

February 21, 2025

The Honorable Renee Erickson, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Education
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 144-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Erickson:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 263 by Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 263 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 263 would establish standards and requirements for active shooter drills conducted by public and accredited nonpublic elementary and secondary schools. An active shooter drill would not be conducted consecutively or concurrently with any other crisis or emergency preparedness drill. The school would be required to notify each parent or acting parent at least 24 hours prior to an active shooter drill. The parent may opt their child out of the drill and would have the opportunity to participate in alternative safety education without punitive treatment by the school.

The Department of Education would be required to establish criteria for alternative safety education for students who are opted out of the drill. Criteria of the education would include essential safety instruction and training that is appropriate for students with mobility restrictions, sensory needs, or other limitations. Active shooter protocols would include a reasonable amount of time immediately following the drill for teachers to debrief with students. An active shooter drill would be announced as practice prior to the commencement of the drill in a manner that is concise and age appropriate and informs students that there is no immediate danger to life and safety.

The Department of Education would be required to partner with the Department of Health and Environment to create guidelines for measuring the effectiveness of active shooter drills. The guidelines would be provided to every school and would be made available to the public for review.

No student would be required to participate in an active shooter simulation. No active shooter simulation could occur during regular school hours while students are present or expected

to be present at school. Parents of students in grades nine through 12 may opt their student into participation in a simulation by providing written notice to the school.

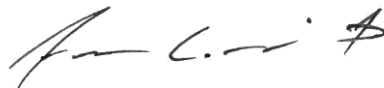
Every school would be required to provide students in grades six through 12 at least one hour or one standard class period of evidence-based violence prevention training annually. The training would teach students: (1) how to identify observable warning signs and signals of individuals who may be at risk for harming themselves or others; (2) the importance of taking threats seriously and seeking help; and (3) the steps that students can take to report dangerous, violent, threatening, harmful, or potentially harmful activity. On or before October 1, 2026, the Department of Education would be required to develop and publish on its website a list of evidence-based training options for schools. The list would be required to include no-cost programming, and the Department would have to update the list at least once every two years. Schools may use any evidence-based training regardless if the training is on the list as long as the training meets the requirements of the bill.

Each local board of education and governing body of a nonpublic school would have to ensure that students can contribute to school safety and violence-prevention planning. The school should provide student opportunities for prevention safety leadership roles and encouragement and support to students in establishing clubs and programs focused on safety. Schools should provide the opportunity for students to learn about and seek help from adults regarding prevention for bullying, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and suicide.

Finally, the bill would authorize the State Fire Marshal to grant an exemption that authorizes a variance for the number or manner of drills outlined in SB 263 for students receiving special education or related services.

The Department of Education, the Department of Health and Environment, and the State Fire Marshal indicate that the enactment of SB 263 would have no fiscal effect on state expenditures. There may be costs to school districts to implement requirements of the bill, including required trainings; however, a fiscal effect cannot be estimated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam C. Proffitt", followed by a stylized flourish or symbol.

Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Gabrielle Hull, Department of Education
Jamie Rodvelt, Office of the State Fire Marshal