

DEPARTMENT: IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Proposal #	Title	Summary
	Iowa Governor's School Safety Bureau	<p><u>Background (e.g. current law or status):</u> On January 21, 2020, Governor Kim Reynolds and DPS Commissioner Stephan Bayens announced the formation of the Iowa Governor's School Safety Bureau. The Bureau will take a multi-faceted approach to school safety with the goal of providing uniformity across the state.</p> <p>When fully funded and staffed, DPS will provide training to local law enforcement and schools. Law enforcement training will ensure that all officers responding to an incident are using the same operational techniques. School training will also focus on civilian response and what to expect from first responders during and following an active shooter event.</p> <p>Other aspects of the Bureau include an anonymous reporting tool that would be available to all schools in the state. This tool will provide students a safe mechanism to notify law enforcement about concerns in their school, ranging from bullying and suicide to school threats and violence. This will be modeled after the anonymous reporting applications in many other states. DPS will also put together a multi-disciplinary threat assessment team to provide expertise to local school officials when responding to any school safety concerns. Finally, DPS will allocate resources to assist local law enforcement with investigations tied directly to school safety threats.</p> <p>To further this initiative, the Department submitted an application to the United States Department of Justice Stop School Violence Prevention Program for grant funding to purchase emergency radios to install in school buildings across the state. These radios will provide a direct connection to the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS) to expedite notification to emergency services and allow for more rapid responses in situations where immediately calling 911 may not be possible. The Department is currently waiting for notice of the award by the Department of Justice.</p> <p><u>Solution:</u> In order to effectively implement, coordinate, monitor, and promote this program, the Department recommends fully funding and staffing the Department to properly train first responders, monitor and manage an anonymous reporting tool, and provide necessary expertise to local school officials for threat assessments and school safety response concerns.</p>

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		<p><u>Goal:</u> Assist the Department of Education and school districts across the state in providing a safe learning environment.</p> <p><u>Fiscal and Jobs Impact:</u> Depending on staffing levels, the total Year 1 cost is \$1,449,901 - \$3,209,651, with an annual cost between \$1,169,352 and \$2,220,675 thereafter. This amount includes the annual salaries of a Special Agent in Charge to supervise the bureau, a Criminal Intelligence Analyst, an Information Technology Specialist, sworn personnel for training, and Communication Specialists for 24/7 monitoring of the reporting tool.</p> <p><u>Has proposal been pre-cleared before? If so, prior legislative history?</u> This proposal was included in the Governor's 2021 budget but was not funded by the legislature.</p>
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