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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair  
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

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### SB 1181 (Hurtado) - Central Valley School Safety Coordination Pilot Program

**Version:** April 28, 2026

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** May 11, 2026

**Policy Vote:** E.M. 9 - 0, ED. 7 - 0

**Mandate:** Yes

**Consultant:** Janelle Miyashiro

**Bill Summary:** SB 1181 requires the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to establish a pilot program in select Central Valley counties to evaluate communication pathways between local educational agencies (LEAs) and regional fusion centers regarding credible school safety threats.

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

- OES estimates annual General Fund costs of \$1.25 million over a five-year period to implement the pilot program across eight Central Valley counties. OES notes a five-year period would be the most effective timeframe to operate and evaluate the program. Should the program become permanent, OES's annual General Fund costs are projected to be \$1.05 million.
- Unknown, potentially significant Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressures, contingent upon the program elements determined by OES. Because the bill provides OES broad discretion to establish the pilot's focus and parameters, the ultimate fiscal impact will scale according to the scope of the program's activities.

**Background:** According to the Department of Homeland Security, fusion centers are state-owned and locally operated entities that serve as focal points for the receipt, analysis, and sharing of threat-related information among government agencies and private sector partners. In California, the State Threat Assessment Center (STAC) serves as the state's primary fusion center, partnering with five regional fusion centers in other major urban areas of the state. These regions include Sacramento, Los Angeles, Orange County, San Francisco, and San Diego. Collectively, the STAC and the other five fusion centers are known as the State Threat Assessment System (STAS). According to its website, the STAS is designed to detect, deter, and prevent homeland security threats to citizens and critical infrastructure in California. To accomplish this goal, STAS uses public safety and private sector partnerships in information sharing, analysis, and investigative support.

OES indicates there are 18 positions dedicated to the STAC. These personnel work to facilitate effective coordination and information sharing across partner agencies. For example, OES states that it may have an operational support role for planned events such as the Superbowl by positioning staff at local Emergency Operations Centers or providing mutual aid through the Fire and Rescue system. OES notes this type of support benefits from and is informed by threat and security information managed by the STAC. OES adds that it also has a role in managing federal grants from the Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Area Security Initiative to local agencies and fusion centers in California.

In addition, the Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Unit within Cal OES coordinates with the regional fusion centers to enhance the availability of training related to school security. The program is supported through the U.S. Department of Justice and is designed to provide students and teachers with the tools to recognize, respond quickly to, and prevent acts of violence. The CIP Unit works to educate state, county, and local entities about the STAS, provide guidance for the adoption of security-related measures, inform schools of identified threats trends, and facilitate engagement with the regional fusion centers.

**Proposed Law:**

- Requires OES, in consultation with the State Department of Education, to establish a Central Valley School Safety Coordination Pilot Program for the purpose of studying and evaluating improved communication pathways between LEAs and regional fusion centers regarding credible safety threats affecting school communities. Specifies the programs focus shall be on addressing chronic absenteeism, youth mental health, and emerging digital or hybrid threats in Senate District 16 and similar regions.
- Requires the program to be implemented in selected counties within the Central Valley, prioritizing areas with high chronic absenteeism and mental health challenges identified in district-specific data. Specifies this includes the Counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Tulare, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus
- Provides that the pilot may include:
  - Designation of school safety liaisons within participating county offices of education, in coordination with existing school resource officers where applicable.
  - Development of voluntary coordination protocols between participating LEAs and regional fusion centers regarding credible school safety threats, including online radicalization and cyber threats, while leveraging Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)-certified programs for school resource officers and school personnel.
  - Training opportunities for school personnel related to threat awareness, responsible reporting practices, and emerging digital safety trends affecting youth, including AI-driven disinformation and its links to mental health issues, aligned with POST standards and existing school resource officer frameworks.
  - Development of information sharing practices between participating LEAs and regional fusion centers, emphasizing support for chronic absenteeism reduction through mental health resources.
  - Identification and analysis of emerging threat trends affecting school communities, including digital and hybrid threats, such as disinformation campaigns targeting youth mental health, family stability, or resource-related tensions in rural areas, in coordination with school resource officer and fusion center protocols

- Requires the program to comply with all applicable state and federal laws.
- Prohibits the program from authorizing bulk monitoring of students or the collection of student information unrelated to a credible safety threat.
- By January 1, 2029, requires OES to submit a report to the Legislature evaluating the program. Requires the report to include:
  - The number of participating LEAs.
  - A description of communication and information sharing practiced developed through the pilot.
  - A description of the types of information shared between participating local educational agencies, regional fusion centers, and the Office of Emergency Services when a credible safety threat has been identified.
  - Information on how the regional fusion centers identify threats and determine what constitutes a credible safety threat.
  - Emerging threat trends affecting schools identified through the pilot program, with specific data on Senate District 16 challenges, including chronic absenteeism reductions via threat mitigation, youth mental health improvements, and impacts from digital or hybrid threats.
  - Information on the supportive resources provided to participating schools or their students in response to emerging threat trends. These may include, but are not limited to, resources for mental health, restorative justice, and hate and bullying prevention.
  - A description of specific privacy and civil liberties safeguards implemented by OES, regional fusion centers, and participating LEAs.
  - Recommendations regarding whether the pilot program should be expanded statewide.
  - Recommendations for pursuing federal grants, including those from the Homeland Security Grant Program or Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention grants, to support program expansion and address identified threats.
- Sunsets the pilot program on January 1, 2030.
- Makes statements regarding legislative intent.

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