BILL REQ. #: Z-0407.1/13

ATTY/Typist: SCG:jcm

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Creating the school safety corps.
AN ACT Relating to the school safety corps; adding a new chapter to Title 28A RCW; and making appropriations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature finds that when students and staff do not feel safe at school, it has a negative effect on school climate, which ultimately lowers student performance and increases truancy and dropout rates. A growing body of research shows that a focus on school safety creates a learning environment that has a positive impact on behavior, attendance, dropout prevention, and academic achievement.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. (1) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall create the school safety corps in cooperation with educational service districts, the criminal justice training commission, and other state and local school safety-related agencies and organizations.
The school safety corps is hereby created with services in each educational service district to provide school districts a needs assessment, training, and technical assistance related to, but not limited to:

(a) Student behavior, which includes harassment, intimidation, and bullying, including issues related to protected classes, discipline, threat assessment, weapons in schools, and truancy;

(b) Mental and behavioral health, which includes youth suicide;

(c) Digital and internet safety, which includes cyberbullying, digital safety, and digital/network security;

(d) Gang activity, which includes gangs in schools, school violence, and commercial sexual exploitation of children and human trafficking;

(e) Safety drills and sheltering, which includes lockdowns, sheltering in place, and fire drills;

(f) Threats, which includes threats of violence, terrorism, and active shooters; and

(g) Health and safety.

Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the office of the superintendent of public instruction must provide oversight and support to the school safety corps through the following:

(a) Ongoing assessment and evaluation of the school safety corps program;

(b) Coordination with the Washington criminal justice training commission for the training of school resource officers and other school safety personnel;

(c) Hosting and maintaining a web site for school safety that identifies research, best practices, programs, and curricula to support the school safety corps;

(d) Data collection to identify school safety needs; and

(e) Professional development curriculum to align with the office of the superintendent of public instruction rules for teacher and principal evaluation specific to classroom and school safety.

School districts shall notify the office of the superintendent of public instruction when school buildings are constructed, modified,
or remodeled without state funding. The office of the superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules for the school district first responder building mapping information system as it relates to school facilities. Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall contract with the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs to assist school districts with updated mapping information.

(5) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must prepare a biennial report to the legislature by December 1st of each even-numbered year that includes measureable indicators of progress towards improving school safety and students' perception of safety climates in schools.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall allocate grants to school districts for training, safety personnel, and to implement school safety procedures.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the Washington criminal justice training commission shall in collaboration with the office of the superintendent of public instruction provide school safety training for all school administrators and school safety personnel hired after the effective date of this section.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. Sections 1 through 4 of this act constitute a new chapter in Title 28A RCW.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. (1) The sum of one million eighty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, from the general fund to the office of the superintendent of public instruction for the purposes of section 2 of this act.

(2) The sum of one million eighty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for fiscal year ending
June 30, 2015, from the general fund to the office of superintendent of public instruction for the purposes of section 2 of this act.

NEW SECTION.  Sec. 7.  (1) The sum of four million fifty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, from the general fund to the office of the superintendent of public instruction to be distributed to school districts for the purposes of section 3 of this act.

(2) The sum of four million fifty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, from the general fund to the office of the superintendent of public instruction to be distributed to school districts for the purposes of section 3 of this act.

NEW SECTION.  Sec. 8.  (1) The sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, from the general fund to the Washington criminal justice training commission for the purposes of section 4 of this act.

(2) The sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, from the general fund to the Washington criminal justice training commission for the purposes of section 4 of this act.