

School Safety Grants

Senate Bill 911 and Assembly Bill 1001

Wisconsin Council
of Religious & Independent Schools
Committed to a Higher Standard

Summary

Senate Bill 911 and its companion Assembly Bill 1001 would establish a **\$30 million grant program for public and private schools to improve the safety of school buildings and provide staff with life-saving training.**

The proposed safety grant program mirrors the very successful 2018 school safety grant program, which received a **favorable review from the Legislative Audit Bureau.***

The grant program would be administered by Cooperative Educational Service Agency 6 (CESA 6). It would be especially helpful to schools that didn't participate in the 2018 safety grants. Their applications will be given priority.

This state grant program would allow schools to obtain **updated locks, hardcore doors, intercom systems, alarms and more.**

Schools would also be able to pay for training for staff so that they are prepared to **quickly and effectively respond to any school safety event.**

The state reported that it received **almost 4,000 school-safety-related tips** from almost every county in the state in the 2022-23 school year.**

Our schools must be equipped to respond to instances of violence, which are increasing across the country.

We Need Your Support

Although the Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools (WCRIS) specifically represents 600 private K-12 schools, our organization is dedicated to the success of all schools in the state. Most private school students go on to attend public high schools.

Over the last year, **WCRIS has heard from hundreds of schools**, looking for ways to continue to ensure the safety of their schools.

We ask that you support SB-911 and AB-1001, which has already been sponsored by over a dozen legislators.

We appreciate the legislature making school safety a priority this session.

Contact

If you'd like to learn more about the proposed safety grant program or about WCRIS, please contact our office at:

wcris.staff@wcris.org | (608) 287-1224
110 E Main Street, Suite 802, Madison, WI 53703



**Scan here to
support school
safety grants!**

Or visit wcris.org/public-policy/

*Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau, Report 19-28 School Safety Grants and Plans, <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/media/2956/19-28highlights.pdf>

**Wisconsin Department of Justice Office of School Safety, 2022-23 Annual Report, <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/sites/default/files/2023%20SUSO%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

Thank You for Your Support of Senate Bill 911 and Assembly Bill 1001!

About WCRIS

The membership of the Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools (WCRIS) consists of about 600 of the 800 total private schools in the state from all major Catholic, Christian, independent, Lutheran and Seventh Day Adventist schools. Our schools educate 10% of the state's K-12 population.

WCRIS is a non-profit, nonpartisan membership organization representing 100,000 children in 600 K-12 schools since 1974, and the official Wisconsin chapter of the Council for American Private Education (CAPE).

For the last 50 years, WCRIS supports the unique missions of member schools through advocacy, education and partnerships, to ensure an extraordinary education and equitable opportunity for each child.

Previous Accomplishments

This is just a snapshot of what we've accomplished in the last half-century:

- » Helped amend the state constitution to provide equitable busing for private school children;
- » Innovated the first public-private partnership to provide the federally-required position of a private school ombudsman. WCRIS contracts with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to fill this role. Our ombudsman is one of the longest-serving ombudsmen in the country;
- » Created a Wisconsin tax deduction for K-12 tuition expenses;
- » Helped Wisconsin become one of the first states to align state tax law to federal law, allowing parents to pay for K-12 tuition expenses with tax-advantaged 529 Savings Accounts;
- » Advocated for including religious schools in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program and expanding vouchers statewide.

Get in Touch

If you have questions about our legislative efforts, please contact our office using the information below.

Thank you for your previous support of private education in Wisconsin. **We hope we can count on you to support SB-911 and AB-1001.**

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wcris.org | wcris.staff@wcris.org | (608) 287-1224

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