



Texas Education Agency- School Safety

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, OCTOBER 9, 2018

Safe and Healthy Schools Initiative (\$54.5M)

The Safe and Healthy Schools Initiative is built upon a multi-tiered systems of support framework and grounded in 4 primary pillars:



- 1. *Mental Health Supports:*** access to counseling resources, mental health professional networks, threat assessment protocols, and teacher and administrator training on mental health needs.
- 2. *Positive School Culture:*** character education, positive behavior supports and interventions, trauma-informed education, restorative discipline practices, suicide prevention, resiliency, anti-bullying, and anti-cyber-bullying.
- 3. *Facility Safety:*** facilities hardening and the presence of School Resource Officers (SROs) and school marshals on a campus.
- 4. *Emergency Response Coordination:*** police collaboration, drills, training on crisis and emergency response, and notification protocols.

Safe and Healthy Schools Initiative: Implementation Framework



- **Safe and Healthy Schools Self-Assessment Rubric:** TEA, in collaboration with the Texas School Safety Center, will **develop a “best practices” framework and associated rubric** to help districts self-assess and identify areas for potential improvement in school safety, including mental health supports.
- **State and regional level technical assistance:** TEA, in collaboration with the Regional Education Service Centers (ESCs), will set up a Safe and Healthy Schools **technical assistance program to provide guidance and assistance to schools** as they work to improve the mental health coordination and supports and school culture pillars.
- **Fast-Track to Safer Schools Grants:** TEA would administer **grants to assist school districts** in improving their school health and safety.

Governor Greg Abbott's School and Firearm Safety Plan

- Immediately increase law enforcement at schools
- Train more school marshals and improve the program
- Provide active shooter and emergency response training
- Hardening of campus facilities
- Increased federal funding toward immediate school safety improvements
- Strengthen existing campus security programs
- Mental health evaluations and support
- Increase mental health first aid training
- Expand on-campus resources
- Expand campus crime-stoppers programs
- Digital technology to prevent attacks
- Improve mental health crisis response infrastructure
- Increase safety of charter schools
- Remove from classroom students who threaten teachers

Funding Cited for Action Items

Funding Cited	Action Item	Purpose of Funding
Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Division (CJD) Funds	Train More School Marshals and Improve the Program	CJD funds granted to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) provided multiple school marshal trainings to meet current demand from ISDs and increase the number of school marshals.
\$1.25M for ALERRT Grant (CJD)	Provide Active Shooter Emergency Response Training	To be used to deliver 75 classes this summer, training approximately 2800 students , most of whom are law enforcement. This training will be provided free of charge for any participating school district or charter school for the remainder of 2018.
\$98.4M Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (USDE)	Hardening Campus Facilities & Mental Health Evaluations and Support	TEA will work with school districts to prioritize \$62.1 million in new federal funding toward immediate school safety improvements , including school hardening , increased law enforcement patrols, implementation of mental health programs , and other recommendations discussed in this plan

Federal Grants for School Safety

TEA has applied for three federal grants related to school safety:

- **\$500,000 COPS Grant:** may fund measures such as law enforcement training and coordination, deterrent measures (metal detectors, locks, etc.), and technology for expedited notification to local law enforcement.
- **\$1,000,000 STOP School Violence Grant:** Statewide Approach to Training School Officials About Traumatic Stress and Mental Health.
- **\$1,000,000 STOP School Violence Grant:** Statewide Approach to the Prevention and Intervention of Violence using School Threat Assessment Teams.

Two ISDs applied for federal grants related to school safety:

- **\$1,000,000 Project SERV Grant-** Santa Fe ISD (awarded)
- **\$400,000 Project SERV Grant-** Italy ISD (applied)

Safe and Healthy Schools Exceptional Item Crosswalk to **Governor's Plan**

School Safety Funding Crosswalk- Governor’s Plan

Governor’s Plan Action Items	TEA Exceptional Item Funding Purpose
Provide Schools with Behavioral Threat Assessment Programs	TEA will develop grants (\$20M) for programs with the ultimate goal of ensuring students on every campus across the state have access to needed behavioral health services through innovative, proven programs.
Strengthening Existing Campus Security Program	TEA will develop: grants to LEAs to match local funds for facility hardening activities as a result of their self assessment and audit; grants to Texas School Safety Center to assist in the creation and technical guidance and support for best practice school safety improvements and; pilot grants for innovative programs to increase school safety .
Expand On-Campus Counseling Recourses	TEA will establish a state-level repository for districts to utilize in order to better understand their local mental health provider landscape and developing model guides and tools for implementing effective school based mental and behavioral health supports and services . Additionally, TEA will provide support and training for school staff on trauma-informed care and best practices strategies.

School Safety Funding Crosswalk- Governor’s Plan

Governor’s Plan Action Items	TEA Exceptional Item Funding Purpose
Expand Campus-Crime Stoppers	Programs to encourage student, family, school staff and community engagement on these issues.
Digital Technology to Prevent Attacks	TEA will develop pilot grants for innovative programs to increase school safety.
Hardening of Campus Facilities	TEA will develop grants to LEAs to match local funds for facility hardening activities as a result of their self assessment and audit
Improve Mental Health Crisis Response Infrastructure	TEA will establish a state-level repository for districts to utilize in order to better understand their local mental health provider landscape and developing model guides and tools for implementing effective school based mental and behavioral health supports and services .

Safe and Healthy Schools Exceptional Item Crosswalk to the **House Plan**

School Safety Funding Crosswalk- House Plan

House Recommendations	TEA Exceptional Item Funding Purpose
<p>Require all school personnel participate in Mental Health First Aid training</p>	<p>TEA will develop model guides and tools for implementing effective school based mental and behavioral health supports and services. Additionally, TEA will provide support and training for school staff on trauma-informed care and best practices strategies</p>
<p>Integrate and increase access to mental health services for students both on and off campus</p>	<p>Funds to support Mental Health First Aid, Telemedicine, trauma-informed care, and coordination of access to mental health professionals, including creation and maintenance of regional and local provider lists.</p>
<p>Establish a statewide resource on student mental health and well-being that can provide technical assistance and training to LEAs, bring the ESCs and their expertise together as hubs, and be a clearinghouse for best practices</p>	<p>Focus on codifying best practices, providing sample tools, resources and effective models, providing technical support, and managing statewide grants.</p>

School Safety Survey Results

TEA's School Safety Survey Results

At the request of Governor Greg Abbott, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, and the Texas House of Representatives, the Texas Education Agency administered a survey to school districts regarding:

- 1. *District implementation*** of various school safety infrastructure improvements.
- 2. *Interest in implementing*** these improvements where they have not yet been.

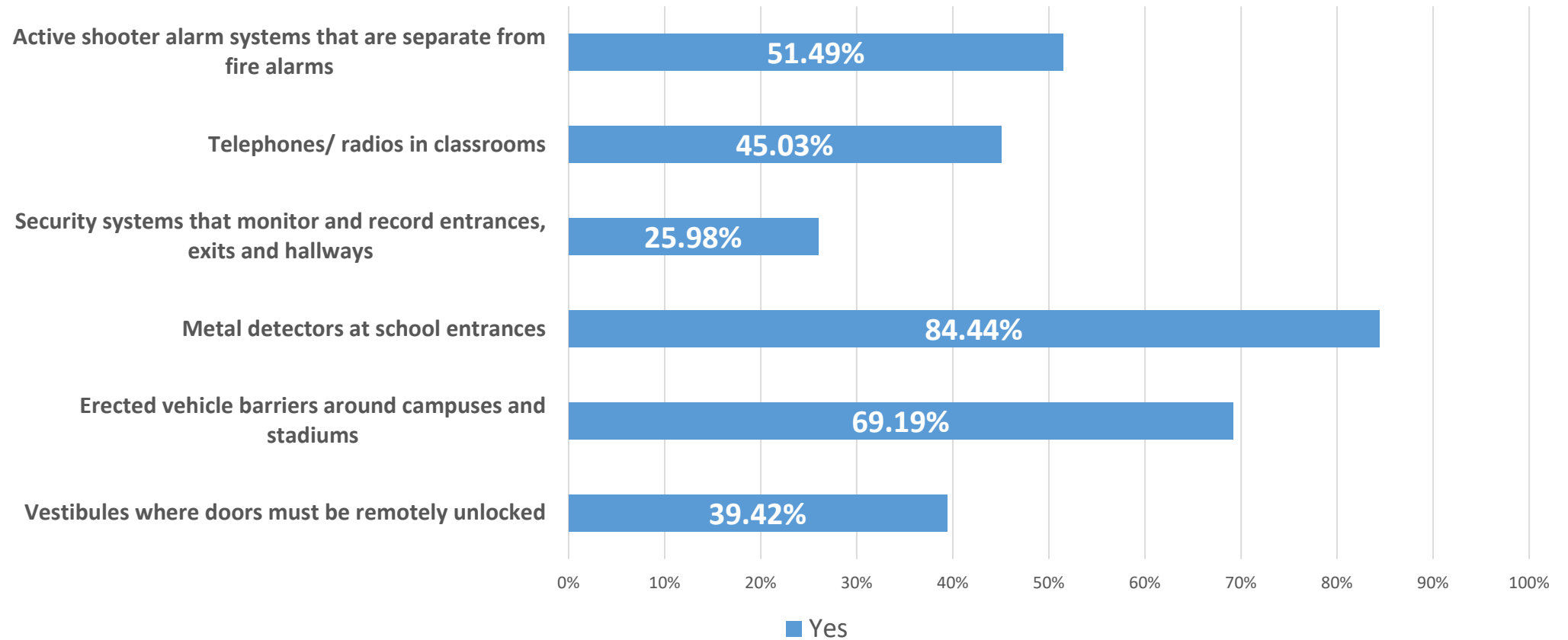
Reducing Security Threats

Approximately what percentage of your campuses have this feature?

#	Question	None	1-10%	11-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%
1	Vestibules where doors must be remotely unlocked	27.70%	5.52%	4.44%	7.55%	7.07%	47.72%
2	Erected vehicle barriers around campuses and stadiums	57.46%	9.90%	7.46%	10.88%	6.11%	8.19%
3	Metal detectors at school entrances	91.30%	5.68%	0.97%	0.72%	0.24%	1.09%
4	Security systems that monitor and record entrances, exits and hallways	8.88%	1.89%	1.54%	5.68%	10.65%	71.36%
5	Telephones/ radios in classrooms	13.05%	4.03%	4.74%	6.76%	5.69%	65.72%
6	Active shooter alarm systems that are separate from fire alarms	78.23%	1.33%	0.85%	1.09%	1.81%	16.69%

Reducing Security Threats

Is your district contemplating any plans to expand this?

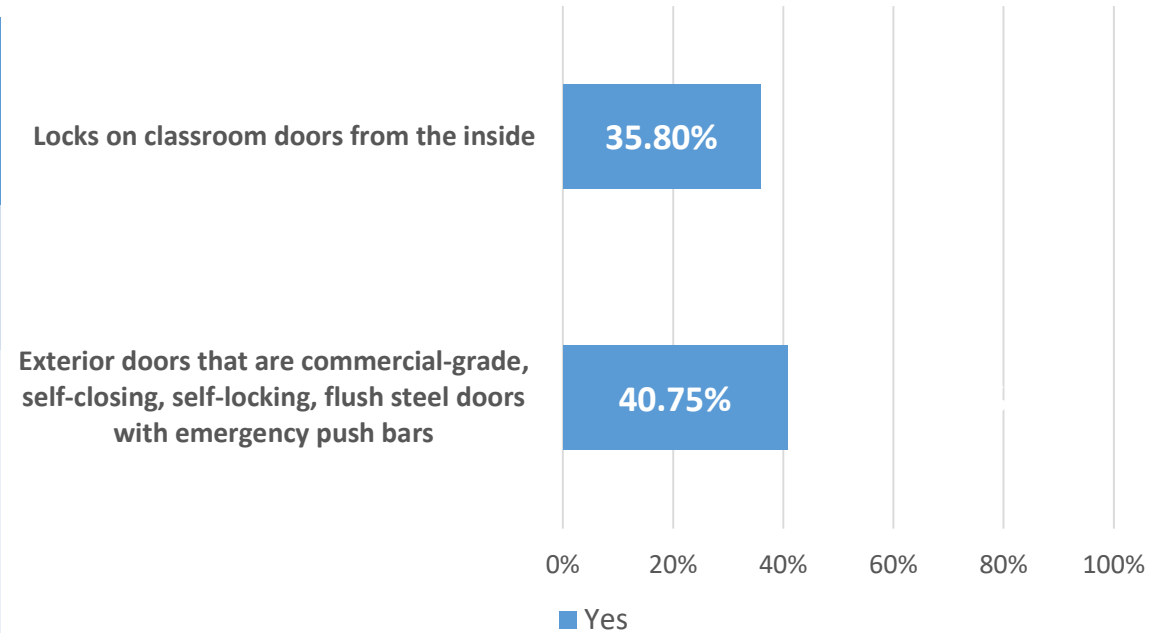


Reducing Security Threats

Approximately what percentage of doors on your campuses have this feature?

#	Question	None	1-10%	11-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%
1	Locks on classroom doors from the inside	11.94%	6.62%	5.79%	11.35%	14.18%	50.12%
2	Exterior doors that are commercial-grade, self-closing, self-locking, flush steel doors with emergency push bars	3.05%	2.58%	5.40%	8.33%	16.20%	64.44%

Is your district contemplating any plans to expand this?



Statutory Considerations

Statutory Considerations

- **Require schools to establish threat assessment teams**
 - School threat assessment teams implement policies and practices to enhance awareness of potential or developing threatening behaviors exhibited not only by students, but from a broad range of persons who might convey or indicated the intent to pose a danger to the school
 - Similar to what was required in Virginia after the incident at Virginia Tech
- **Exempt school safety performance reporting from Public Information Requests**
 - Similar to cybersecurity exemptions
- **Update school facilities standards to include safety**
 - Ch. 46.008

Appendix

Safe and Healthy Schools Initiative: Funding Breakdown

Mental Health Supports and Positive School Culture Funding

Funding Amount	FTEs	Purpose
\$2.0M	6	Focus on codifying best practices, providing sample tools, resources and effective models, providing technical support, and managing statewide grants (includes IT needs).
\$20M	0	Grants (\$20M) for programs with the ultimate goal of ensuring students on every campus across the state have access to needed behavioral health services through innovative, proven programs
\$5M	0	Grants to the Regional Education Service Centers (ESCs) to support one FTE at each ESC, to provide local support, directed by the service center but advised by TEA staff and guided by the self-assessment results and TEA audit findings
\$10M	0	Mental Health First Aid, Telemedicine, trauma-informed care, and coordination of access to mental health professionals, including creation and maintenance of regional and local provider lists.

Safe and Healthy Schools Initiative: Funding Breakdown

Facility Safety and Emergency Response Coordination

Funding Amount	FTEs	Purpose
\$10M	0	Matching Grants to LEAs for facility hardening activities as a result of their self-assessment and audit.
\$2.5M	0	Grants to Texas School Safety Center to coordinate/conduct Emergency Response audits and identify LEA need for facility or school safety improvements.

School Health and Safety Pilot Grants

Funding Amount	FTEs	Purpose
\$5M	0	Pilot grants for innovative programs to increase school health and safety.