
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 598 (Gipson) - School safety: School Mapping Data Grant Program

Version: July 9, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0, G.O. 15 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill would establish the School Mapping Data Grant Program, under the administration of the Office of Emergency Services (OES), for local educational agencies (LEAs) to purchase school mapping data programs.

Fiscal Impact:

- While the bill's provisions would be contingent upon an appropriation, it could result in one-time Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressure in the tens of millions of dollars for the state to provide grant funding for the program. A precise amount would depend on the number of grant recipients and the amount of each grant which the bill does not specify.
- The OES estimates additional, unknown General Fund costs for additional staff to administer the program. The exact amount would depend on the number of applicants and grant recipients, but the OES indicates that typical grant oversight is handled by 1 PY per 25 grants at the AGPA level. Additionally, the OES estimates General Fund costs of \$4.974 million for 8.0 additional positions and IT licenses (\$3 million ongoing) to implement and maintain a data model for the program. While the bill allows up to 5 percent of grant funding to be used for administrative costs, the OES believes this is not likely to be sufficient to meet its anticipated workload needs.

Background: Existing law provides that LEAs are responsible for the overall development of all comprehensive school safety plans for its schools operating kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive in collaboration with school personnel, law enforcement, and first responders. The comprehensive school safety plans shall include an assessment of the current status of school crime committed on school campuses and at school-related functions and identification of appropriate strategies and programs to provide or maintain a high level of school safety and address the school's procedures for complying with existing laws related to school safety, including child abuse reporting procedures; disaster procedures; an earthquake emergency procedure system; policies regarding pupils who commit specified acts that would lead to suspension or expulsion; procedures to notify teachers of dangerous pupils; a discrimination and harassment policy; the provisions of any schoolwide dress code; procedures for safe ingress and egress of pupils, parents, and school employees to and from school; a safe and orderly environment conducive to learning; and rules and procedures on school discipline.

Proposed Law: This bill establishes the School Mapping Data Grant Program Act and the School Mapping Data Grant Program, under the administration of the OES, to provide one-time grants to participating LEAs to enter into contracts with qualified vendors that provide school mapping data. It requires the OES, in consultation with the State 9-1-1 Advisory Board, to determine the data requirements of a school mapping data program that is eligible to receive grant funding under the program, as specified. The bill provides that this information contains sensitive and tactical response information that is critical to the safety and well-being of public schools and their pupils and shall be kept confidential, as specified, and exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

This bill requires an LEA that receives grant funding under the program to select, in collaboration with local public safety agencies, including, but not limited to, those providing law enforcement, firefighting, or other emergency services, a school mapping data program that meets the criteria established by the OES.

This bill allows the OES to expend up to 5 percent of any appropriation made for purposes of this article, on its administrative costs to implement and administer the grant program.

Related Legislation: AB 2816 (Gipson, 2024) was substantially similar to this bill and held on the Suspense File in this Committee.

SB 906 (Portantino, Chapter 144, Statutes of 2022) requires a school official who is alerted to or observes any threat or perceived threat, as defined, to immediately report the threat or perceived threat to law enforcement.

SB 541 (Bates, Chapter 786, Statutes of 2019) requires the CDE to collect, and LEAs to provide, data pertaining to lockdown or multi-option response drills conducted at school sites and requires the CDE to submit a report to the Legislature relative to that data.

Staff Comments: This bill would provide grants of an unspecified amount to LEAs to enter into contracts with qualified vendors providing school mapping data for purposes of assisting public safety agencies in efficiently responding to on-campus emergencies at schools. According to the author, “AB 598 will ensure safety on our K-12 campuses by providing our first responders with the technology and tools necessary to navigate the campus in the event of an emergency. In situations of life and death, every second matters. We need to provide emergency school mapping technology for our state’s first responders to efficiently navigate and communicate, especially through an unfamiliar building environment.”

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