



The Charter School Advocate

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Governor Proposal for Safe Schools Revenue

Today, Governor Dayton's Supplementary Budget for Education is being presented in the House Education Finance Committee. The Governor's Budget proposes \$19 million in Safe Schools Revenue. For traditional districts, the revenue would be linked to the current Safe School Levy, and it would guarantee a minimum amount of revenue for small school districts.

For charter schools **Safe Schools Revenue would be a new revenue stream**, however, the Governor's proposal does not provide a minimum amount of revenue for small charter schools.

For FY 2019, the Governor is proposing that Safe schools revenue for a charter school would equal **\$18 times the adjusted pupil units** for the school year. For FY 2020 and later, safe schools revenue for a charter school would equal **\$36 times the adjusted pupil units** for the school year.

The proposal goes on to define **what expenditures qualify for the revenue**.

The revenue must be reserved and used only for cost associated with safe schools activities authorized under subdivision 5, paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (9), or for building lease expenses not funded by charter school building lease aid that are attributable to facility security enhancements made by the landlord after March 1, 2018.

Authorized uses of safe school revenue under subd. 5, paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (9).

1. Pay the costs incurred for the salaries, benefits, and transportation costs of peace officers and sheriffs for liaison in services in the district's schools;
2. Pay the costs for a drug abuse prevention program as defined in section 609.101 subdivision 3, paragraph (e), in the elementary school;
3. Pay the costs for a gang resistance education training curriculum in the district's schools;

4. Pay the costs for security in the district's schools and on school property;
5. Pay the costs for other crime prevention, drug abuse, student and staff safety, voluntary opt-in suicide prevention tools, and violence prevention measures taken by the school district;
6. Pay the costs for licensed school counselors, licensed school nurses, licensed school social workers, licensed school psychologists, and licensed alcohol and chemical dependency counselors to help provide early responses to problems;
7. Pay for costs for facility security enhancements including laminated glass, public announcement systems, emergency communications devices, and equipment and facility modifications;
8. Pay for costs associated with improving school climate;
9. Pay costs for collocating and collaborating with mental health professionals who are not district employees or contractors.

NOTE: The Governor's proposal is just one of several proposals before the legislature that would provide safe school aid. Over the next week, as the next deadline in the legislative process approaches, we know which of the various proposals makes it into the Omnibus Education Bills. It is also possible that school safety measures and funding may be passed as a separate bill from the Omnibus Education Bill.