87R12101 TSS-F

By:  Lucio S.B. No. 1596

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the membership of a school district's threat assessment and safe and supportive school team and committee and the school safety allotment under the public school finance system.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 37.108(b-1), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(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 48.115 [~~42.168~~] only for the purposes provided by that section.

SECTION 2.  Sections 37.115(d) and (e), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(d)  The superintendent of the district shall ensure that the members appointed to each team have expertise in counseling, behavior management, mental health and substance use, classroom instruction, special education, school administration, school safety and security, and emergency management[~~, and law enforcement~~]. A team may serve more than one campus of a school district, provided that each district campus is assigned a team.

(e)  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 teams established for the district. A committee with oversight responsibility under this subsection must include members with expertise in human resources, education, special education, counseling, behavior management, school administration, mental health and substance use, school safety and security, and emergency management[~~, and law enforcement~~].

SECTION 3.  Section 42.168, Education Code, as added by Chapter 464 (S.B. 11), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, is transferred to Subchapter C, Chapter 48, Education Code, redesignated as Section 48.115, Education Code, amended to conform to changes made by Chapter 943 (H.B. 3), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, and further amended to read as follows:

Sec. 48.115 [~~42.168~~].  SCHOOL SAFETY ALLOTMENT. (a) From funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner shall provide to a school district an annual allotment in the 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:

(i)  security cameras or other security equipment; and

(ii)  technology, including communications systems or devices, that facilitates communication and information sharing between students, school personnel, and first responders in an emergency;

(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;~~

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

(A)  active shooter and emergency response training;

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

(C)  the prevention, identification, and management of emergencies and threats, using evidence-based, effective prevention practices and including:

(i)  providing licensed counselors, social workers, social-emotional learning coordinators, and individuals trained in restorative discipline and restorative justice practices;

(ii)  providing mental health personnel and support;

(iii) [~~(ii)~~]  providing behavioral health services; [~~and~~]

(iv) [~~(iii)~~]  establishing threat reporting systems; and

(v)  developing and implementing programs focused on social-emotional learning, restorative justice practices, culturally relevant instruction, and providing mental health support; and

(3) [~~(4)~~]  providing programs related to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention.

(c)  A school district may use funds allocated under this section for equipment or software that is used for a school safety and security purpose and an instructional purpose, provided that the instructional use does not compromise the safety and security purpose of the equipment or software.

(d)  The commissioner shall annually publish a report regarding funds allocated under this section including the programs, personnel, and resources purchased by districts using funds under this section and other purposes for which the funds were used [~~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 to receive as provided by appropriation, against the total amount required under Section 41.093 for the district to purchase attendance credits~~].

[~~(e)  The commissioner may adopt rules to implement this section.~~]

SECTION 4.  To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails over another Act of the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted codes.

SECTION 5.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.