

FISCAL NOTE

June 13, 2019

Bill No:	SB 729	Printer's No:	907	Sponsor:	Costa (D)
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COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2018-19	2019-20
General Fund	\$750,000	\$750,000

SUMMARY: This bill provides for public school threat assessment teams and school employee training.

ANALYSIS: SB 729 requires each public school entity to establish at least one threat assessment team for assessment of and intervention with students whose behavior indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others.

Threat assessment teams shall be appointed, facilitated and presented by each chief school administrator as designated in the bill. Information on the existence and purpose of the threat assessment team shall be posted on each school entity's website.

Each threat assessment team shall include individuals with expertise in different student health and safety areas. The team shall be trained and responsible for making informational materials available to students and school employees regarding recognition of threats, ensuring school employees are aware of the team, assisting with the Safe2Say Program, assessing and responding to reports, making determinations and referrals, and responding to threats.

The bill also establishes a notification and referral process when a preliminary determination of a threat is made and delineates access and disclosure of student information. County agency or juvenile probation departments shall comply with requests for consultation and cooperation in assessing a student.

The School Safety and Security Committee within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) shall: (1) Research, develop and publish best practices for implementation of the act and make recommendations for legislative or regulatory changes, (2) Develop and offer, at no charge to public school entities, model training programs, age-appropriate informational materials for students, parents, and school employees, (3) Develop model procedures and guidelines for public school entities to implement threat assessment teams, (4) review all training programs and materials annually, and (5) notify schools when these materials are available or updated.

The act shall take effect immediately, with assessment team requirements beginning in the 2021-22 school year.

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FISCAL IMPACT: Costs for operating and training threat assessment teams would be borne by each public school entity.

PCCD would incur costs for developing threat assessment guidelines, best practices, training, informational materials, and models. All materials and programs shall be reviewed annually as delineated in the bill.

	Annual Cost
Model training program and guideline development	\$500,000
Production of informational materials	\$250,000
Total Cost to PCCD	\$750,000

The bill also states public schools shall be eligible to receive grant funding under section 1302-A or 1306-B for the purpose of implementation. Implementation of this article shall also be a qualified program to receive grants from the School Safety and Security Grant Program.