

Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

SB 1181 (Hurtado) – As Amended July 2, 2026

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 7 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the California Department of Education (CDE), in consultation with the Office of Emergency Services (OES), to establish and administer the Violence Prevention, Pupil Wellness, and School Safety Grant Program, which, upon an appropriation, would award grants to eligible local educational agencies (LEAs) to fund evidence-based violence prevention, pupil wellness, and pupil safety initiatives.

The bill also requires CDE, by January 1, 2029, to submit a report to the Legislature evaluating the effectiveness of the grant program and making recommendations for additional investments. Further, a grant recipient must submit findings to CDE regarding the effectiveness of its activities, which CDE shall use to prepare the report.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) One-time cost pressures likely in the millions to tens of millions of dollars, possibly either Proposition 98 General Fund or Federal Funds, for the Legislature to appropriate funding to implement the grant program. To the extent the program's implementation leads to the appropriation of additional resources to support multi-year grant funding, cost pressures would be ongoing annually.
- 2) Ongoing costs of an unknown amount, likely in the low-to-mid hundreds of thousands of dollars, for CDE to administer the grant program.
- 3) Ongoing General Fund costs of \$498,000 for Cal OES to hire two additional staff to help oversee grant administration with CDE.

COMMENTS:

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

Central Valley schools serve large numbers of socioeconomically disadvantaged students who face persistent barriers to accessing prevention resources. According to the California School Dashboard, chronic absenteeism rates in many Central Valley districts remain above statewide averages, and schools continue to report growing concerns related to student mental health, bullying, social media facilitated conflicts, and violence prevention.

Research consistently shows that students who feel connected to their school are more likely to attend class, achieve academically, and avoid risky behaviors. Yet many schools lack the dedicated resources necessary to implement evidence-based violence prevention and school climate programs tailored to the needs of their communities

SB 1181 helps address this gap by providing schools with resources to implement locally driven, evidence-based violence prevention strategies that strengthen school climate, improve student engagement, and support safer learning environments. By investing in prevention before a crisis occurs, California can help ensure that students throughout the Central Valley have the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed in safe and supportive schools.

- 2) **Background.** The Legislature has made several significant financial investments and policy changes to support pupil behavioral health in recent years. For example, the Community Schools Partnership Program, first established in 2021, provided \$4 billion in one-time funds to support schools' efforts to partner with community agencies and local government to align community resources towards improving student outcomes, which may include mental health supports, violence prevention and intervention, and youth mentoring programs. The 2026 budget act also appropriates an additional \$1 billion in ongoing funding to support existing and new community schools partnerships. Current law also requires an LEA, by July 1, 2029, to certify to the CDE that 100% of its certificated employees and 40% of its classified employees having direct contact with students in any of grades seven through 12, have received youth behavioral health training at least one time.

This bill establishes a grant program, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature, to award grants to eligible LEAs for supporting evidence-based violence prevention, pupil wellness, and public safety initiatives, which the bill prescribes include, but are not limited to, school-based mental health services, youth mentoring and positive youth development programs, and violence interruption and intervention programs, among others.

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