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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-1179	Date:	April 29, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Marchman	Bill Status:	Senate Education
		Fiscal Analyst:	Josh Abram 303-866-3561 josh.abram@coleg.gov

Bill Topic: **TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School District

The bill creates a workgroup in the Department of Public Safety to develop best practices and recommendations for the use of trauma-informed practices in conducting school safety drills. The bill increases state and local expenditures beginning FY 2025-26.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 24-225

		Budget Year FY 2024-25	Out Year FY 2025-26
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	-	\$150,000
Transfers		-	-
Other Budget Impacts	General Fund Reserve	-	\$22,500

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates a 25-member work group in the Office of School Safety (Office) within the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to develop best practices for the use of trauma-informed practices for responding to school safety incidents. The composition of the work group includes representatives from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), the Department of Higher Education (DHE), and the DPS. The work group must obtain input from parents and legal guardians, and from students who reflect the diversity of the state with regard to race, ethnicity, immigration status, income, and disability.

Beginning August 2025, the work group must meet at least 10 times. The DPS must contract with an independent contractor to provide the task force with research, data analysis, and facilitation services. By August 2026, the work group must develop recommendations to support schools in training personnel on the use of trauma-informed practices to conduct school safety drills and develop a plan to assist schools in implementing the recommendations.

Public schools are required to implement the work group recommendations no later than August 1, 2027, and conduct school safety drills in accordance with the trauma-informed best practices. Schools must provide written notification to parents and guardians at least 5 days before conducting a safety drill.

The bill requires that educator preparation programs at public institutions of higher education, as well as alternative educator preparation programs, include a training requirement on trauma-informed practices. Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, educator preparation programs must implement trauma-informed practices created by the workgroup.

State Expenditures

The bill increases expenditures in the DPS by \$150,000 in FY 2025-26 only, paid from the General Fund. The department must purchase consulting services to research and gather data to analyze school safety issues and the application of trauma-informed, convene and facilitate at least 10 meetings of the work group, and assist the group in the development of recommendations and implementation plans for public schools and institutions of higher. In addition to the vendor contract, the department will have expenses to conduct the procurement process, and to provide reimbursement for travel expenses for any in-person work group meetings.

The bill also increases workload for the CDE, the BHA, the DHE, and the DPS to participate in the task force. This increase does not require additional appropriations.

Institutions of Higher Education

Institutions of higher education with teacher preparation programs will have increased costs to train existing faculty and instructional staff in trauma-informed best practices, and to compensate faculty to revise course syllabi.

Other Budget Impacts

General Fund reserve. Under current law, an amount equal to 15 percent of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve by the amounts shown in Table 1, decreasing the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

School Districts

K-12 public schools will have increased costs and workload to adopt recommendations and best practices identified by the workgroup. Public schools will have increased costs to update policies and train staff, and for public outreach and parent engagement. Schools that have an alternative teacher preparation program must also update program requirements to include additional training.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Behavioral Health Administration
Public Safety

Education

Higher Education

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).