

LAO School Safety Block Grant Proposal

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

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Governor's School Safety Consolidation Proposal

(In Millions)

Included Programs	Proposed 2004-05
Gang Risk Intervention Program	\$3.0
School/Law Enforcement Partnership Programs	
School Community Policing Partnership	10.0
School Community Violence Prevention	0.7
Partnership Mini-Grants/Safe School Planning	0.6
Conflict Resolution	0.3
Subtotal	(\$11.6)
Total	\$14.6
Excluded Programs	
School Safety and Violence Prevention Grant Program	\$82.1 ^a
School Safety Plans for New Schools Program ^b	3.0
Total	\$85.1
Total, All Programs	\$99.7
<p>^a The Governor proposes to use \$46.3 million in Proposition 98 reversion account funding and defers the remaining amount until 2005-06.</p> <p>^b This program was previously within the School Law Enforcement Partnership Program; however, the Governor proposes to maintain this program separately in the budget year.</p>	

- The Governor's proposal consolidates five of seven existing school safety programs into a school safety block grant (\$14.6 millions).
- The proposal consolidates the competitive grant programs into one budget item with the underlying statute for the programs continuing to govern the use of funds.
- Excluded from the proposal are the School Safety and Violence Prevention Grant Program and Safety Plans for New Schools Program because they provide funding to schools on a formula basis.



LAO Concerns With Governor's School Safety Consolidation Proposal

- The Governor's proposal does not (1) provide any additional local flexibility to school districts, (2) streamline the current system, or (3) go far enough to consolidate programs that provide funding for similar intents and purposes.

- The Governor's proposal only provides flexibility for the State Department of Education to move funds among the school safety programs.

- The proposal does not address existing problems with the competitive grant programs, including:
 - High state and local administrative costs.
 - Grants that may not be targeting schools with greatest need.

- The proposal excludes the School Safety Violence Prevention Grant Program which is tailor made for inclusion in a larger block grant. In addition, the proposal does not take into account funding for school safety mandates.



LAO School Safety Block Grant Proposal

2004-05
(In Millions)

Programs	Amount
Per Pupil Grant Formula	
School Safety and Violence Prevention Grants	\$82.1 ^a
State Mandated Programs	30.3
Notification of Truancy	9.2
Habitual Truants	6.9
Notification to Teachers of Pupil Expulsion	5.2
Pupil Suspensions, Expulsions, and Expulsion Appeals	3.4
Pupil Classroom Suspension: Counseling	2.5
Law Enforcement Agencies	1.8
Pupil Suspensions: Parent Classroom Visits	0.7
Juvenile Court Notices II	0.7
Expulsion Transcripts	—
Subtotal	(\$112.4)
High Risk School Formula	
School/Law Enforcement Partnership Programs	\$11.6
Gang Risk Intervention	3.0
Subtotal	(\$14.6)
School Safety Plans for New Schools	1.0
Total	\$128.0

^a Includes \$82 million deferred from 2004-05 into 2005-06.

- Create formula-driven School Safety Block Grant by consolidating the seven existing school safety programs with funding for ten state reimbursable school safety mandates.



LAO School Safety Block Grant Proposal (Continued)



Distribution of LAO School Safety Block Grant funding:

- **Per Pupil Grant (\$112 Million).** Based on enrollment in grades 8 through 12.
- **High Risk Schools Formula Grant (\$14 Million).** Replace competitive grant programs with 20 percent of a formula grant targeting schools with highest safety needs.
- **New School Planning Grant (\$1 Million).** Retain funding to support new schools in developing school safety plans.
- **School Safety Mandates.** School districts would be required to fund the costs of state mandates prior to funding other school safety purposes.



Benefits of LAO Proposal

- Maximizes local control and flexibility over the (1) needs they choose to target, (2) types of programs they create, and (3) program models they use to deliver services.
- Targets funding to districts that have a greater need for school safety funding based on their number of mandatory expulsions—eliminating administrative costs associated with the grant process.
- Creates an incentive for districts to meet mandate requirements more efficiently.
- Provides added school safety accountability for high-risk schools by requiring improvements at schools receiving high-risk grant funding.