

HOUSE No. 426

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James Arciero

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act implementing automated emergency response communications and coordination between Massachusetts schools with first responders.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/17/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 426

By Representative Arciero of Westford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 426) of James Arciero relative to implementing automated emergency response communications and coordination between schools with first responders. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act implementing automated emergency response communications and coordination between Massachusetts schools with first responders.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1 Automated School Emergency Response Program

2 (a) There shall be established an automated school emergency response program
3 administered by the Department of Education pursuant to which school districts and serving first
4 responder agencies may purchase and acquire automated emergency response systems meeting
5 the functional and security requirements described in Subsections (b) and (c) below. The
6 program shall be funded each year as prescribed by the Department of Education for the
7 acquisition and maintenance of such systems by school district and cognizant first responder
8 agencies pursuant regulations adopted by the Department.

9 (b) Subject to available funding under the program described in Subsection (a). school
10 districts may purchase and maintain automated emergency response system with their cognizant
11 public safety agency and the serving public safety answering point or emergency

12 communications center to provide automated emergency-incident-based real-time collaboration
13 between their schools and police meeting the following requirements, where technically feasible:

14 (1) The system is an interoperable multimedia communications system that enables
15 public safety agencies, the PSAPs, and the schools they serve, to directly communicate with one
16 another utilizing existing communications systems, including connecting day-to-day use school
17 radio systems or push to talk applications with first responder systems.

18 (2) The system enables live school cameras to be securely shared with police upon
19 emergency incident initiation where the location of the cameras and live views are displayed on
20 the floor plan and may be a remotely viewed by incident responders from a floor plan view for
21 situational context.

22 (3) The system authenticates a system users' identity, location, and operational status
23 during an incident.

24 (4) The system integrates with school panic alarm systems that, when activated, establish
25 direct emergency incident collaboration between schools and public safety agencies enabling
26 direct communications with primary law enforcement, the PSAP, and appropriate mutual aid
27 agencies and the simultaneous sharing of live video and floor plans through such system.

28 (5) The system enables dynamic interoperable radio communications between first
29 responder agencies who may be using incompatible or different radio communications systems
30 or channels.

31 (5) The system enables secure text messaging and file sharing among agencies involved
32 in a collaboration incident.

33 (6) System users should be able to perform dispatch endpoint radio transmit voice
34 transmit and receive functions, view and send video, text messages and files, and view floor plan
35 with camera location displays from a single application view.

36 (b) The system in subsection (b) shall be cybersecure and be designed to protect the
37 privacy of students and staff by meeting the following requirements:

38 (1) The system is a enables each participating entity to maintain discretionary real-time
39 control over its communications, video and information assets.

40 (2) All media communications are encrypted to a standard of at least AES 256.

41 (3) The system enables law enforcement to access real-time or near-real-time school
42 video only during an emergency incident session without employing the use of hyperlinks,
43 universal resource locators, passwords, user login or other unsecured methods via email, text,
44 SMS or other similar means.

45 (4) The system sends communication and all media from one party directly to other
46 incident parties without such content being stored in, copied to or accessible via a third party
47 owned, controlled or administered digital storage or file sharing system.

48 (5) The system is certified under the federal Support Anti-Terrorism by Fostering
49 Effective Technologies Act of 2002 (SAFETY Act, enacted as Subtitle G of Title VIII of the
50 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296)) as a qualified antiterrorism technology.

51 (6) The system is compatible and interoperates with the Federal Emergency Management
52 Agency interoperable gateway system for large-scale disaster communications.

53 (7) The system is Systems and Organizations Controls 2 (SOC 2) certified.