86R13451 JES-F

By:  Taylor S.B. No. 11

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to policies, procedures, and measures for school safety and mental health promotion in public schools; making an appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  Subchapter C, Chapter 7, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 7.061 to read as follows:

Sec. 7.061.  FACILITIES STANDARDS. (a) In this section, "instructional facility" has the meaning assigned by Section 46.001.

(b)  The commissioner shall adopt or amend rules as necessary to ensure that building standards for instructional facilities and other school district and open-enrollment charter school facilities provide a secure and safe environment. In adopting or amending rules under this section, the commissioner shall include the use of best practices for:

(1)  the design and construction of new facilities; and

(2)  the improvement, renovation, and retrofitting of existing facilities.

(c)  Not later than September 1 of each even-numbered year, the commissioner shall review all rules adopted or amended under this section and amend the rules as necessary to ensure that building standards for school district and open-enrollment charter school facilities continue to provide a secure and safe environment.

SECTION 2.  Chapter 8, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter E to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER E. MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT PERSONNEL

Sec. 8.151.  DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter, "local mental health authority" and "non-physician mental health professional" have the meanings assigned by Section 571.003, Health and Safety Code.

Sec. 8.152.  EMPLOYMENT OF NON-PHYSICIAN MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL AS MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE RESOURCE. (a) A local mental health authority shall employ a non-physician mental health professional to serve as a mental health and substance use resource for school districts located in the region served by a regional education service center and in which the local mental health authority provides services.

(b)  If two or more local mental health authorities provide services in a region served by a regional education service center, the local mental health authority that primarily operates in the county in which the center is located shall employ the non-physician mental health professional and, in making any hiring decision, consult with other local mental health authorities providing services in that region.

Sec. 8.153.  INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION; MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. (a) A local mental health authority that employs a non-physician mental health professional under Section 8.152 and the regional education service center shall collaborate in carrying out this subchapter.

(b)  Each regional education service center shall provide for a non-physician mental health professional employed for the region served by the center with a space for the professional to carry out the professional's duties under Section 8.155. The local mental health authority that employs the professional shall pay the center a reasonable administrative cost for providing the space.

(c)  A local mental health authority and a regional education service center may enter into a memorandum of understanding for the administration of this section.

Sec. 8.154.  SUPERVISION OF NON-PHYSICIAN MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL. The local mental health authority that employs a non-physician mental health professional under Section 8.152 shall:

(1)  supervise the professional in carrying out the professional's duties under Section 8.155; and

(2)  consult with any other local mental health authorities in the region in supervising the professional.

Sec. 8.155.  DUTIES OF NON-PHYSICIAN MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL. (a) A non-physician mental health professional employed under Section 8.152 shall act as a resource for school district personnel by:

(1)  helping personnel gain awareness and a better understanding of mental health and co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders;

(2)  assisting personnel to implement initiatives related to mental health or substance use under state law or agency rules;

(3)  ensuring personnel are aware of:

(A)  the list of recommended best practice-based programs and research-based practices developed under Section 161.325, Health and Safety Code; and

(B)  other treatment programs available in the school district, including programs provided by a local mental health authority;

(4)  on a bimonthly basis, providing personnel with mental health first aid training;

(5)  on a bimonthly basis, providing personnel with training on prevention and intervention programs that have been shown to be effective in helping students cope with pressures to:

(A)  use alcohol, cigarettes, or illegal drugs; or

(B)  misuse prescription drugs; and

(6)  on an annual basis, providing personnel with training regarding the effects of grief and trauma and providing support to children with intellectual or developmental disabilities who suffer from grief or trauma.

(b)  A non-physician mental health professional employed under Section 8.152 may not treat or provide counseling to a student or provide specific advice to school district personnel regarding a student.

Sec. 8.156.  PARTICIPATION BY SCHOOL DISTRICT NOT REQUIRED. This subchapter does not require a school district to participate in training provided by a non-physician mental health professional or otherwise use the professional as a resource.

Sec. 8.157.  DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING. A state agency to which money is appropriated to carry out this subchapter shall ensure that the money is distributed equally among the local mental health authorities that employ and supervise non-physician mental health professionals under this subchapter.

Sec. 8.158.  REPORT. (a) Before the last business day of each calendar year, each local mental health authority that employs and supervises a non-physician mental health professional under this subchapter shall prepare and submit a report to the Health and Human Services Commission regarding the outcomes for school districts and students resulting from services provided by the non-physician mental health professional.

(b)  Not later than January 31 of the following calendar year, the commission shall compile the information submitted under this section and prepare and submit a report to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, each standing committee of the legislature having primary jurisdiction over mental health, and each standing committee of the legislature having primary jurisdiction over public education.

SECTION 3.  Section 11.252(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  Each school district shall have a district improvement plan that is developed, evaluated, and revised annually, in accordance with district policy, by the superintendent with the assistance of the district-level committee established under Section 11.251. The purpose of the district improvement plan is to guide district and campus staff in the improvement of student performance for all student groups in order to attain state standards in respect to the achievement indicators adopted under Section 39.053(c). The district improvement plan must include provisions for:

(1)  a comprehensive needs assessment addressing district student performance on the achievement indicators, and other appropriate measures of performance, that are disaggregated by all student groups served by the district, including categories of ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sex, and populations served by special programs, including students in special education programs under Subchapter A, Chapter 29;

(2)  measurable district performance objectives for all appropriate achievement indicators for all student populations, including students in special education programs under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, and other measures of student performance that may be identified through the comprehensive needs assessment;

(3)  strategies for improvement of student performance that include:

(A)  instructional methods for addressing the needs of student groups not achieving their full potential;

(B)  methods for addressing the needs of students for special programs, including:

(i)  suicide prevention programs, in accordance with Subchapter O-1, Chapter 161, Health and Safety Code, which includes a parental or guardian notification procedure;

(ii)  conflict resolution programs;

(iii)  violence prevention programs; and

(iv)  dyslexia treatment programs;

(C)  dropout reduction;

(D)  integration of technology in instructional and administrative programs;

(E)  discipline management;

(F)  staff development for professional staff of the district;

(G)  career education to assist students in developing the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary for a broad range of career opportunities; and

(H)  accelerated education;

(4)  strategies for providing to middle school, junior high school, and high school students, those students' teachers and school counselors, and those students' parents information about:

(A)  higher education admissions and financial aid opportunities;

(B)  the TEXAS grant program and the Teach for Texas grant program established under Chapter 56;

(C)  the need for students to make informed curriculum choices to be prepared for success beyond high school; and

(D)  sources of information on higher education admissions and financial aid;

(5)  resources needed to implement identified strategies;

(6)  staff responsible for ensuring the accomplishment of each strategy;

(7)  timelines for ongoing monitoring of the implementation of each improvement strategy;

(8)  formative evaluation criteria for determining periodically whether strategies are resulting in intended improvement of student performance; [~~and~~]

(9)  the policy under Section 38.0041 addressing sexual abuse and other maltreatment of children; and

(10)  the trauma-informed care policy required under Section 38.036.

SECTION 4.  Section 12.104(b), Education Code, as amended by Chapters 324 (S.B. 1488), 522 (S.B. 179), and 735 (S.B. 1153), Acts of the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, is reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(b)  An open-enrollment charter school is subject to:

(1)  a provision of this title establishing a criminal offense; and

(2)  a prohibition, restriction, or requirement, as applicable, imposed by this title or a rule adopted under this title, relating to:

(A)  the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) to the extent necessary to monitor compliance with this subchapter as determined by the commissioner;

(B)  criminal history records under Subchapter C, Chapter 22;

(C)  reading instruments and accelerated reading instruction programs under Section 28.006;

(D)  accelerated instruction under Section 28.0211;

(E)  high school graduation requirements under Section 28.025;

(F)  special education programs under Subchapter A, Chapter 29;

(G)  bilingual education under Subchapter B, Chapter 29;

(H)  prekindergarten programs under Subchapter E or E-1, Chapter 29;

(I)  extracurricular activities under Section 33.081;

(J)  discipline management practices or behavior management techniques under Section 37.0021;

(K)  health and safety under Chapter 38;

(L)  public school accountability under Subchapters B, C, D, F, G, and J, Chapter 39, and Chapter 39A;

(M)  the requirement under Section 21.006 to report an educator's misconduct;

(N)  intensive programs of instruction under Section 28.0213;

(O)  the right of a school employee to report a crime, as provided by Section 37.148; [~~and~~]

(P)  bullying prevention policies and procedures under Section 37.0832;

(Q)  the right of a school under Section 37.0052 to place a student who has engaged in certain bullying behavior in a disciplinary alternative education program or to expel the student; [~~and~~]

(R)  the right under Section 37.0151 to report to local law enforcement certain conduct constituting assault or harassment;

(S) [~~(P)~~]  a parent's right to information regarding the provision of assistance for learning difficulties to the parent's child as provided by Sections 26.004(b)(11) and 26.0081(c) and (d); and

(T)  school safety requirements under Sections 37.108, 37.1081, 37.1082, 37.109, 37.113, 37.114, 37.115, 37.207, 37.2071, and 37.220.

SECTION 5.  Sections 21.054(d) and (d-2), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(d)  Continuing education requirements for a classroom teacher must provide that not more than 25 percent of the training required every five years include instruction regarding:

(1)  collecting and analyzing information that will improve effectiveness in the classroom;

(2)  recognizing early warning indicators that a student may be at risk of dropping out of school;

(3)  digital learning, digital teaching, and integrating technology into classroom instruction;

(4)  educating diverse student populations, including:

(A)  students with disabilities, including mental health disorders;

(B)  students who are educationally disadvantaged;

(C)  students of limited English proficiency; and

(D)  students at risk of dropping out of school; [~~and~~]

(5)  understanding appropriate relationships, boundaries, and communications between educators and students; and[~~.~~]

(6)  [~~(d-2) Continuing education requirements for a classroom teacher may include instruction regarding~~] how grief and trauma affect student learning and behavior and how evidence-based, grief-informed, and trauma-informed strategies support the academic success of students affected by grief and trauma.

(d-2)  The instruction required under Subsection (d)(6) must:

(1)  comply with the training required by Section 38.036(c)(1); and

(2)  be approved by the commissioner.

SECTION 6.  Section 37.108, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), and (c) and adding Subsections (b-1) and (f) to read as follows:

(a)  Each school district or public junior college district shall adopt and implement a multihazard emergency operations plan for use in the district's facilities. The plan must address mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery as defined by the Texas School Safety Center in conjunction with the governor's office of homeland security and the commissioner of education or commissioner of higher education, as applicable [~~in conjunction with the governor's office of homeland security~~]. The plan must provide for:

(1)  [~~district employee~~] training in responding to an emergency for district employees, including substitute teachers;

(2)  measures to ensure district employees, including substitute teachers, have classroom access to a telephone or another electronic communication device allowing for immediate contact with district emergency services or emergency services agencies, law enforcement agencies, health departments, and fire departments;

(3)  if the plan applies to a school district, mandatory school drills and exercises, including drills required under Section 37.114, to prepare district students and employees for responding to an emergency;

(4) [~~(3)~~]  measures to ensure coordination with the Department of State Health Services and local emergency management agencies, law enforcement, health departments, and fire departments in the event of an emergency; and

(5) [~~(4)~~]  the implementation of a safety and security audit as required by Subsection (b).

(b)  At least once every three years, each school district or public junior college district shall conduct a safety and security audit of the district's facilities. To the extent possible, a district shall follow safety and security audit procedures developed by the Texas School Safety Center or a person included in the registry established by the Texas School Safety Center under Section 37.2091 [~~comparable public or private entity~~].

(b-1)  In a school district's safety and security audit required under Subsection (b), the district must certify that the district used the funds provided to the district through the school safety allotment under Section 42.168 only for the purposes provided by that section.

(c)  A school district or public junior college district shall report the results of the safety and security audit conducted under Subsection (b) to the district's board of trustees and, in the manner required by the Texas School Safety Center, to the Texas School Safety Center. The report provided to the Texas School Safety Center under this subsection must be signed by the district's board of trustees and superintendent. The Texas School Safety Center shall compile school district audit results and report them to the agency.

(f)  A school district shall include in its multihazard emergency operations plan:

(1)  a chain of command that designates the individual responsible for making final decisions during a disaster or emergency situation and identifies other individuals responsible for making those decisions if the designated person is unavailable;

(2)  provisions for responding to a natural disaster, active shooter, and any other dangerous scenario identified for purposes of this section by the agency or the Texas School Safety Center;

(3)  provisions for ensuring the safety of students in portable buildings;

(4)  provisions for providing immediate notification to parents, guardians, and other persons standing in parental relation in circumstances involving a significant threat to the health or safety of students, including identification of the individual with responsibility for overseeing the notification;

(5)  a policy for providing a substitute teacher access to school campus buildings and materials necessary for the substitute teacher to carry out the duties of a district employee during an emergency or a mandatory emergency drill; and

(6)  the name of each individual on the district's school safety and security committee established under Section 37.109 and the date of each committee meeting during the preceding year.

SECTION 7.  Subchapter D, Chapter 37, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 37.1081 and 37.1082 to read as follows:

Sec. 37.1081.  PUBLIC HEARING ON MULTIHAZARD EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN NONCOMPLIANCE. (a) If the board of trustees of a school district receives notice of noncompliance under Section 37.207(e) or 37.2071(g), the board shall hold a public hearing to notify the public of:

(1)  the district's failure to:

(A)  submit or correct deficiencies in a multihazard emergency operations plan; or

(B)  report the results of a safety and security audit to the Texas School Safety Center as required by law;

(2)  the dates during which the district has not been in compliance; and

(3)  the names of each member of the board of trustees and the superintendent serving in that capacity during the dates the district was not in compliance.

(b)  The school district shall provide the information required under Subsection (a)(3) in writing to each person in attendance at the hearing.

(c)  The board shall give members of the public a reasonable opportunity to appear before the board and to speak on the issue of the district's failure to submit or correct deficiencies in a multihazard emergency operations plan or report the results of a safety and security audit during a hearing held under this section.

(d)  A school district required to hold a public hearing under Subsection (a) shall provide written confirmation to the Texas School Safety Center that the district held the hearing.

Sec. 37.1082.  MULTIHAZARD EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN NONCOMPLIANCE; APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR BOARD OF MANAGERS. (a) If the agency receives notice from the Texas School Safety Center of a school district's failure to submit a multihazard emergency operations plan, the commissioner may appoint a conservator for the district under Chapter 39A. The conservator may order the district to adopt, implement, and submit a multihazard emergency operations plan.

(b)  If a district fails to comply with a conservator's order to adopt, implement, and submit a multihazard emergency operations plan within the time frame imposed by the commissioner, the commissioner may appoint a board of managers under Chapter 39A to oversee the operations of the district.

(c)  The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to administer this section.

SECTION 8.  Section 37.109, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsections (a-1), (c), and (d) and amending Subsection (b) to read as follows:

(a-1)  The committee must include:

(1)  one or more representatives of an office of emergency management of a county or city in which the district is located;

(2)  one or more representatives of the local police department or sheriff's office;

(3)  one or more representatives of the district's police department, if applicable;

(4)  one or more representatives of a municipality with territory included within the boundaries of the district;

(5)  the president of the district's board of trustees;

(6)  a member of the district's board of trustees other than the president;

(7)  the district's superintendent;

(8)  one or more designees of the district's superintendent, one of whom must be a classroom teacher in the district;

(9)  if the district partners with an open-enrollment charter school to provide instruction to students, a member of the open-enrollment charter school's governing body or a designee of the governing body; and

(10)  two parents or guardians of students enrolled in the district.

(b)  The committee shall:

(1)  participate on behalf of the district in developing and implementing emergency plans consistent with the district multihazard emergency operations plan required by Section 37.108(a) to ensure that the plans reflect specific campus, facility, or support services needs;

(2)  periodically provide recommendations to the district's board of trustees and district administrators regarding updating the district multihazard emergency operations plan required by Section 37.108(a) in accordance with best practices identified by the agency, the Texas School Safety Center, or a person included in the registry established by the Texas School Safety Center under Section 37.2091;

(3)  provide the district with any campus, facility, or support services information required in connection with a safety and security audit required by Section 37.108(b), a safety and security audit report required by Section 37.108(c), or another report required to be submitted by the district to the Texas School Safety Center; [~~and~~]

(4) [~~(3)~~]  review each report required to be submitted by the district to the Texas School Safety Center to ensure that the report contains accurate and complete information regarding each campus, facility, or support service in accordance with criteria established by the center; and

(5)  consult with local law enforcement agencies on methods to increase law enforcement presence near district campuses.

(c)  Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, the committee shall meet at least once during each academic semester and at least once during the summer. A committee established by a school district that operates schools on a year-round system or in accordance with another alternative schedule shall meet at least three times during each calendar year, with an interval of at least two months between each meeting.

(d)  The committee is subject to Chapter 551, Government Code, and may meet in executive session as provided by that chapter. Notice of a committee meeting must be posted in the same manner as notice of a meeting of the district's board of trustees.

SECTION 9.  Subchapter D, Chapter 37, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 37.113, 37.114, and 37.115 to read as follows:

Sec. 37.113.  NOTIFICATION REGARDING BOMB THREAT OR TERRORISTIC THREAT. A school district that receives a bomb threat or terroristic threat relating to a campus or other district facility at which students are present shall provide notification of the threat as soon as possible to the parent or guardian of or other person standing in parental relation to each student who is assigned to the campus or who regularly uses the facility, as applicable.

Sec. 37.114.  EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS; MANDATORY SCHOOL DRILLS. The commissioner, in consultation with the Texas School Safety Center and the state fire marshal, shall adopt rules:

(1)  providing procedures for evacuating and securing school property during an emergency; and

(2)  designating the number of mandatory school drills to be conducted each semester of the school year, not to exceed eight drills, including designating the number of:

(A)  evacuation fire exit drills; and

(B)  lockdown, lockout, shelter-in-place, and evacuation drills.

Sec. 37.115.  THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAMS. (a) In this section, "threatening behaviors" include behaviors by a student that could result in the student's expulsion or removal to a disciplinary alternative education program or a juvenile justice alternative education program, including verbal threats, fighting, the use or possession of a weapon, or assault.

(b)  The board of trustees of each school district shall establish threat assessment teams to serve at each campus of the district and shall adopt policies and procedures for the teams. The threat assessment team is responsible for determining the appropriate method for the assessment and intervention of individuals who make threats of violence or exhibit threatening behaviors on the campus. The policies and procedures adopted under this section must:

(1)  be consistent with the model policies and procedures developed by the Texas School Safety Center under Section 37.220;

(2)  require threat assessment teams to complete training provided by the Texas School Safety Center or a regional education service center regarding evidence-based threat assessment programs; and

(3)  require each threat assessment team established under this section to report the information required under Subsection (h) regarding the team's activities to the agency.

(c)  The superintendent of the district shall appoint members to each threat assessment team with expertise in counseling, classroom instruction, school administration, and law enforcement. A threat assessment team may serve more than one campus of a school district, provided that each district campus is assigned a threat assessment team.

(d)  A threat assessment team shall:

(1)  assess and report individuals who make threats of violence or exhibit threatening behavior in accordance with the policies and procedures adopted under Subsection (b); and

(2)  provide guidance to students and school employees regarding:

(A)  recognizing threatening behavior that may pose a threat to the community, school, or individual; and

(B)  reporting potential threats, including providing information regarding to whom potential threats should be reported.

(e)  On a determination that a student or other individual poses a serious risk of threat of violence to others, a threat assessment team shall immediately report the team's determination to the superintendent. If the individual is a student, the superintendent shall immediately attempt to inform the parent or person standing in parental relation to the student. The requirements of this subsection do not prevent an employee of the school from acting immediately to prevent an imminent threat or respond to an emergency.

(f)  A threat assessment team identifying a student at risk of suicide shall act in accordance with the district's suicide prevention program. If the student at risk of suicide also makes a threat of violence to others, the threat assessment team shall conduct a threat assessment in addition to actions taken in accordance with the district's suicide prevention program.

(g)  A threat assessment team identifying a student using or possessing tobacco, drugs, or alcohol shall act in accordance with district policies and procedures related to substance abuse prevention and intervention.

(h)  A threat assessment team must report to the agency in accordance with guidelines developed by the agency the following information regarding the team's activities for each school district campus the threat assessment team serves:

(1)  the occupation of each person appointed to the team;

(2)  the number of threats and a description of the type of the threats reported to the team;

(3)  the outcome of each assessment made by the threat assessment team, including:

(A)  any disciplinary action taken, including a change in school placement;

(B)  any action taken by law enforcement; or

(C)  a referral to or change in counseling, mental health, special education, or other services; and

(4)  the total number, disaggregated by student gender, race, and status as receiving special education services, of:

(A)  citations issued for Class C misdemeanor offenses;

(B)  arrests made in connection with reported threats; and

(C)  incidents of uses of restraint in connection with a threat assessment or reported threat.

(i)  The superintendent of a school district may establish a committee, or assign to an existing committee established by the district the duty, to oversee the operations of threat assessment teams established for the district. A committee with oversight responsibility under this subsection must include members with expertise in human resources, education, school administration, mental health, and law enforcement.

SECTION 10.  Section 37.207, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c), (d), and (e) to read as follows:

(c)  In addition to a review of a district's multihazard emergency operations plan under Section 37.2071, the center may require a district to submit its plan for immediate review if the district's audit results indicate that the district is not complying with applicable standards.

(d)  If a district fails to report the results of its audit as required under Subsection (b), the center shall provide the district with written notice that the district has failed to report its audit results and must immediately report the results to the center.

(e)  If six months after the date of the initial notification required by Subsection (d) the district has still not reported the results of its audit to the center, the center shall notify the agency and the district of the district's requirement to conduct a public hearing under Section 37.1081. This subsection applies only to a school district.

SECTION 11.  Subchapter G, Chapter 37, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 37.2071 to read as follows:

Sec. 37.2071.  DISTRICT MULTIHAZARD EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN REVIEW AND APPROVAL. (a) The center shall establish a random or need-based cycle for the center's review and approval of school district and public junior college district multihazard emergency operations plans adopted under Section 37.108. The cycle must provide for each district's plan to be reviewed at least once every three years.

(b)  A school district or public junior college district shall submit its multihazard emergency operations plan to the center on request of the center and in accordance with the center's review cycle developed under Subsection (a).

(c)  The center shall review each district's multihazard emergency operations plan submitted under Subsection (b) and:

(1)  approve the plan; or

(2)  provide the district with written notice:

(A)  describing the plan's deficiencies; and

(B)  stating that the district must correct the deficiencies in its plan and resubmit the revised plan to the center.

(d)  If a district fails to submit its multihazard emergency operations plan to the center for review, the center shall provide the district with written notice stating that the district:

(1)  has failed to submit a plan; and

(2)  must submit a plan to the center for approval.

(e)  The center may approve a district multihazard emergency operations plan that has deficiencies if the district submits a revised plan that the center determines will correct the deficiencies.

(f)  If three months after the date of initial notification of a plan's deficiencies under Subsection (c)(2) or failure to submit a plan under Subsection (d) a district has not corrected the plan deficiencies or has failed to submit a plan, the center shall provide written notice to the district and agency that the district has not complied with the requirements of this section and must comply immediately.

(g)  If a school district still has not corrected the plan deficiencies or has failed to submit a plan six months after the date of initial notification under Subsection (c)(2) or (d), the center shall provide written notice to the school district stating that the district must hold a public hearing under Section 37.1081.

(h)  If a school district has failed to submit a plan, the notice required by Subsection (g) must state that the commissioner is authorized to appoint a conservator under Section 37.1082.

(i)  Any document or information collected, developed, or produced during the review and approval of multihazard emergency operations plans under this section is not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code.

SECTION 12.  Section 37.2091(d), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d)  The center shall verify the information provided by a person under Subsection (c) to confirm [~~registry is intended to serve only as an informational resource for school districts and institutions of higher education. The inclusion of a person in the registry is not an indication of~~] the person's qualifications and [~~or~~] ability to provide school safety or security consulting services before adding the person to the registry [~~or that the center endorses the person's school safety or security consulting services~~].

SECTION 13.  Subchapter G, Chapter 37, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 37.220 to read as follows:

Sec. 37.220.  MODEL THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES. (a) The center shall develop model policies and procedures to assist school districts in establishing and training threat assessment teams.

(b)  The model policies and procedures developed under Subsection (a) must include procedures, when appropriate, for:

(1)  the referral of a student to a local mental health authority or health care provider for evaluation or treatment; and

(2)  the referral of a student for a full individual and initial evaluation for special education services under Section 29.004.

SECTION 14.  Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 38.036 to read as follows:

Sec. 38.036.  TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE POLICY. (a) Each school district shall adopt and implement a policy requiring the integration of trauma-informed practices in each school environment.

(b)  A policy required by this section must address:

(1)  using resources developed by the agency, methods for:

(A)  increasing staff and parent awareness of trauma-informed care; and

(B)  implementation of trauma-informed practices and care by district and campus staff; and

(2)  available counseling options for students affected by trauma or toxic stress.

(c)  The methods under Subsection (b)(1) for increasing awareness and implementation of trauma-informed care must include training as provided by this subsection. The training:

(1)  must be provided:

(A)  through an evidence-based, evidence-informed, or promising practices training program that addresses the effects of trauma and is approved by the agency; and

(B)  as part of any new employee orientation for all new school district educators or coaches; and

(2)  may be included in staff development provided under Section 21.451.

(d)  For any training provided under Subsection (c), each school district shall maintain records that include the name of each district staff member who participated in the training.

(e)  If a school district determines that the district does not have sufficient resources to provide the training required under Subsection (c), the district shall make reasonable efforts to collaborate with a community organization to provide training that meets the requirements of Subsection (c) at no cost to the district.

(f)  The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to administer this section.

SECTION 15.  Subchapter C, Chapter 42, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 42.168 to read as follows:

Sec. 42.168.  SCHOOL SAFETY ALLOTMENT. (a) A school district is entitled to an annual allotment of $50, or a greater amount provided by appropriation, for each student in average daily attendance.

(b)  Funds allocated under this section must be used to improve school safety and security, including costs associated with:

(1)  securing school facilities, including:

(A)  improvements to school infrastructure;

(B)  the use or installation of physical barriers; and

(C)  the purchase and maintenance of security cameras or other security equipment;

(2)  providing security for the district, including:

(A)  employing school district peace officers, private security officers, and school marshals; and

(B)  collaborating with local law enforcement agencies, such as entering into a memorandum of understanding for the assignment of school resource officers to schools in the district; and

(3)  school safety and security training and planning, including:

(A)  active shooter and emergency response training; and

(B)  prevention and treatment programs relating to addressing adverse childhood experiences.

(c)  A school district that is required to take action under Chapter 41 to reduce its wealth per student to the equalized wealth level is entitled to a credit, in the amount of the allotments to which the district is entitled under this section, against the total amount required under Section 41.093 for the district to purchase attendance credits.

(d)  The commissioner may adopt rules to implement this section.

SECTION 16.  Section 45.001(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  The governing board of an independent school district, including the city council or commission that has jurisdiction over a municipally controlled independent school district, the governing board of a rural high school district, and the commissioners court of a county, on behalf of each common school district under its jurisdiction, may:

(1)  issue bonds for:

(A)  the construction, acquisition, and equipment of school buildings in the district;

(B)  the acquisition of property or the refinancing of property financed under a contract entered under Subchapter A, Chapter 271, Local Government Code, regardless of whether payment obligations under the contract are due in the current year or a future year;

(C)  the purchase of the necessary sites for school buildings; [~~and~~]

(D)  the purchase of new school buses;

(E)  the retrofitting of school buses with emergency, safety, or security equipment; and

(F)  the purchase or retrofitting of vehicles to be used for emergency, safety, or security purposes; and

(2)  [~~may~~] levy, pledge, assess, and collect annual ad valorem taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds as or before the principal and interest become due, subject to Section 45.003.

SECTION 17.  Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter LL to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER LL. REPAYMENT OF CERTAIN SCHOOL COUNSELOR EDUCATION LOANS

Sec. 61.9851.  LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED. The board shall provide, in accordance with this subchapter and board rules, assistance in the repayment of eligible student loans for eligible school counselors who apply and qualify for the assistance.

Sec. 61.9852.  ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to receive loan repayment assistance under this subchapter, a school counselor must:

(1)  apply annually for the repayment assistance in a manner prescribed by the board;

(2)  be a United States citizen or permanent resident alien;

(3)  have earned at least a master's degree related to counseling from any public or accredited private institution of higher education;

(4)  be certified as a school counselor under Subchapter B, Chapter 21; and

(5)  have completed one, two, three, four, or five years of consecutive employment by a school district in this state:

(A)  all or part of which is located in a federally designated mental health care health professional shortage area; or

(B)  at a school that receives federal funding under Title I, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.).

Sec. 61.9853.  LIMITATIONS. A school counselor may receive loan repayment assistance under this subchapter for not more than five years.

Sec. 61.9854.  ELIGIBLE LOANS. (a) The board may provide loan repayment assistance under this subchapter for the repayment of any student loan for education at an institution of higher education, a private or independent institution of higher education, or a public or private out-of-state institution of higher education accredited by a recognized accrediting agency, including loans for undergraduate education, received by an eligible person through any lender.

(b)  The board may not provide repayment assistance for a student loan that is in default at the time of the person's application.

(c)  In each state fiscal biennium, the board shall attempt to allocate all funds appropriated to the board for the purpose of providing loan repayment assistance under this subchapter.

Sec. 61.9855.  REPAYMENT. (a) The board shall deliver any repayment under this subchapter in a lump sum payable:

(1)  to both the lender or other holder of the loan and the school counselor; or

(2)  directly to the lender or other holder of the loan on the school counselor's behalf.

(b)  A repayment under this subchapter may be applied to any amount due in connection with the loan.

Sec. 61.9856.  AMOUNT OF REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE. (a) A school counselor may receive loan repayment assistance under this subchapter for each year the school counselor establishes eligibility for the assistance in an amount determined by applying the following applicable percentage to the maximum total amount of assistance allowed for the school counselor under Subsection (b):

(1)  for the first year, 10 percent;

(2)  for the second year, 15 percent;

(3)  for the third year, 20 percent;

(4)  for the fourth year, 25 percent; and

(5)  for the fifth year, 30 percent.

(b)  The total amount of repayment assistance received by a school counselor under this subchapter may not exceed:

(1)  $80,000, for assistance received by a school counselor who holds a doctoral degree related to counseling; and

(2)  $40,000, for assistance received by a school counselor who holds a master's degree related to counseling.

(c)  The total amount of loan repayment assistance provided under this subchapter may not exceed the sum of:

(1)  the total amount of gifts and grants accepted by the board for the repayment assistance;

(2)  legislative appropriations for the repayment assistance; and

(3)  other funds available to the board for the repayment assistance.

(d)  The board may adjust in an equitable manner the distribution amounts that school counselors would otherwise receive under Subsection (a) for a year as necessary to comply with Subsection (c).

Sec. 61.9857.  RULES; ADMINISTRATION. (a) The board shall adopt rules necessary to administer this subchapter.

(b)  The board shall distribute to each institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education and to any appropriate state agency and professional association copies of the rules adopted under this section and other pertinent information relating to this subchapter.

(c)  The board shall administer the program under this subchapter in a manner that maximizes any matching funds available through other sources.

Sec. 61.9858.  SOLICITATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS. The board may solicit and accept gifts and grants from any public or private source for the purposes of this subchapter.

SECTION 18.  The amount of $\_\_\_\_\_ is appropriated from the economic stabilization fund to the foundation school fund for use by the commissioner of education to make grants to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools in accordance with this Act and commissioner rule during the state fiscal biennium beginning September 1, 2019, for improvements in the security of school facilities.

SECTION 19.  From among school districts and open-enrollment charter schools that apply in the time and manner established by the commissioner of education for a grant of money under this Act to pay for school security improvements, the commissioner shall select those school districts and open-enrollment charter schools that best meet the criteria adopted for the purpose by the commissioner. The criteria must include:

(1)  a school district's or open-enrollment charter school's need for improvements in the security of district or school facilities;

(2)  a school district's or open-enrollment charter school's ability to pay for the improvements without the grant; and

(3)  the school security improvement plan provided by the school district or open-enrollment charter school and the likely effectiveness of that plan in improving school security.

SECTION 20.  Not later than January 1, 2020:

(1)  the Texas School Safety Center shall:

(A)  develop a list of best practices for ensuring the safety of public school students receiving instruction in portable buildings; and

(B)  provide information regarding the list of best practices to school districts using portable buildings for student instruction;

(2)  the commissioner of education shall adopt or amend rules as required by Section 7.061, Education Code, as added by this Act; and

(3)  the commissioner of education, in consultation with the Texas School Safety Center and the state fire marshal, shall adopt rules as required by Section 37.114, Education Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 21.  To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails over another Act of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted codes.

SECTION 22.  (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this section, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

(b)  Sections 18 and 19 of this Act take effect September 1, 2019, but only if this Act receives a vote of two-thirds of the members present in each house of the legislature, as provided by Section 49-g(m), Article III, Texas Constitution.