School Emergency Response (C347L25)

Budget Language

$60,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2026 is provided solely for implementation of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5004 (school emergency response).

Proviso Purpose

This proviso was provided to OSPI for administrative staffing capacity to support districts to respond to the requirements established in ESSB 5004, also known as Alyssa's Law. Under ESSB 5004, school districts are required to implement emergency response systems that support rapid notification and access, as well as report on the status of these systems. The following report summarizes the statewide data submitted through the Information and Condition of Schools (ICOS) system for the most recent reporting period.

Services Provided

OSPI School Safety staff developed communications for school districts to raise awareness of the new reporting requirements through state-wide communications, coordinate with the nine regional Safety Centers to support districts to submit the required updates to OSPI, answer technical assistance questions from school districts, coordinate with the OSPI Facilities Team who collected the data from districts, and write the legislative update/report.

Criteria for Receiving Services/Grants

N/A - no grants were provided with these funds.

Beneficiaries in the 2025-26 School Year

Number of School Districts: 295

Number of Schools: n/a

Number of Students: n/a

Number of Educators: n/a

Other - ESD Regional Safety Centers: 9

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No.

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2026	$60,000	$10,329

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2026	295

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

This funding was new this year specifically for this reporting requirement.

Program(s) Evaluation or Major Findings

During the reporting period, 291 local education agencies (LEAs)—including K–12 public school districts, state-tribal education compacts (STECs), and charter schools—submitted data to OSPI, representing 90.4% of all reporting entities statewide.

Of those reporting, 269 LEAs (92.4%) were found to be compliant with ESHB 5004. Compliance indicates that a district has implemented at least one qualifying emergency response system that is active and operational. These systems include panic or alert buttons connected to school or district staff and emergency responders; live video or audio feeds accessible to law enforcement and school officials; remote control access capabilities; interactive two-way communication systems; or other systems meeting the requirements of state building codes or local safe school plans (RCW 28A.320.125(8)).

School districts reported through the Information and Condition of Schools (ICOS) system. Data collected show that Washington schools reported 18,235 active safety systems statewide, with 76.1% (13,884) accessible for emergency response.

Major Challenges Faced by Program(s)

OSPI and school districts were given a very tight timeline within which to meet the reporting requirements. This might have contributed to some districts not reporting. OSPI did not provide a fiscal note for this bill. The work required to implement happened over a few short months leading up to the report to the Legislature, and the amount of funds provided were more than staff time required.

Future Opportunities

Washington state schools have made significant investments in safety, with thousands of active systems—ranging from visual feeds and two-way communications to lockdown and emergency response systems—supporting secure learning environments. With a majority of systems accessible for rapid emergency response, schools are well-equipped to protect students and staff. These efforts demonstrate that Washington schools are safe, proactive, and committed to continuous improvement in maintaining secure spaces for learning.

Safety remains a priority for Washington state schools. Beyond installing emergency response systems, districts are investing in comprehensive safety planning, behavioral threat assessment work, mental and behavioral health supports, and proactive school climate initiatives.

Other Relevant Information

OSPI Legislative Report (2025) - Reporting Public School Emergency Response Systems

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2026 Fiscal Year.

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