

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1721 (Muratsuchi) – As Amended March 9, 2026

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 8 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI), on or before July 1, 2027, to appoint and convene a statewide stakeholder workgroup on school safety to review existing requirements of comprehensive school safety plans and submit a report on the recommendations of the workgroup to the Department of Finance and the Legislature on or before July 1, 2028.

Specifically, this bill requires the SSPI to appoint and convene a workgroup, in consultation with the State Board of Education (SBE), on school safety. The workgroup must include specified participants, such as schoolsite administrators, public school teachers, representatives from a local school employee organization, and representatives from local law enforcement and local fire agencies. The bill requires the workgroup to review existing comprehensive school safety plans and make recommendations on the development and approval processes and the required elements of a comprehensive school safety plan.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

One-time General Fund costs likely in the tens of thousands of dollars to the California Department of Education (CDE) to convene the workgroup and complete the required report and recommendations.

Regardless of cost, consistent with this committee's rules and practice, this bill is eligible for placement on the suspense file because it has the primary purpose of creating a report.

**COMMENTS:**

1) **Background.**

***School Safety Plans.*** Comprehensive school safety plans are a key component of school safety required by state law. A safety plans is a collection of procedures for schools to use in the event of an emergency, as well as policies to promote a safe learning environment. Each school district and county office of education (COE) is responsible for the overall development of all safety plans for its schools that operate kindergarten or any grades 1 through 12. Upon establishment of its charter, a charter school's petition must include the development of a school safety plan which largely mirrors the requirements for the school district and COE plans. Typically, a schoolsite council or a safety committee at each school develops the comprehensive school safety plan.

***California State Auditor Audit Findings.*** The California State Auditor released a report on School Violence Prevention in 2016 finding that many safety plans it examined failed to comply with state law, including plans that were missing required procedures meant to protect students and staff. The audit also found that school districts and COEs had failed to ensure that schools are complying with safety plan requirements. This suggests that some schools have insufficient or nonexistent safety plans and therefore, are likely to face inadequate emergency responses. The audit also pointed to deficiencies at the state level, suggesting that statewide guidance and oversight was inadequate to ensure the safety and security of students and staff.

- 2) **Related Legislation.** AB 435 (Muratsuchi), of the current legislative session, was nearly identical to this bill. AB 435 was held in this committee.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Aaron Heredia / APPR. / (916) 319-2081