

SENATE FLOOR VERSION

April 16, 2025

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
HOUSE BILL NO. 1417

By: West (Josh) of the House

and

Weaver and Hines of the
Senate

[school safety - School Access For Emergency
Response Act - grant program - School Access For
Emergency Response Revolving Fund - codification -
effective date]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-149.5 of Title 70, unless
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "School Access
For Emergency Response Act" or the "SAFER Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-149.6 of Title 70, unless
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

As used in the School Access For Emergency Response Act:

1. "Best practices in interoperable emergency communications"
means to identify the interoperable emergency communications needs

1 at a school level; to help target technical assistance, funding, and
2 other support; and to prepare for next-generation communications
3 technologies as exemplified by interoperable communications
4 technologies to enhance and better ensure school safety throughout
5 this state;

6 2. "Board" means the State Board of Education;

7 3. "Crisis management plan" means a plan including tactical
8 strategies and actions for responding to an emergency as set forth
9 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Manual IS-0100.c.

10 The key elements of a crisis management plan shall include, but
11 not be limited to:

- 12 a. threat assessment, recurring risk assessment, and
- 13 proactive identification following such assessments,
- 14 b. crisis response team structure,
- 15 c. communication protocols including implementation,
- 16 training, maintenance, and timely upgrading of
- 17 interoperable communication systems,
- 18 d. emergency response procedures,
- 19 e. resource allocation guidelines, and
- 20 f. recovery and continuity strategies;

21 4. "Department" means the State Department of Education;

22 5. "Grant program" means the School Access For Emergency
23 Response Grant Program created in Section 3 of this act;

1 6. "Incident Command System" (ICS) means the standardized
2 approach to incident management as set forth by the Federal
3 Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Manual IS-0100.c: An Introduction
4 to the Incident Command System. ICS shall be adopted by grant
5 applicants as a precedent to be considered for funding through this
6 act. The manual includes:

- 7 a. unified command structure,
- 8 b. common terminology,
- 9 c. modular organization,
- 10 d. integrated communications via interoperable
11 technology, equipment, and training, and
- 12 e. comprehensive resource management;

13 7. "Interoperability" means the ability of one or more radio
14 systems to communicate with another radio system in real time.
15 Interoperability includes the teamwork that occurs over real-time
16 radio broadcast channels between school safety teams and
17 professional emergency responders;

18 8. "Interoperable communications provider" means the supplier
19 or suppliers of interoperable communications technology, both
20 hardware and software, as well as related training, maintenance, and
21 upgrades of interoperable communications systems;

22 9. "Interoperable technology" means software and hardware that
23 enables two different radio systems and other communications devices
24

1 to communicate seamlessly in real time via radio broadcast channels
2 regardless of underlying technologies or manufacturers;

3 10. "Memorandum of understanding" (MOU) means an agreement
4 between two or more parties that is designed and intended to
5 formalize a working relationship. Among other components as
6 identified by the stakeholders, the MOU is designed and intended to
7 outline the identified parties' agreement to share private, assigned
8 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) licensed radio frequencies
9 or channels as well as other protocols and technologies needed to
10 achieve two-way radio interoperability as contemplated by NIMS IS-
11 0100.c for schools;

12 11. a. "National Response Framework" (NRF) means the manner
13 in which the United States responds to all types of
14 disasters and emergencies and includes the following
15 key elements:

- 16 (1) enumerated core capabilities of prevention,
17 protection, mitigation, response, and recovery,
18 (2) a component of the National Strategy for Homeland
19 Security that establishes a comprehensive,
20 national, all-hazards approach to domestic
21 incident response,
22 (3) an explanation of the roles and responsibilities
23 of federal, state, local, and tribal governments;
24

1 private sector; and non-governmental
2 organizations in disaster response, and
3 (4) scalable, flexible, and adaptable coordination
4 structures to align key roles and
5 responsibilities across the nation, including for
6 small, medium, and large schools and associated
7 public safety agencies.

8 b. For the purposes of the School Access For Emergency
9 Response Act, the NRF:

10 (1) enumerates the interrelationship between school
11 access for emergency response and the National
12 Incident Management System (NIMS), and

13 (2) outlines the operation of the NIMS Incident
14 Command System in relations to school access for
15 emergency response;

16 12. "Public safety answering point" means a facility equipped
17 and staffed to provide emergency telephone service;

18 13. "Radio system" means a private network for voice
19 communications;

20 14. "Real-time communications network" means private licensed
21 radio frequencies, channels, or talk groups, on either a wired or
22 wireless communication network, that allows for real-time voice or
23 data transmissions between a public safety answering point, specific
24 school safety team members, and first responders;

1 15. "Revolving fund" means the School Access For Emergency
2 Response Revolving Fund created in Section 6 of this act;

3 16. "Safety team" means personnel who have a role in crisis
4 management plans including school safety teams. In regard to
5 school-based safety teams, training includes NIMS IS-0100.c
6 protocols as well as training with interoperable communications
7 technology itself;

8 17. "School" means a public school district or a brick-and-
9 mortar charter school established pursuant to the Oklahoma Charter
10 Schools Act; and

11 18. "Standards-based" means radio specifications defined by a
12 national association of the telecommunications industry that every
13 manufacturer can follow to implement equipment interoperability.

14 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-149.7 of Title 70, unless
16 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. There is hereby created in the State Department of Education
18 the School Access For Emergency Response Grant Program to provide
19 grants to schools for needed interoperable communication hardware,
20 software, equipment maintenance, and training to allow for seamless
21 communications between first responder communications systems and
22 new or existing school communications systems.

23 B. Grant recipients may use the money received through the
24 grant program for the following purposes:

1 1. To deliver training programs to teach district safety teams
2 and security personnel as well as appropriate school-based safety
3 teams and other personnel basic procedures for effective
4 communications with first responders in an emergency. The training
5 shall be based upon the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
6 Manual IS-0100.c: An Introduction to the Incident Command System.
7 As required by federal law and associated regulations, these
8 training elements shall include:

- 9 a. completion of the entire course, available online
10 through the FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI)
11 website,
- 12 b. an expectation of understanding of the basic
13 principles and features of the ICS, including its
14 purpose, organization, and the roles and
15 responsibilities of key positions within the structure
16 established by the FEMA manual,
- 17 c. familiarization with how the ICS is applied in various
18 types of school-based incidents, including planned
19 events, natural disasters, and other types of crisis
20 incidents or emergency situations,
- 21 d. scenario-based exercises to reinforce learning and
22 ensure comprehension of the material,
- 23 e. a final exam to assess the participant's understanding
24 of the course material. A passing score of seventy-

1 five percent (75%) or higher is necessary to receive a
2 certificate of completion,

3 f. a certification upon successful completion of the
4 course and final exam, which may be necessary for
5 certain federal positions or for compliance with
6 federal emergency management directives, and

7 g. periodic refresher courses or continuing education to
8 maintain certification and stay current with any
9 changes or updates to the system;

10 2. To implement an interoperable technology solution to provide
11 or to upgrade the following:

12 a. a system or technology that can be activated and
13 deactivated by a public safety answering point, a
14 network administrator, and a school over both the
15 radio system and other communications networks,

16 b. radio and other technology bridge ability that is
17 nonradio vendor specific for connecting independent
18 school networks and public safety networks in the
19 region, and

20 c. an interoperable real-time radio broadcast system that
21 operates over specifically managed radio networks and
22 other proactively identified communications networks;
23 and

24 3. To maintain or improve a school's existing interoperable

1 communication hardware or software or to provide interoperable
2 communication hardware and software to a school that does not yet
3 have it.

4 C. The proposed interoperable communications system shall not
5 increase or impact public safety system loading in existence at the
6 time of the enactment of this act. School-based interoperable
7 communications systems shall consider coverage, capacity, and
8 related features in regard to any necessary radio system capacity
9 expansions where school loading is determined to potentially have
10 more than a negligible impact on preexisting public safety system
11 loading.

12 D. The State Department of Education shall administer the grant
13 program. Subject to the availability of funds, grants shall be paid
14 out of the School Access For Emergency Response Revolving Fund
15 created in Section 6 of this act.

16 E. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the grant
17 selection committee created in subsection F of this section, shall
18 implement the grant program in accordance with this act. The Board
19 shall promulgate rules necessary to implement the requirements of
20 this act. At a minimum, such rules shall specify the time frames
21 for applying for grants, the form of the grant program application,
22 and the time frames for distributing grant money. These rules shall
23 require that schools applying shall adopt the National Incident
24 Management System (NIMS) to train personnel in the Incident Command

1 System (IS-0100.c) and conduct joint exercises involving
2 professional first responders and schools to better coordinate
3 teamwork and overall response to incidents.

4 F. There is hereby created the grant selection committee to
5 work with the State Board of Education to determine whether a grant
6 applicant satisfies the criteria to receive a grant. The committee
7 shall be composed of seven (7) members appointed as specified in
8 this subsection. The members of the committee shall serve without
9 compensation but shall be reimbursed for all actual and necessary
10 expenses incurred while engaged in the discharge of official duties
11 pursuant to this act in accordance with the State Travel
12 Reimbursement Act. Members of the committee shall meet as often as
13 deemed necessary by the Board to accomplish the work of the
14 committee. Members of the committee shall be appointed on or before
15 the effective date of this act, as follows:

16 1. The Governor shall appoint one member;

17 2. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint
18 one member who represents an urban school and one member who
19 represents chiefs of police;

20 3. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint one
21 member who represents a rural school and one member who represents
22 county sheriffs;

23 4. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall appoint one member;
24 and

1 5. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall appoint one
2 member who represents a suburban school.

3 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-149.8 of Title 70, unless
5 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 A. A school is required to have a memorandum of understanding,
7 as defined in Section 2 of this act, with its regional public safety
8 answering point and the local law enforcement agency or agencies
9 that serve the school for communications interoperability to be
10 eligible to apply for a grant under this act. To receive a grant, a
11 school must submit an application to the State Department of
12 Education in accordance with rules promulgated by the State Board of
13 Education. At minimum, the application must include the following
14 information:

15 1. A description of the school's current interoperable
16 communication technology, if any;

17 2. A description of efforts that the school has taken to
18 coordinate emergency communication with law enforcement, 9-1-1
19 system administrators, and other schools; and

20 3. A description of the purpose or purposes for which the
21 school would plan to use the grant money, including, but not limited
22 to, proposed training programs, joint exercise plans, and
23 interoperability technology solutions.
24

1 B. The grant selection committee created in Section 3 of this
2 act shall review the applications received pursuant to this section.
3 In awarding grants, the grant selection committee shall consider
4 whether the school has a crisis management plan in place with safety
5 team members designated for communications with first responders.

6 C. Subject to the availability of funds, on or before June 30,
7 2026, and on or before June 30 each year thereafter for the duration
8 of the grant program, the Board shall award grants as provided in
9 this act. The Board shall distribute the grant money within thirty
10 (30) days after the grants are awarded.

11 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-149.9 of Title 70, unless
13 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 A. On or before January 15, 2028, and on or before January 15
15 each year thereafter for the duration of the grant program, each
16 grant recipient shall electronically submit a report to the State
17 Department of Education. At a minimum, the report shall include the
18 following information:

19 1. The number of schools within a public school district that
20 used grant money to provide training programs to appropriate
21 personnel regarding effective communications with first responders
22 in an emergency;

23 2. The number of schools within a public school district that
24 used grant money to provide or upgrade their interoperable

1 communications technology including interoperable communication
2 hardware or software; and

3 3. The estimated number of enrolled students that benefitted or
4 will benefit from how the grant money was utilized.

5 B. On or before May 30, 2028, and on or before May 30 each year
6 thereafter for the duration of the grant program, the Department
7 shall electronically submit a summarized report of the activities of
8 the grant program to the Legislature.

9 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-149.10 of Title 70, unless
11 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12 A. There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving
13 fund for the State Department of Education to be designated the
14 "School Access For Emergency Response Revolving Fund". The fund
15 shall be a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations,
16 and shall consist of all monies received by the State Department of
17 Education from:

18 1. Reimbursements, grants, or other monies received from other
19 state agencies and entities for establishing or maintaining
20 interoperable communication between schools and public safety
21 officials;

22 2. Gifts, donations, and bequests; and

23 3. Monies appropriated or apportioned by the Legislature.

24

1 B. All monies accruing to the credit of the School Access For
2 Emergency Response Revolving Fund are hereby appropriated and may be
3 budgeted and expended by the State Department of Education for the
4 purpose of providing grants for the School Access For Emergency
5 Response Grant Program as created in Section 3 of this act.

6 C. Expenditures from the School Access For Emergency Response
7 Revolving Fund shall be made upon warrants issued by the State
8 Treasurer against claims filed as prescribed by law with the
9 Director of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services for
10 approval and payment. Expenditures from the School Access For
11 Emergency Response Revolving Fund shall not exceed Five Million
12 Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) in any fiscal year and shall be divided
13 equally among grant applicants who were approved by the State Board
14 of Education and grant selection committee as provided for in
15 Section 3 of this act.

16 SECTION 7. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
18 April 16, 2025 - DO PASS AS AMENDED BY CS
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