



MCSSA MICHIGAN

Michigan Coalition for Safe Schools & Advocacy

mcssa-mi.org | chair@mcssa-mi.org

MEMORANDUM & POLICY BRIEF

TO: Members of the Michigan Senate and House Education Committees, State School Safety Liaisons & Legislative Policy Directors, Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB), Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP)

FROM: Danielle Taylor, Lead Administrator & Chair, MCSSA Michigan (mcssa-mi.org)

DATE: October 26, 2026

SUBJECT: Legislative Policy Brief: Comprehensive Layered School Security, Objective Threat Reporting, and Infrastructure Grant Funding Standards (Proposed Sections 1308f, 1308g, 1308h, and 1308i to 1976 PA 451 – The Revised School Code)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & RATIONALE

In virtually every modern sector—from corporate operations and financial governance to municipal infrastructure and healthcare—organizations rely on empirical data, objective metrics, and analytics to evaluate performance, mitigate risk, and allocate capital. School safety must operate under this exact same standard of accountability.

Taxpayers and local communities invest millions of dollars into state and grant-funded school safety initiatives. Parents who entrust their children to public institutions deserve complete visibility into the tangible, measurable return on those investments. Furthermore, physical campus containment policies must address the severe reality of external threats: criminals and violent intruders do not follow school handbooks or honor gun-free zone designations—soft targets invite danger. Enhancing the physical target defense of our children through hardened perimeters, single-point entry armed security, instant interior classroom lock controls, and secure interlocking vestibules is an urgent necessity. Enough is enough—it is time to wake up and Secure Our Schools Michigan.

Educators, parents, and students currently navigate a destructive dual-fear dilemma: (1) the constant fear of unaddressed external threats and outside intruders breaching physical perimeters, and (2) the fear of administrative mishandling during Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) evaluations. Under-reacting to potential threats creates catastrophic safety vulnerabilities and severe civil liability, while over-reacting funnels students into the juvenile justice system at a devastating rate—directly fueling the school-to-prison pipeline. Section 1308f solves this administrative breakdown by replacing subjective fear and speculation with standardized,

objective, metric-based reporting protocols—ensuring schools remain physically protected from external harm while preventing the unnecessary criminalization of students.

This Act unifies physical perimeter containment, objective reporting metrics, and dedicated state funding into a single statutory framework. By requiring factual incident metrics, instant interior teacher lockdown mechanisms, dedicated single-point entry armed security, layered perimeter drop-off zones, and annual public BTAM transparency, this legislation eliminates administrative delay, enforces complete fiscal accountability for tax-funded safety grants, and secures Michigan schools against external harm.

FOUR-PILLAR STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

Pillar 1: Objective Incident Reporting & Executive Staff Training (Sec. 1308f)

- **Standardized Metric Requirement:** Eliminates unverified speculative narratives, subjective emotional characterizations, and anecdotal opinions from incident logs. Resolves the dual-fear dilemma—where under-reacting risks severe safety vulnerabilities and civil liability, while over-reacting funnels students into the juvenile justice system—by anchoring all assessments in empirical, standardized data.
- **Factual Recording Rules:** Mandates direct observable behavioral actions, exact verbatim statements, and environmental contextual metrics.
- **Triage Severity Categorization:** Establishes Level 1 (Factual Classroom Log), Level 2 (Multi-Disciplinary BTAM Referral), and Level 3 (Immediate Active Emergency / Lockdown Trigger).
- **Statewide Executive Training:** Directs the Department of State Police (MSP) and Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to issue standardized staff de-escalation and objective recording modules.

Pillar 2: Physical Campus Containment & Hardened Entry Defense (Sec. 1308g)

- **Teacher-Controlled Lockdown Hardware:** Mandates single-action interior lock controls on all classroom doors, enabling instant lockdown without stepping into hallways or using external keyways.
- **Double-Door Interlocking Vestibules:** Restricts visitor access to interior corridors until identity verification and electronic screening are completed within a secure mantrap.
- **Stationed Entry Security & SRO Protection Framework ("Protection, Not Prosecution" Standard):** Requires at least one dedicated School Resource Officer (SRO) or certified armed security specialist stationed directly at the primary entrance during instructional hours. Explicitly establishes that SROs and law enforcement integration exist strictly as a protective shield against external threats, active intruders, and perimeter breaches. Mandates binding local Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) prohibiting officers from conducting routine classroom discipline, administrative sanctions, or minor behavioral enforcement—ensuring officers remain focused on physical campus defense while educators manage internal student support, dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline.
 - **Mandatory Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Recording & Parental Access:** Mandates that body cameras worn by SROs or stationed security must remain active during all school-related incidents, enforcement interactions, and physical security actions. Specifies that recorded footage must be archived and accessible to parents or legal guardians upon request within 5 business days, subject to FERPA redaction (blurring/pixelation) of uninvolved minors, ensuring complete transparency, accountability, and parental oversight.

- **Layered Perimeter Access Controls:** Establishes multi-ring vehicular drop-off loops separating parent traffic, buses, and pedestrian paths, anchored by crash-rated entrance bollards.

Pillar 3: Mandatory BTAM & Infrastructure Transparency (Sec. 1308h)

- **Annual Public Board Presentation:** Mandates an annual public presentation prior to November 1 detailing aggregated, non-identifying threat assessment metrics and facility physical security audits.
- **FERPA & Due Process Compliance:** Ensures complete protection of student privacy and civil rights while enforcing public oversight.
- **State Agency Reporting:** Mandates formal submission of district audits to MSP (Office of School Safety), MDE, and legislative K-12 appropriations committees within 30 days.

Pillar 4: Michigan School Infrastructure Security Dedicated Fund (Sec. 1308i)

- **Restricted Non-Lapsing Fund:** Establishes a permanent state treasury fund combining legislative appropriations, state school aid allocations, federal grants, and public safety revenue.
- **Direct Grant Allocations:** Directs funds toward interior lockdown hardware, secure vestibules, stationed armed entry personnel, perimeter bollards/fencing, and objective reporting software.
- **Audit-Based Prioritization:** Prioritizes grant funding applications for districts demonstrating critical physical facility vulnerabilities in their annual Sec. 1308h security reports.