



Senator Angelique V. Ashby, 8th Senate District

SB 1140 – Safe School Campus Act

Ensuring student safety on school campuses by limiting access points during construction, maintenance, and repair projects.

SUMMARY

SB 1140 requires schools to incorporate measures into their safety plans to limit unattended entryways during construction, maintenance, and repair projects to prevent unauthorized individuals from accessing school campuses.

BACKGROUND

In California, schools are required to maintain a Comprehensive School Safety Plan that addresses campus risks, which they review annually. These plans cover natural disasters, intruder risks, violence prevention, and other emergency scenarios, but do not traditionally include construction site access protocols.

While schools in California work diligently to limit who can access school grounds, unauthorized individuals have found ways around their safety rules and onto school property. The problem takes many forms: unstable or drug addicted individuals in mental health crisis seeking access to the facility, or the worst-case scenario, an active shooter planning a catastrophic event.

Since 1966, California has experienced the most school shootings, with 277.¹ This may be due to California's strongest reporting requirements, but with 277 school shootings, policies must be updated to keep our students safe. Shooters have entered schools through open doors, but as currently reported, no known active shooter has ever successfully breached a locked door on a school campus.² It is critical for schools to take preemptive action, especially when construction, maintenance, and repair projects are occurring on a school's campus during times when students are learning.

THE PROBLEM

Construction, maintenance, and repair work inherently involves repeatedly opening doors, driveway gates, and other points of access, often over the course of several days or weeks. Given the size and scope of many school facilities, contractors are often on-site for much of the school year, sometimes with multiple contractors performing work simultaneously.

While it is very possible to keep the school site secure during this work, doing so requires careful planning and coordination among school officials, contracting entities, and workers to prevent unauthorized individuals from accessing school campuses. This highlights the need to add to school safety plans that entry points during construction, maintenance, and repair projects on school campuses must be secure at all times.

THE SOLUTION

To prevent unauthorized individuals from entering school property, SB 1140 closes an important gap in safety by requiring schools to include strategies that limit access points during construction, maintenance, and repair projects on school grounds when drafting their school safety plans. With more dedicated attention to these types of projects, dangerous events can be better prevented.

SUPPORT

- CFT – A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO (Sponsor)
- CA Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO
- California School Employees Association
- Everytown
- Moms Demand Action
- Students Demand Action
- Brady United Against Gun Violence

¹ [Statista](#)

² [Journal of Mass Violence Research](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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