

State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. **3602**

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to public safety; requiring schools to develop school safety plans;
1.3 establishing a School Safety Advisory Council; appropriating money to the
1.4 Minnesota School Safety Center to improve school safety; proposing coding for
1.5 new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 121A.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. 121A.036] SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS.

1.8 Subdivision 1. School Safety Center. (a) The School Safety Center must:

1.9 (1) develop an evidence-based model school safety plan for use by school boards;

1.10 (2) develop criteria for determining whether a school safety plan is evidence-based;

1.11 (3) review local school safety plans and notify school boards whether their school safety
1.12 plans meet the requirements of this section;

1.13 (4) assess whether school facility improvements intended to improve school safety are
1.14 evidence-based;

1.15 (5) administer grants for implementing evidence-based school safety plans, to the extent
1.16 grant money is available; and

1.17 (6) prepare a report that identifies the schools that have adopted an evidence-based
1.18 school safety plan and post the report on the Department of Public Safety's publicly facing
1.19 website. The School Safety Center must submit the report to the legislative committees with
1.20 jurisdiction over public safety and kindergarten through grade 12 education. The School
1.21 Safety Center must update the report by December 1, 2028, and every two years thereafter.

2.1 (b) The School Safety Center may provide consulting services to schools serving students
2.2 in kindergarten through grade 12 to develop, improve, or implement an evidence-based
2.3 school safety plan.

2.4 (c) To implement the requirements of this section, the School Safety Center must employ
2.5 at least two school mental health professionals. Each mental health professional must be a
2.6 licensed school psychologist, licensed school social worker, or licensed school counselor.
2.7 The School Safety Center may also consult with the comprehensive school mental health
2.8 services lead at the Department of Education under section 127A.215.

2.9 Subd. 2. **Model plan.** (a) The School Safety Center at the Department of Public Safety,
2.10 in consultation with the Department of Education, must maintain and make available to
2.11 school boards and charter schools an evidence-based model school safety plan to prevent
2.12 human-caused safety incidents.

2.13 (b) For purposes of this section, an activity, strategy, or intervention is "evidence-based"
2.14 if it:

2.15 (1) demonstrates a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes or other
2.16 relevant outcomes based on:

2.17 (i) strong evidence from at least one well-designed and well-implemented experimental
2.18 study;

2.19 (ii) moderate evidence from at least one well-designed and well-implemented
2.20 quasi-experimental study; or

2.21 (iii) promising evidence from at least one well-designed and well-implemented
2.22 correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias; or

2.23 (2)(i) demonstrates a rationale based on high-quality research findings or positive
2.24 evaluation that the activity, strategy, or intervention is likely to improve student outcomes
2.25 or other relevant outcomes; and

2.26 (ii) includes ongoing efforts to examine the effects of the activity, strategy, or intervention.

2.27 (c) The School Safety Center must post the model plan on its website no later than
2.28 September 1, 2026. The School Safety Center may make available to school boards
2.29 evidence-based school safety plans developed by third parties.

2.30 Subd. 3. **Local school safety plan.** (a) A school board of a district or charter school
2.31 must adopt an evidence-based school safety plan to prevent human-caused safety incidents
2.32 that meets the minimum requirements of the model plan developed under subdivision 1. A

3.1 school safety plan may include a crisis management policy under section 121A.035. A
 3.2 school board must submit the plan to the School Safety Center for approval no later than
 3.3 May 1, 2028. The School Safety Center must review each plan and notify a school board
 3.4 whether the plan is approved as an evidence-based plan no later than August 1, 2028.

3.5 (b) A school safety plan must include a description of the school's efforts to create a
 3.6 positive school climate and support student mental health.

3.7 (c) A school board that does not submit a plan for review or that submits a plan that is
 3.8 not approved as evidence-based must notify parents, students, and staff no later than August
 3.9 15, 2028, that the school board has not adopted an evidence-based school safety plan. The
 3.10 notice must:

3.11 (1) be written in plain language and be available to all parents and other school
 3.12 community members;

3.13 (2) identify the deadline for submitting the plan for review to the School Safety Center;

3.14 (3) state that the school board has not adopted an evidence-based school safety plan by
 3.15 the deadline;

3.16 (4) explain the purpose of an evidence-based school safety plan; and

3.17 (5) provide the name and contact information of the school employee designated to
 3.18 receive questions or concerns regarding school safety plans.

3.19 (d) A school board that has not adopted an evidence-based school safety plan by August
 3.20 30, 2028, must adopt a school safety plan developed in partnership with the School Safety
 3.21 Center. The school board may amend the School Safety Center plan subject to approval by
 3.22 the School Safety Center.

3.23 (e) A nonpublic school is encouraged to develop an evidence-based school safety plan
 3.24 and consult with the School Safety Center on evidence-based approaches to improving
 3.25 school safety.

3.26 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

3.27 Sec. 2. **[121A.0361] SCHOOL SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

3.28 Subdivision 1. **Council established.** (a) The School Safety Advisory Council is
 3.29 established as an advisory council to the School Safety Center at the Department of Public
 3.30 Safety. The advisory council consists of the following members:

3.31 (1) three students enrolled in grades 9 through 12;

- 4.1 (2) two persons under the age of 21 who are survivors of school or community violence;
 4.2 (3) two parents of students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12;
 4.3 (4) one licensed mental health professional not employed by the School Safety Center;
 4.4 and
 4.5 (5) one employee of the School Safety Center.

4.6 (b) The commissioner of public safety, in consultation with the commissioner of
 4.7 education, must appoint the members of the advisory council by September 1, 2026. The
 4.8 terms and compensation of the members are governed by section 15.059. The School Safety
 4.9 Advisory Council does not expire.

4.10 Subd. 2. **Duties.** The School Safety Advisory Council must advise the School Safety
 4.11 Center on school safety needs and opportunities, including making recommendations to
 4.12 existing school safety approaches.

4.13 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2026.

4.14 Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION; SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER.**

4.15 \$..... in fiscal year 2027 is appropriated from the general fund to the Minnesota School
 4.16 Safety Center. Of this amount:

- 4.17 (1) \$..... is to develop and distribute an evidence-based model school safety plan;
 4.18 (2) \$..... is to create a School Safety Advisory Council; and
 4.19 (3) \$..... is to assist schools in implementing customized school safety and student
 4.20 mental health plans.