



www.lsc.ohio.gov

OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 313
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 313's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Reynolds

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: Yes

Ryan Brown, Budget Analyst

Highlights

- The bill appropriates \$25 million from the GRF in FY 2026 to reimburse school districts and chartered nonpublic schools for costs to implement the bill's required wearable panic alert system in all school buildings.
- Based on reported costs by a few districts that have already implemented compliant systems, the bill increases public school expenditures by an estimated \$60 million to \$84 million in FY 2026, including between \$33 million and \$50 million in one-time set-up expenses, and by an estimated \$27 million to \$33 million each fiscal year thereafter.

Detailed Analysis

Bill overview

The bill requires school districts; community and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) schools; and chartered nonpublic schools to, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year (FY 2026), implement a wearable panic alert system capable of integrating with local emergency response infrastructure and initiating campus-wide lockdown notifications at each school facility. It also requires districts and schools to provide each staff person with a wearable panic alert device that allows for immediate contact with local emergency response agencies. It appropriates \$25 million in FY 2026 to GRF line item 200578, Violence Prevention and School Safety, to reimburse school districts and chartered nonpublic schools for costs associated with implementing the requirements of the bill, in a manner determined by the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW).

Wearable panic alert systems

Wearable panic alert systems are technologies intended to speed up responses to emergency situations in schools. Typically, such systems equip schools with silent alarms that staff may trigger to notify law enforcement and first responders in the event of an emergency situation. Alarms may be outfitted in wearable devices, such as key cards, which can be worn and triggered by school personnel to allow for faster staff responses to emergencies and provide more accurate location data for first responders.

Estimated public school costs

To estimate the statewide cost to public schools to implement the systems mandated by the bill, LBO examined the cost of wearable panic alert systems reported by a few school districts that have already implemented them and current data on the number of school buildings in the state. New Albany-Plain Local School District (NAPLSD) in Franklin County and Brecksville-Broadview Heights City School District (BBHCSD) in Cuyahoga County have each reported that they have implemented wearable panic alert systems through contracts with a vendor named Centegix. The Centegix system is aligned to that which the bill mandates, as it outfits all school personnel with a wearable panic alert device that can contact local emergency response agencies and initiate campus-wide lockdowns. NAPLSD's five-year contract with the vendor totals \$353,400, which equips its six district buildings (five schools and one administrative building) with the Centegix system. The contract includes \$62,400 in one-time set-up expenses, which include installation, shipping, and onsite training, and \$291,000 in annual expenses, which include ongoing costs associated with system management and maintenance. A representative of NAPLSD reported to LBO that the district's ongoing costs include a few upgrades to the base system. On a per-building basis, the district's costs equate to \$10,400 in one-time set-up expenses and \$9,700 in annual expenses. A recent news article reported that BBHCSD has a five-year, \$160,000 contract with Centegix, which includes an \$8,000 per building annual cost.¹ BBHCSD operates three school buildings, which suggests that the remaining cost for one-time set-up expenses equates to roughly \$13,000 per building.

According to DEW, there are 3,441 total public school buildings, which include 3,032 traditional district school buildings, 65 joint vocational school district (JVSD) buildings, and 344 community and STEM schools. Per the same news article, 20 Ohio school districts have already implemented wearable panic alert systems through Centegix.² Given that each school district operates, on average, about five school buildings, LBO's cost estimate for traditional school districts excludes 100 school buildings from the calculation since these costs have already been incurred by the districts.

Assuming that the per-building cost of compliant wearable panic alert systems ranges between \$10,000 and \$15,000 for one-time set-up expenses and between \$8,000 and \$10,000

¹ Wiggins, Danielle. "[Ohio school districts turn to wearable panic buttons as Alyssa's Law is introduced in Ohio Senate.](#)" WKYC.com. September 25, 2024. Accessed September 27, 2024. The article may be accessed by conducting a keyword "wearable panic buttons" search on the WKYC website: [WKYC.com](#).

² Wiggins, Danielle. "[Ohio school districts turn to wearable panic buttons as Alyssa's Law is introduced in Ohio Senate.](#)" WKYC.com. September 25, 2024. Accessed September 27, 2024. The article may be accessed by conducting a keyword "wearable panic buttons" search on the WKYC website: [WKYC.com](#).

for annual ongoing expenses, the bill increases costs for school districts and other public schools by a statewide total of \$33.4 million to \$50.1 million for the initial installation and system setup and by \$26.7 million to \$33.4 million for ongoing annual expenses. Given this, the total cost in FY 2026, the first year in which the systems are required, would be between \$60.1 million and \$83.5 million, while the total cost in each fiscal year thereafter would be between \$26.7 million and \$33.4 million. The range of estimated costs by school type is shown in the table below.

Estimated Costs of One-time and Annual Expenses for Wearable Panic Alert Systems by School Type (\$ in millions)		
School Type	One-time Expenses	Annual Expenses
Traditional	\$29.3 to \$44.0	\$23.5 to \$29.3
Community/STEM schools	\$3.4 to \$5.2	\$2.8 to \$3.4
JVSDs	\$0.7 to \$1.0	\$0.5 to \$0.7
Total	\$33.4 to \$50.1	\$26.7 to \$33.4