

## MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents, Chief Financial Officers, and Principals

From: Stephen Balko, Director of School Building Security

Date: June 14, 2019

Re: Senate Enrolled Act 127 – Referendum for School Safety Levy

### **Background:**

Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 127 allows school corporations to adopt a resolution to place a referendum on the ballot and impose a school safety referendum tax levy to improve school safety.

### **Guidance:**

SEA 127 allows a school corporation to adopt a resolution to place a referendum on the ballot to impose a school safety referendum tax levy to improve school safety. The amount may not exceed 10 cents on each \$100 of assessed valuation. If approved, another school safety referendum question may not be placed on the ballot until the following calendar year. If a referendum for school safety levy under IC 20-46-9 is approved at any time in the previous three years, a corporation may not adopt a resolution to place a school referendum tax levy under IC 20-46-1 on the ballot. Additionally, if the referendum is passed, a school safety tax levy fund and debt service fund must be established.

Money from the school safety tax levy fund may only be used for the following purposes:

- Employ or compensate a school resource officer or school resource officers;
- Establish or fund a school safety office;
- Conduct a threat assessment of a school building;
- Create or update a school safety plan;
- Develop or update school emergency response systems;
- Purchase equipment to improve the safety of a school building, school grounds, or school buses;
- Pay capital expenses to improve the safety of a school building; and
- Establish and administer programs to address youth specific mental illness, addiction, anger management, bullying, and school violence.

Corporations must include in a controlled project any capital improvements necessary to complete components of the most recent threat assessment of the buildings within the corporation or school safety plan that have not been completed or that require additional funding to be completed.

School Resource Officers are required to participate in the development of programs that are designed to identify, assess, and provide assistance to troubled youth.

SEA 127 also expands the use of the matching grant from the Secured Schools Fund by a school corporation or charter school to allow the use of the grant to provide a response to a threat in a manner that the school sees fit, including the use of firearms training or other self-defense training.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Balko at 317-232-4914 or e-mail him at [sbalko@doe.in.gov](mailto:sbalko@doe.in.gov).

This bill was authored by Senator Travis Holdman, and full bill text can be found [here](#). Information regarding how to contact your legislators can be found [here](#).