

SENATE THIRD READING
SB 1140 (Ashby)
As Amended August 13, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

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.

Major Provisions

- 1) Requires an 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.
- 2) Specifies that nothing in this section prevents otherwise lawful access to a construction project.
- 3) Defines "construction project" as all construction, alteration, demolition, installation, repair, and maintenance work performed on a schoolsite.

COMMENTS

Increasing incidence of violent incidents on K-12 school campuses. The U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) define a targeted attack or targeted violence as an attack that was planned for days, weeks, or months, serves a purpose, and seeks to accomplish objectives set by the attacker. Prior to 1998, targeted attacks were rare in the U.S. Over the last 20 years, almost all targeted attacks at schools have been perpetrated by students or former students. (Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission Report, 2019).

Since April 20, 1999, when two high school students killed 12 students and 1 teacher and wounded 23 others before committing suicide at Columbine High School in Colorado, school safety has been a major concern in schools across the country. Since then, more shootings have taken place at schoolsites, including Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut in 2012, in which 26 students and educators were killed; the 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida with 17 casualties; and the Uvalde, Texas school shooting in 2022, in which 19 children and 2 adults were killed.

The K-12 School Shooting Database, maintained by the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at the Naval Postgraduate School, documents when a gun is brandished, is fired, or a bullet hits school property for any reason. The database has tracked the number of times a gun is fired or brandished with intent at a K-12 school or when a bullet hits school property since 1970. The number of such incidents has increased drastically in recent years, from less than 50 in 2000 to 349 in 2023 and 331 in 2024.

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."

Arguments in Support

According to CFT, "Every public school in California struggles to keep unauthorized individuals off of school property, and the problem takes many forms: persons in addiction or mental health crisis seeking access to the facility, dangerous spouses or acquaintances seeking to commit domestic violence against a specific person, or the worst-case scenario, an active shooter planning a catastrophic event.

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."

Arguments in Opposition

An individual writes, "California schools have protocols for shooters, natural disasters, bullying, etc. "Unauthorized" access or sufficient limiting measures could vary widely."

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee:

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.

VOTES

SENATE FLOOR: 38-0-2

YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNeerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Reyes, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ABS, ABST OR NV: Niello, Padilla

ASM EDUCATION: 8-0-1

YES: Patel, Hoover, Alvarez, Bonta, Castillo, Lowenthal, Pellerin, Zbur

ABS, ABST OR NV: Garcia

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-0-4

YES: Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache

ABS, ABST OR NV: Hoover, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

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