

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 895 (Senator Gile)
 Education, Energy, and the Environment and
 Judicial Proceedings

Public Safety - Department of State Police - School Mapping Data Program

This bill repeals the School Data Mapping Program in the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) and reestablishes it in the Department of State Police (DSP), with funding still provided by the Safe Schools Fund. Under the reconstituted program, only local public safety agencies, rather than public school systems, may apply for funding from the program. DSP must adopt regulations to implement the program.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$200,700 in FY 2027 for contractual staff; out years reflect inflation, ongoing expenses, and the termination of contractual staff in FY 2028. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	200,700	56,600	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$200,700)	(\$56,600)	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Local public safety agencies may apply for grants under the program, but any resulting revenues or costs associated with being awarded a grant are discretionary. Local school system revenues and related expenditures from program grants decrease, as local school systems are no longer eligible to apply for program funding under the bill.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The purpose of the program in DSP is to provide oversight of, and technical assistance to, public safety agencies that receive funds from the Safe Schools Fund to produce school mapping data for each public school in a county (including charter schools) to facilitate efficient and effective emergency response by public safety agencies. The program must ensure that school mapping data meets or exceeds school mapping data standards developed and updated by the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC).

School mapping data produced by a public safety agency with funding from the Safe Schools Fund must satisfy the same criteria established in current law for the MCSS program.

Current Law: Chapters 166 and 167 of 2024 established the School Mapping Data Program in MCSS to provide funds to local school systems to produce school mapping data for each public school in the county, including charter schools. Local school systems can apply for funding from the program, and any school mapping data produced with funding from the program must comply with standards developed by IAC. The Acts further specified minimum requirements for school mapping data, including that it be:

- compatible with software platforms used by the school and public safety agencies that provide emergency services to the school, as specified;
- be in a printable format and, if requested, be in a digital file format that can be integrated into interactive mobile platforms;
- be verified for accuracy by a walk-through of the school buildings and grounds;
- be oriented true north;
- be overlaid on current aerial imagery;
- contain site-specific labeling that matches the structure of school buildings and school grounds, as specified; and
- be overlaid with gridded X and Y coordinates.

The fiscal 2026 budget, as enacted, included an appropriation of \$3.0 million for the program.

School Safety Subcabinet

The School Safety Subcabinet consists of the following individuals or their designees:

- the State Superintendent of Schools;
- the Secretary of Health;

- the Secretary of State Police;
- the Attorney General;
- the Secretary of the Department of Disabilities; and
- the Executive Director of the Interagency Commission on School Construction.

The State Superintendent or designee chairs the subcabinet, and the Executive Director of MCSS provides staff. Among other responsibilities, the School Safety Subcabinet administers the Safe Schools Fund.

Safe Schools Fund

The purpose of the Safe Schools Fund is to provide grants to local school systems to enhance school safety. The fund consists of (1) \$600,000 credited annually to the fund from penalties assessed against uninsured motorists; (2) money appropriated in the State budget to the fund; (3) money from any other source accepted for the fund; and (4) interest earnings.

State Expenditures:

Program Funding

As noted above, the fiscal 2026 budget as enacted provided \$3.0 million to the Safe Schools Fund for program grants. MCSS advises that \$2.3 million of that amount has been awarded, covering 70% of Maryland schools. Additional funding for the program is not included in the fiscal 2027 budget as introduced, so the fund has \$700,000 remaining from the original appropriation and, potentially, the \$600,000 it receives annually from penalties on uninsured motorists to use for the program. Given the number of schools remaining to be mapped, \$1.3 million should be sufficient to map all the remaining schools in the State that have not received grants. Therefore, no additional funding is needed.

Department of State Police Administrative Costs

DSP is not a grant-making agency and has no staff available to administer the grant program. As most schools have already received grants, and available funding is sufficient to cover the remaining schools, it is assumed that DSP can award grants to the remaining schools during fiscal 2027 but requires contractual staff to do so.

This analysis assumes that once schools have completed the mapping process, maps do not need to be updated regularly since the basic layout of school grounds does not change very often and additional funding for that purpose is not provided. To the extent that new schools are built or schools undergo substantial renovations or additions, it is further assumed that local public safety agencies can request funding from DSP to update those maps and that

DSP, working with the subcabinet, can provide funding from the \$600,000 allocation that the fund receives each year for the limited number of updates that must be performed (MCSS estimates the cost of mapping one school to be less than \$3,000). Therefore, DSP does not require staff in the out years.

Therefore, general expenditures increase by \$200,655 in fiscal 2027, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2026 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost for DSP to hire one contractual grant administrator, one contractual fiscal auditor, and one contractual geographic information system (GIS) analyst to award grants, monitor grant expenditures, and assist local public safety agencies with GIS mapping technology. It includes salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Contractual Positions	3.0
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$173,233
Operating Expenses	<u>27,422</u>
Total FY 2027 DSP Expenditures	\$200,655

Future year expenditures reflect (1) full salaries with annual increases and employee turnover; (2) annual increases in ongoing operating expenses; and (3) termination of the contractual employees after one full year.

This estimate does not include any health insurance costs that could be incurred for specified contractual employees under the State's implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

MCSS staff currently working on the program are assumed to be reassigned to other duties, resulting in no effect on MCSS expenditures.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 1328 (Delegate Feldmark) - Ways and Means and Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Baltimore, Cecil, Frederick, and Somerset counties; Maryland State Department of Education; Interagency Commission on School Construction; Maryland Center for School Safety; Department of State Police; Baltimore City Public Schools; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Frederick County Public Schools; Wicomico County Public Schools; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services.

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 9, 2026
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