



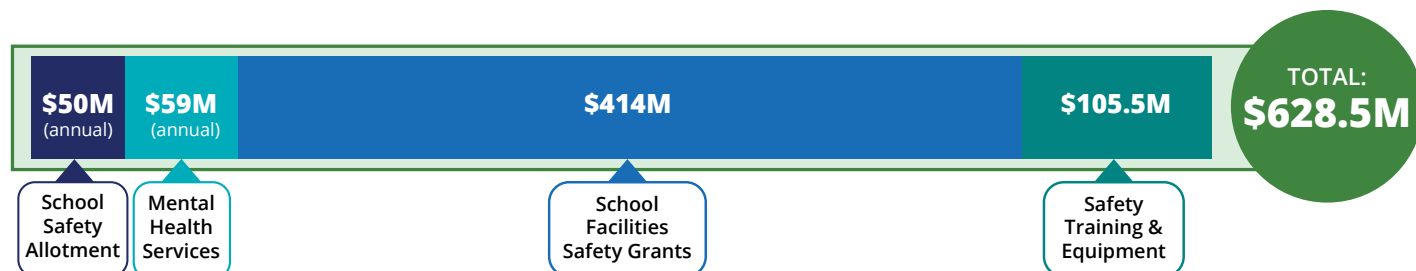
## Supporting Safer Schools

Keeping schools safe is always a priority for educators. Schools are required by the legislature to implement safety best practice protocols established by the Texas School Safety Center. School systems perform internal audits to ensure those protocols are being followed. Following tragic incidents this year, more steps have been taken. TEA recently established minimum school safety standards. TEA and the Texas School Safety Center also began performing third party reviews of school safety protocols to provide an additional layer of support.



## FUNDING FOR SAFE SCHOOLS FOR 2022-23

In the last year, the Governor and legislature provided more than \$500M in new funds for safe schools.<sup>8</sup>



## Supporting Mental Health

The Texas Child Health Access Through Telemedicine (TCHAT) initiative, with funding provided by the legislature to higher education medical institutions, provides telemedicine and telehealth services to students, which is especially helpful in rural Texas. With permission from parents, referrals come from educators to support student mental health. Begun in 2019, TCHAT services are currently available for roughly half the state of Texas.

## CURRENT TCHAT SERVICE AVAILABILITY<sup>9</sup>

