
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1721 (Muratsuchi) - Pupil safety: comprehensive school safety plans

Version: June 8, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: June 29, 2026

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to convene a work group to review existing comprehensive school safety plans (CSSPs) and make recommendations on the development, approval, and statutorily required elements of the school safety plans.

Fiscal Impact: The California Department of Education estimates General Fund costs in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars and the equivalent of 2.0 positions to convene the workgroup, make recommendations, and complete the required report.

Background: Existing law requires each school district or county office of education (COE) to be responsible for the overall development of all comprehensive school safety plans for its schools operating kindergarten or any of grades 1 through 12.

Existing law requires each school to adopt its school safety plan by March 1 and review and update its plan annually by March 1, and provides that each school shall annually report, in July, on the status of its school safety plan, including a description of key elements of the plan, in the annual school accountability report card (SARC).

Existing law requires that school safety plans include specified components, including an assessment of the current status of school crime committed on school campuses and at school-related functions; identification of appropriate strategies and programs to provide or maintain a high level of school safety; child abuse reporting procedures; disaster procedures, including adaptations for pupils with disabilities; policies regarding pupils who commit specified acts that would lead to suspension or expulsion; and procedures to notify teachers of dangerous pupils.

Existing law requires the school safety plans to be submitted annually to the school district or COE for approval and requires a school district or COE to notify the California Department of Education (CDE) by October 15 of every year of any school that is not in compliance.

Proposed Law: This bill requires the SPI, in consultation with the State Board of Education (SBE), on or before July 1, 2027, to appoint and convene a statewide stakeholder workgroup on school safety. The bill requires the workgroup to include specified membership, including two current schoolsite administrators, two certificated public school teachers, two representatives of a local school employee organization, one representative of a parent organization, one current high school pupil, and one member of either the governing board of a school district or a county board of education.

This bill requires the SPI, to the greatest extent possible, to ensure both of the following:

1. The educators in the workgroup include those employed in both elementary and secondary schools, and that at least one educator has experience in working with pupils with exceptional needs.
2. The overall composition of the work group represents the geographic diversity of the state and has a balance of educators and first responders from both urban and rural areas.

This bill authorizes the workgroup to consult with outside experts in school safety issues.

This bill requires the workgroup to review existing CSSP and make recommendations on the development and approval process for and the required elements of the CSSP. It requires that the review include the following: defining the goals and purposes of a CSSP; reviewing the required elements of a CSSP, including the process for future updates to a CSSP; reviewing the development and adoption process of a CSSP, including the process for future updates to a CSSP; and making specified recommendations, including improvements to the structure, organization, and layout of a plan to ensure it captures critical elements and is accessible and useful for schoolsite staff and the community, including parents and law enforcement.

This bill requires the SPI, on or before July 1, 2028, to submit a report on the recommendations of the workgroup to the California Department of Finance and appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature.

This bill requires that the meetings of the workgroup be open to the public pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act, and authorizes CDE to enter into exclusive or nonexclusive contracts with nongovernmental entities on a bid or negotiated basis for the purposes of this bill's provisions.

Related Legislation: AB 1747 (Rodriguez, Chapter 806, Statutes of 2018) requires the CDE to develop, maintain, and conspicuously post on its website, best practices for developing, reviewing, and approving CSSPs as well as a formal CSSP compliance checklist.

Staff Comments: All schools serving students in grades kindergarten through 12 are required to develop and maintain a comprehensive school safety plan designed to address campus risks, prepare for emergencies, and create a safe, secure learning environment for students and school personnel. However, the state has continually expanded the scope of the comprehensive school safety plan to address emerging threats and other school safety issues which have led to concerns about the overall effectiveness of the plans. This bill requires the SPI to convene a statewide stakeholder workgroup to review existing comprehensive school safety plans and make recommendations on how to improve their development and approval processes, as well as their accessibility and cohesion across the various required elements. According to the author, "Schools are responsible for creating learning environments that are safe and secure for students, staff, and visitors. Schools must be prepared to

respond to emergencies, including natural and man-made hazards, and strive to prevent violence and behaviors that undermine safety and security. Following the addition of multiple new requirements for a comprehensive school safety plan in recent years, there is a need to have experts review the requirements, conduct a thorough assessment, and make recommendations on how to improve and update the plans while maintaining those elements critical to school safety.”

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