



LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD

School Safety Programs and Funding, 86th and 87th Legislatures

Presented to: Joint Committee Hearing

Homeland Security & Public Safety and Youth Health & Safety, Select

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF

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School Safety Programs in Texas

In 2019, the 86th Legislature, Regular Session provided new funding for several school safety programs. This includes the following, three of which are related to Senate Bill 11, (86th Legislature, Regular Session):

- Texas Education Agency (TEA):
 - School Safety and Security Grant Program
 - School Safety Allotment
- Texas State University:
 - The School Safety Center
 - Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT)

School Safety and Security Grants

- Included in Senate Bill 500 (86th Legislature, Regular Session), the supplemental appropriations bill for fiscal year 2019, was **\$100.0 million** from the Economic Stabilization Fund for the School Safety and Security Grant Program. The program, which was authorized under Senate Bill 11 (86th Legislature, Regular Session) is administered by TEA. It provides funding to local education agencies for infrastructure enhancements to improve safety at public schools.
- Allowable uses: exterior doors with push bars; metal detectors; vehicle barriers; systems that monitor school entrances, exits, and hallways; active shooter alarm systems; two-way radio systems; security fencing; bullet-resistant glass or film; and door-locking systems.
- Award amounts were granted on a formula basis and were determined by district size. Award amounts ranged from a minimum award amount of \$25,000 for the smallest districts to \$3.4 million for the largest district. As of May 2022, \$84.9 million of the \$100.0 million that was appropriated had been paid out.

School Safety Allotment

The School Safety Allotment, established by SB 11, 86th Legislature, entitles districts to an amount of funding per student in average daily attendance (ADA) under the Foundation School Program.

The rate of funding per ADA is set by appropriation. The table below shows appropriated rates and the estimated statewide total allotment by fiscal year.

	FY 2020 Exp	FY 2021 Exp	FY 2022 Bud	FY 2023 Bud
Appropriated Rate	\$9.72 per ADA	\$9.72 per ADA	\$9.72 per ADA	\$9.72 per ADA
Estimated Total Allotment	\$47.7 million	\$48.5 million	\$50.0 million	\$50.0 million

School Safety Allotment

School Safety Allotment funds must be expended for the purposes specified in Education Code Sec. 48.115, including:

- **Securing school facilities**, such as improvements to school infrastructure, physical barriers, security and communications equipment;
- **Providing school security**, including employing security and police officers or collaborating with local law enforcement agencies;
- **School safety and security planning and training**, such as emergency response trainings, mental health prevention and treatment programs, programs to identify and manage threats and emergencies, and providing mental health personnel;
- **Suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention programs.**

School Safety Center

- Included in House Bill 1 (86th Legislature, Regular Session), was a \$9.1 million increase in funding for the Texas State School Safety Center, bringing the total appropriation for the program in the 2020-21 biennium to \$11.0 million. This funding was maintained in the 2022-23 biennium.
- Established in 1999, the Texas State School Safety Center provides training and oversees compliance in the field of school safety for K-12 districts, charter schools and community colleges.
- Under Senate Bill 11 (86th Legislature, Regular Session), each school district or public junior college district shall adopt and implement a multihazard emergency operations plan for the use in the district's facilities. The plan must address prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery as defined by the Texas School Safety Center in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Commissioner of Education or Commissioner of Higher Education, as applicable.
- The Texas State School Safety Center reviews and verifies the multihazard emergency operations plans adopted by the school districts and public junior college districts based on a random or need-based cycle.

ALERRT Program

- The Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) program was not established in Senate Bill 11 (86th Legislature, Regular Session) but was another school safety program that received new funding during the 86th Legislative Session.
- Included in House Bill 1 (86th Legislature, Regular Session), was \$4.0 million in funding for the ALERRT Program at Texas State University. This funding was maintained in the 2022-23 biennium.
- ALERRT provides active shooter response training to law enforcement, EMS, and other governmental first responders.



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