fire Marshal to grant an exemption pursuant to KSA 31-136, authorizing a variance for the number or manner of fire drills, tornado drills, and crisis drills for students receiving special education or related services.

For more information, please contact:

Whitney Howard, Principal Research Analyst
Whitney.Howard@klrd.ks.gov

John Hess, Fiscal Analyst
John.Hess@klrd.ks.gov

Edward Penner, Principal Research Analyst
Edward.Penner@klrd.ks.gov

Kansas Legislative Research Department
300 SW 10th Ave., Room 68-West, Statehouse
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: (785) 296-3181