

By: Powell

S.B. No. 238

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of the school safety allotment for a school district's pandemic preparation and response.

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

SECTION 1. 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, and amended to conform to changes made by Chapter 943 (H.B. 3), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, and is 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

1 equipment; and

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

6 (2) providing security for the district, including:

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

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

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

15 (A) active shooter and emergency response  
16 training;

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

19 (C) the prevention, identification, and  
20 management of emergencies and threats, including:

21 (i) providing mental health personnel and  
22 support;

23 (ii) providing behavioral health services;

24 and

25 (iii) establishing threat reporting  
26 systems; ~~and~~

27 (4) providing programs related to suicide prevention,

1 intervention, and postvention; and

2 (5) school health and safety efforts relating to  
3 pandemic preparation and response, including:

4 (A) employing school nurses; and

5 (B) purchasing:

6 (i) diagnostic testing equipment; and

7 (ii) personal protective equipment.

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

13 (d) A school district that is required to take action under  
14 Chapter 49 [~~41~~] to reduce its local revenue level [~~wealth per~~  
15 ~~student~~] to the [~~equalized wealth~~] level established under Section  
16 48.257 is entitled to a credit, in the amount of the allotments to  
17 which the district is to receive as provided by appropriation,  
18 against the total amount required under Section 49.153 [~~41.093~~] for  
19 the district to purchase attendance credit [~~credits~~].

20 (e) The commissioner may adopt rules to implement this  
21 section.

22 SECTION 2. To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails  
23 over another Act of the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021,  
24 relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted  
25 codes.

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.