

2016-136 AUDIT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

K–12 School Based Violence Readiness and Prevention

The audit by the California State Auditor will provide independently developed and verified information related to K–12 schools' readiness to prevent, identify, and respond to school based violence, including active shooter threats and incidents in and around school campuses over the most recent five-year period, and will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Review and evaluate the laws, rules, and regulations significant to the audit objectives.
2. Determine the type and level of guidance the California Department of Education (CDE) has provided to K–12 schools, charter schools, schools districts, and county offices of education related to ensuring the safety of students and staff on campus, including guidance related to active shooters or assailants.
3. Evaluate and assess how CDE monitors school districts and county offices of education compliance with state laws, regulations, and guidelines related to preventing, identifying, and responding to school based violence or ensuring the safety of students and staff on campus.
4. Determine the number of school districts and county offices of education that have reported school noncompliance with state law regarding the submission of school safety plans to CDE. In addition, evaluate CDE's response to such notifications.
5. To the extent possible, determine the number of active shooter threats or incidents that have occurred in and around K–12 schools statewide.
6. For a selection of schools, school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools, including at least one small school district and one school district located in San Bernardino County, determine the following:
 - (a) Whether schools, school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools are complying with laws requiring the development and submission of a comprehensive school safety plan.
 - (b) The number of active shooter threats or incidents that have occurred in or around the selected school campuses. In addition, determine how the incidents were handled and assess whether the incidents were handled in accordance with the school safety plan or other guidance.
 - (c) Whether the school safety plan of the selected schools, school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools includes all elements required by law. Assess whether the school safety plan includes more elements than required by law and determine the nature and source of any additional elements. Further, determine whether the additional elements are and should be considered best practices.

2016-136 AUDIT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

K–12 School Based Violence Readiness and Prevention, continued

- (d) Whether the selected schools, school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools are complying with existing laws and guidelines related to school safety, particularly in the areas that include, but are not limited to, campus violence and active shooter threats and incidents.
 - (e) The types and levels of planning, training, and drills the selected schools, school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools employ to respond to active shooter threats and incidents in and around campuses. Determine and evaluate whether the planning, training, and drills are evidence-based or considered best practices.
 - (f) Whether the selected schools, school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools are effectively engaging with other schools or school districts, parents, and the community in maintaining safe school environments.
7. Review and assess any other issues that are significant to the audit.