

Subject Safe Schools
Authors Kresha and others
Analyst Tim Strom
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Overview

Minnesota's safe school revenue program allows school districts to levy for costs associated with student and staff safety issues. Eligible expenses include: law enforcement liaison services (School Resource Officers); drug abuse (DARE) and gang resistance prevention programs; school security measures; other crime prevention and student and staff safety measures, and counseling, social work, and chemical dependency services provided by licensed professionals.

Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) revenue provides reserved funding for school districts to undertake deferred maintenance improvements. Current law provides \$380 per pupil, adjusted for the age of the district's buildings, for a statutorily prescribed list of capital improvements.

School districts may issue certain capital equipment bonds. These bonds must be repaid with the district's existing operating capital revenue. The bond proceeds must be used only for the purposes listed in statute.

H.F. 579 increases safe schools funding for school districts, adds safe schools funding for charter schools and cooperative units, sets a minimum revenue amount for small school districts, and adds an equalization aid component for low tax base school districts.

H.F. 579 also broadens the uses of LTFM revenue and capital equipment bond to include certain student and staff safety projects.

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>Long-term facilities maintenance revenue.</p> <p>Authorizes a school district's Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) plan to include certain school safety improvements, including remodeling or new construction for school security enhancements, public announcement systems, emergency communications devices, or equipment and facility modifications related to violence prevention and facility security. Removes obsolete language.</p>

Section	Description
2	<p>Purchase of certain equipment.</p> <p>Expands the projects covered by general education equipment bonds to include public announcement systems, emergency communications devices, other equipment related to violence prevention, and facility security.</p>
3	<p>Safe schools revenue.</p> <p>Provides state aid for student and staff safety through the safe schools revenue program. Beginning in fiscal year 2020, establishes ongoing aid payments of \$18 per pupil unit for school districts and charter schools and \$7.50 for school districts that are members of cooperative units other than intermediate school districts. Sets a onetime aid amount of \$6.50 for school district members of intermediate school districts. Beginning in fiscal year 2021, equalizes the existing safe school revenue of \$36 per pupil unit. Sets the equalizing factor equal to 68.5 percent of the statewide adjusted net tax capacity per pupil unit. Allows a school district to transfer its safe schools revenue into the debt redemption fund so that certain school safety physical improvements can be made through local bonding. Requires school districts and charter schools to report safe school expenditures by functional area and any new staff positions hired. Requires a school that receives safe schools revenue to report its expenditures by functional area such that the spending aligns with the statutorily specified uses.</p>
4	<p>Appropriations.</p> <p>Appropriates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• an unspecified amount of aid for safe schools revenue;• \$2,000,000 for physical security audits of school buildings;• \$400,000 for school resource officer training; and• \$273,000 for grants for suicide prevention training.



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