
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Connie Leyva, Chair

2019 - 2020 Regular

Bill No: SB 390 **Hearing Date:** April 24, 2019
Author: Umberg
Version: February 20, 2019
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Ian Johnson

Subject: School districts and community college districts: school security officers and security guards.

SUMMARY

This bill requires all security guards working on school and community college district campuses to complete the latest training developed by the Department of Consumer Affairs and specifies that local educational agencies (LEAs) must provide the training to all security guards during their regular work hours.

BACKGROUND

Existing law:

- 1) After July 1, 2000, requires every security guard working on the property of a public school or community college district pursuant to a contract with a private licensed security agency working more than 20 hours per week, to complete a course of training developed no later than July 1, 1999, by the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services of the Department of Consumer Affairs.
- 2) Prohibits a security guard described above who completes the course of training from being hired on contract to work as a school security officer on the property of a school or community college district after July 1, 2000, unless both of the following conditions are met:
 - a) The employee has submitted their fingerprints to the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services of the Department of Consumer Affairs.
 - b) The employee has been determined not to be prohibited from employment by a school or community college district.
- 3) Requires LEAs to be responsible for the overall development of all comprehensive school safety plans for its schools and expresses legislative intent that all school staff be trained on the comprehensive school safety plan.
- 4) Specifies that the comprehensive school safety plan must include an assessment of the current status of school crime committed on school campuses and at school-related functions and identification of appropriate strategies and programs to provide or maintain a high level of school safety and address the school's procedures for complying with existing laws related to school safety.

- 5) Requires the comprehensive school safety plan to be evaluated at least once a year.

ANALYSIS

This bill requires all security guards working on school and community college district campuses to complete the latest training developed by the Department of Consumer Affairs and specifies that local educational agencies (LEAs) must provide the trainings to all security guards during their regular work hours.

Currently, only those security guards working on school and community college district campuses more than 20 hours per week must complete a single training, and statute does not require LEAs to provide the training to employees.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, "Today's students are faced with increasingly complex stressors including bullying, gun violence, gangs, social media, and drug abuse.

An estimated half of the state's school security employees are part-time and limiting the training to those with more than 20 hours leaves many employees without the skills necessary to perform their jobs. California should demonstrate its commitment to student safety by training all security personnel, regardless of whether they are full or part-time.

The best way to create a safe school atmosphere involves using a school security team that is up to date, and well trained in all aspects of the law and the evolving needs of the student population."

- 2) ***School security guard training requirement.*** As mentioned above, all security guards or school security officers employed by a school district for more than 20 hours per week must complete a training course developed by the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services in consultation with the Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training. This requirement first took effect July 1, 2000, and affects only guards employed pursuant to a contract between a K-12 school district or California community college district and a private patrol operator.

The course is a total of 24 hours, consisting of the following components:

- a) Role and Responsibility of School Security Officer (4 hours).
- b) Laws and Liability (8 hours).
- c) Security Awareness in the Educational Environment (3 hours).
- d) Mediation/Conflict Resolution (4 hours).
- e) Disasters and Emergencies (1 hour).

- f) Dynamics of Student Behavior (3 hours).
 - g) Examination (1 hour).
- 3) **School safety plans.** As mentioned above, existing law requires each school site to review and update its school safety plan, which must be developed and written by a School Site Council or its designated Safety Planning Committee in collaboration with teachers, classified staff, parents, and first responders to ensure they are up-to-date and complete. The plans must have policies and procedures addressing critical issues including: disaster preparedness; crisis response; mental and physical health; earthquake emergencies; school learning environment; discipline, suspension, and/or expulsion; hate crime reporting; child abuse reporting; release of a pesticide or toxic substance; and more.
- 4) **Arguments in support.** The bill's sponsor cites that currently only school security personnel that work 20 hours or more per week are required to complete a training course once that was established twenty years ago. There are around 6,000 school security staff in our public schools. Half of them may work below 20 hours per week and do not receive this basic training. This training should be provided to all school security employees to empower them to follow correct protocols during an emergency. In 2018 alone, at least 31 people were killed and 55 were injured in school shootings. In California, there were three gun-related incidents including one death, and many traumatized students. California should demonstrate its commitment to student safety by training all security personnel, regardless of whether they are full or part-time.
- 5) **Concerns raised by school administrators.** Those representing school administrators state that while all school security guards should be trained on the latest safety measures available, the local cost pressures created by this bill for school and community college districts would be problematic. Because existing law does not require districts to provide training for school security guards working more than 20 hours per week, the requirement that districts provide training to security guards during their normal work hours would newly apply to all school security guards, not just those working less than 20 hours per week. Moreover, this bill would create an ongoing school security guard training requirement as the required course gets updated (the existing requirement is for school security guards to complete the course just once).
- 6) **Districts funding professional development for non-district employees?** This bill requires school and community college districts to provide training to school security officers employed by the district during the employee's regular work hours. It is unclear if this bill, as currently drafted, would be interpreted as requiring districts to train all school security guards, even those employed on a temporary basis pursuant to a contract with a private licensed security agency. While requiring all school security guards to be trained in the most recent safety procedures available has merit, school and community college districts should only be responsible for providing training to their own district employees. To this end, **staff recommends** that this bill be amended as follows:

- a) Amend paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Education Code Section (ECS) 38001.5 as follows:

A school district shall provide the training required pursuant to this subdivision to ~~an employee~~ **all school security officers that are employees of the district** during the employee's regular work hours. **Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a school district to provide the training required pursuant to this subdivision to school security officers that are not employees of the district, including those that work on the property of a school district pursuant to a contract with a private licensed security agency. A school district shall only contract for security services pursuant to section 45103.1 of the Education Code.**

- b) Amend paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of ECS 72330.5 as follows:

A community college district shall provide the training required pursuant to this subdivision to ~~an employee~~ **all school security officers that are employees of the district** during the employee's regular work hours. **Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a community college district to provide the training required pursuant to this subdivision to school security officers that are not employees of the district, including those that work on the property of a community college district pursuant to a contract with a private licensed security agency. A community college district shall only contract for security services pursuant to section 88003.1 of the Education Code.**

SUPPORT

California Association of Student Councils
California Federation of Teachers
California Labor Federation
California School Employees Association
California Teamsters

OPPOSITION

None received

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