

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H.B. 989
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30384-NDa-77A

Short Title: Build Safer Communities and Schools Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Clark.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO CODIFY SCHOOL SAFETY GRANTS.
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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5 **CODIFY SCHOOL SAFETY GRANTS**

6 **SECTION 1.(a)** Part 3 of Article 13A of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes, as
7 enacted by S.L. 2024-57, is amended by adding a new section to read:

8 **"§ 143B-1209.61. School safety grants for students in crisis, training, and equipment.**

9 (a) Definitions. – For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

10 (1) Community partner. – A public or private entity, including, but not limited to,
11 a nonprofit corporation or a local management entity/managed care
12 organization (LME/MCO), that partners with a public school unit to provide
13 services or pay for the provision of services for the unit.

14 (2) School health support personnel. – School nurses, school counselors, school
15 psychologists, and school social workers.

16 (b) Program; Purpose. – The Executive Director of the Center for Safer Schools shall
17 establish the School Safety Grants Program (Program). To the extent funds are made available
18 for the Program, its purpose shall be to improve safety in public school units by providing grants
19 for (i) services for students in crisis, (ii) school safety training, and (iii) safety equipment in
20 schools.

21 (c) Grant Applications. – A public school unit may submit an application to the Executive
22 Director of the Center for Safer Schools for one or more grants pursuant to this section. The
23 application shall include an assessment, to be performed in conjunction with a local law
24 enforcement agency, of the need for improving school safety within the public school unit that
25 would receive the funding or services. The application shall identify current and ongoing needs
26 and estimated costs associated with those needs.

27 (d) Criteria and Guidelines. – The Executive Director of the Center for Safer Schools
28 shall develop criteria and guidelines for the administration and use of the grants pursuant to this
29 section, including any documentation required to be submitted by applicants. In assessing grant
30 applications, the Executive Director of the Center for Safer Schools shall consider at least the
31 following factors:

32 (1) The level of resources available to the public school unit that would receive
33 the funding.

34 (2) Whether the public school unit has received other grants for school safety.

35 (3) The overall impact on student safety in the public school unit if the identified
36 needs are funded.



1 (e) Grants for Students in Crisis. – Of the funds appropriated to the State Bureau of
2 Investigation for the grants provided in this subsection, the Executive Director of the Center for
3 Safer Schools, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, shall award
4 grants to public school units to contract with community partners to provide or pay for the
5 provision of any of the following crisis services:

- 6 (1) Crisis respite services for parents or guardians of an individual student to
7 prevent more intensive or costly levels of care.
8 (2) Training and expanded services for therapeutic foster care families and
9 licensed child placement agencies that provide services to students who (i)
10 need support to manage their health, welfare, and safety and (ii) have any of
11 the following:
12 a. Cognitive or behavioral problems.
13 b. Developmental delays.
14 c. Aggressive behavior.
15 (3) Evidence-based therapy services aligned with targeted training for students
16 and their parents or guardians, including any of the following:
17 a. Parent-child interaction therapy.
18 b. Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy.
19 c. Dialectical behavior therapy.
20 d. Child-parent psychotherapy.
21 (4) Any other crisis service, including peer-to-peer mentoring, that is likely to
22 increase school safety. Of the funds appropriated to the Bureau for grants
23 pursuant to this subsection, the Executive Director of the Center for Safer
24 Schools shall not use more than three hundred fifty thousand dollars
25 (\$350,000) per fiscal year for the services identified in this subsection.

26 (f) Grants for Training to Increase School Safety. – Of the funds appropriated to the State
27 Bureau of Investigation for the grant provided in this subsection, the Executive Director of the
28 Center for Safer Schools, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services,
29 shall award grants to public school units to contract with community partners to address school
30 safety by providing training to help students develop healthy responses to trauma and stress. The
31 training shall be targeted and evidence-based and shall include any of the following services:

- 32 (1) Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) training for school health
33 support personnel, local first responders, and teachers on the topics of suicide
34 prevention and reducing access by students to lethal means.
35 (2) Training for school health support personnel on comprehensive and
36 evidence-based clinical treatments for students and their parents or guardians,
37 including any of the following:
38 a. Parent-child interaction therapy.
39 b. Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy.
40 c. Behavioral therapy.
41 d. Dialectical behavior therapy.
42 e. Child-parent psychotherapy.
43 (3) Training for students and school employees on community resilience models
44 to improve understanding and responses to trauma and significant stress.
45 (4) Training for school health support personnel on Modular Approach to
46 Therapy for Children with Anxiety, Depression, Trauma, or Conduct
47 problems (MATCH-ADTC), including any of the following components:
48 a. Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy.
49 b. Parent and student coping skills.
50 c. Problem solving.
51 d. Safety planning.

1 (5) Any other training, including the training on the facilitation of peer-to-peer
2 mentoring, that is likely to increase school safety. Of the funds appropriated
3 to the Bureau for grants pursuant to this subsection, the Executive Director of
4 the Center for Safer Schools shall use no more than three hundred fifty
5 thousand dollars (\$350,000) per fiscal year for the services identified in this
6 subsection.

7 (g) Grants for Safety Equipment. – Of the funds appropriated to the State Bureau of
8 Investigation for the grant provided in this subsection, the Executive Director of the Center for
9 Safer Schools shall award grants to public school units for (i) the purchase of safety equipment
10 for school buildings and (ii) training associated with the use of safety equipment purchased
11 pursuant to this subsection. Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-218.105(b), charter schools may receive
12 grants for school safety equipment pursuant to this subsection. In assessing grant applications,
13 the Executive Director of the Center for Safer Schools shall prioritize applications for the
14 purchase of any of the following school safety equipment:

15 (1) Exterior doors with push bars.

16 (2) Erected vehicle barriers.

17 (3) Security systems that monitor and record school entrances, exits, and
18 hallways.

19 (4) Campus-wide active shooter alarm systems that are separated from fire
20 alarms.

21 (5) Two-way radio systems.

22 (6) Perimeter security fencing.

23 (7) Bullet-resistant glass or film for school entrances.

24 (8) Door-locking systems.

25 (h) Supplement Not Supplant. – Grants provided to public school units or community
26 partners pursuant to the Program shall be used to supplement and not to supplant State or
27 non-State funds already provided for these services.

28 (i) Administrative Costs. – Of the funds appropriated to the State Bureau of Investigation
29 for the grants provided pursuant to this section, the Executive Director of the Center for Safer
30 Schools may retain a total of up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per fiscal year for
31 administrative costs associated with the Program.

32 (j) Disbursement. – The Executive Director of the Center for Safer Schools may enter
33 into a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Public Instruction to disburse
34 grants awarded under this section.

35 (k) Report. – No later than April 1 of each fiscal year in which funds are awarded pursuant
36 to the Program, the Executive Director of the Center for Safer Schools shall report on the Program
37 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Joint Legislative Oversight
38 Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice
39 and Public Safety, the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Senate
40 Appropriations/Base Budget Committee, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Fiscal
41 Research Division. The report shall include at least the following information:

42 (1) The identity of each public school unit and community partner that received
43 grant funds through the Program.

44 (2) The amount of funding received by each entity identified pursuant to
45 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

46 (3) The services, training, and equipment purchased with grant funds by each
47 entity that received a grant.

48 (4) Recommendations for the implementation of additional effective school
49 safety measures."

50 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Executive Director of the Center for Safer Schools shall
51 establish the School Safety Grants Program as directed by G.S.143B-1209.61, as enacted by this

1 section, and have the application for the Program available to public school units no later than
2 August 1, 2025.

3 **SECTION 1.(c)** There is appropriated from the ARPA Temporary Savings Fund to
4 the State Bureau of Investigation the sum of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) in nonrecurring
5 funds for each year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium to fund the School Safety Grants Program
6 under G.S. 143B-1209.61, as enacted by this section. It is the intent of the General Assembly to
7 fund the Program with recurring funds beginning with the 2027-2029 fiscal biennium.

8 **SECTION 1.(d)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2025.
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10 **SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND EFFECTIVE DATE**

11 **SECTION 2.(a)** If any section or provision of this act is declared unconstitutional or
12 invalid by the courts, it does not affect the validity of this act as a whole or any portion other than
13 the portion declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

14 **SECTION 2.(b)** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
15 law.