

Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2021 Wisconsin Act 109 [2021 Senate Bill 449]

Grants for Critical Incident Mapping Data

BACKGROUND

State law requires each school board and the governing body of each private school, to have a school safety plan in effect, and to review and approve that plan at least once every three years after it goes into effect. Upon creating the plan, and upon each subsequent review, the board or governing body must submit a copy of the most recent blueprints of the school to the local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the school and to the Office of School Safety (OSS) at the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ). The OSS must coordinate with schools to compile and keep confidential all blueprints, unless a law enforcement agency requests access.

2021 WISCONSIN ACT 109

2021 Wisconsin Act 109 allows school boards and the governing bodies of private schools to submit critical incident mapping data, in lieu of blueprints, to the relevant law enforcement agency and the OSS, and similarly requires the OSS to compile such data and maintain its confidentiality, subject to the exception allowing law enforcement access upon request.

In addition, the act creates a DOJ grant program to assist school boards and governing bodies of private schools in submitting critical incident mapping data, and requires DOJ to accept grant applications from school personnel working jointly with local law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction over the school. The act further specifies that grant funds must be used for site-specific critical incident mapping data to enhance security and increase situational awareness for first responders, and that any mapping data created with grant funds must meet the following requirements:

- The data must be compatible with platforms and applications used by local, state, and federal public safety officials.
- The data may not require local, state, or federal public safety officials, school districts, or private schools to purchase additional software.
- The data must include information that can best assist first responders in an emergency, such as building numbers, floors, suite designations, room numbers, or other available relevant location information.

The act authorizes the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF), in the 2021-23 fiscal biennium, to supplement DOJ's school safety appropriation with sufficient funds, not to exceed \$2,000,000 in the biennium, to implement the grant program, upon DOJ's request. Under the act, DOJ must submit to the JCF co-chairpersons an annual report providing an account of the awarded grants and the expenditures made with the grant money.

Effective date: December 5, 2021

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