

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 1140 (Ashby) – As Amended July 2, 2026

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 8 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill requires a local educational agency (LEA) governing board or body to ensure that any construction contract or contracts taking place during school hours includes security provisions limiting access to the construction site and keeping unauthorized individuals off school property.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Potential one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs of an unknown but potentially significant amount, possibly in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, for LEAs, cumulatively statewide, to update policies as needed to reflect inclusion of campus security and access limitation provisions required by this bill. To the extent that an LEA already includes such provisions in its governing board- or body-adopted policies, costs would be lower.

If the Commission on State Mandates determines the bill's requirements to be a reimbursable state mandate, the state would need to reimburse these costs to LEAs or provide funding through the K-12 Mandate Block Grant.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

California schools work hard to keep their faculty and students safe, and fortunately, there is no known example of an active shooter breaching a locked door. However, unauthorized individuals have gained access to school campuses through open doors, propped-open gates, and other unsecured entry points. That is why we must ensure entry points are secure during construction, maintenance, and repair projects on school campuses.

SB 1140 addresses this issue by requiring schools to enhance their safety plans with measures that limit entry points and prevent unauthorized access during projects. This bill ensures California can continue to protect our students and schools from unauthorized individuals and dangerous events.

2) **Background.** Unfortunately, violence targeted at schools has increased significantly in recent decades. According to the K-12 School Shooting Database, maintained by the Center

for Homeland Defense and Security at the Naval Postgraduate School, the number of times a gun was fired or brandished with intent at a K-12 school or when a bullet hit school property rose from fewer than 50 in 2000 to nearly 350 in both 2023 and 2024. For this reason, maintaining secure and safe campuses by limiting which individuals may gain access to the campus grounds is of paramount importance and LEAs must be intentional to address potential security risks. According to the California Federation of Teachers, writing in support of this bill:

Ideally, schools are safe places for all students, workers, volunteers and authorized visitors, but that safety remains elusive when anyone can enter campus unimpeded. While virtually all schools work hard to limit who can access school grounds, these efforts demand more dedicated attention during infrastructure projects such as construction, facilities maintenance or repair.

Such work inherently involves repeatedly opening doors, driveway gates, and other points of access, often over the course of several days or weeks. And, given the size and scope of many school facilities, it is not unheard of for such contractors to be onsite for the majority of the school year, sometimes with multiple contractors performing work simultaneously. While it is very possible to keep the school site secure during all of this work, doing so requires careful planning and coordination between school officials, contracting entities, and affected workers.

This bill requires an LEA governing board or body to ensure that construction projects occurring during school hours include security protocols to limit access and keep unauthorized individuals off school property.

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