

Federal Funding Opportunities to Improve School Safety

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Recent Legislative Activity

- **President recently signed into law a spending deal to fund the federal government through the remainder of FY 2018.**
- **Overall, the U.S. Department of Education received \$70.9 billion under the measure, a \$3.9 billion, or 5.5 percent, increase.**
- **The law provides more than \$2.3 billion in new funding to support school safety programs/projects at the Departments of Education, Justice, and Health and Human Services.**



FY 2018 Omnibus: Department of Education

- **The omnibus includes \$1.1 billion for Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grants that support safe and healthy students, including school mental health services, bullying and harassment prevention, etc.**
- **The new law also provides \$90M for school safety national activities that improve students' safety and well-being during and after the school day.**

FY 2018 Omnibus: Understanding the SSAE Grant

Title IV, Part A – SSAE supports three major strategies:

- 1. Providing students with a well-rounded education including programs such as college and career counseling, STEM, arts, and civics (ESSA, Section 4107)**
- 2. Supporting safe and healthy students with comprehensive school mental health, drug and violence prevention, and training on trauma-informed practices (ESSA, Section 4108)**
- 3. Supporting the effective use of technology that is backed by professional development. (ESSA, Section 4109)**

FY 2018 Omnibus: Understanding the SSAE Grant

Key elements of SSAE include:

1. Each state will receive an allocation from the flexible block grant based on the Title I funding formula. Using the same Title I formula, states will then allocate funds to school districts.
2. The minimum amount to be allocated to each LEA is \$10,000.
3. Each LEA receiving \$30,000 or more must use a minimum of 20% for activities in each of Strategies 1 and 2. The remaining 60 percent of the money can be spent on all three priorities.
4. If an LEA receives an allocation below \$30,000, the law does not require a needs assessment or setting aside percentages for well-rounded and safe and healthy students programs.

FY 2018 Omnibus: Understanding the SSAE Grant

Allowable activities under the Safe and Healthy Students category:

- Promoting community involvement
- Promoting parent engagement in schools
- Providing school-based mental health services and counseling
- Promoting supportive school climates to reduce the use of exclusionary discipline and promoting supportive school discipline
- Implementing systems and practices to prevent bullying and harassment, such as social and emotional learning strategies
- Developing relationship-building skills to help improve safety through the recognition and prevention of coercion, violence, or abuse.
- Establishing community partnerships; e.g., establishing a school wellness team with community partners

FY 2018 Omnibus: Department of HHS

- **\$71 million—for Project Aware to provide state educational grants, grants to promote resilience in communities facing civil unrest, and mental first aid grants**
- **\$26 million—for Healthy Transitions to provide grants to states to improve access to mental disorder treatment and support services to young people mental health conditions**
- **\$75 million—to help expand the behavioral health workforce, including in rural and medically underserved areas, and increase access to child and adolescent services**



Department of Justice

\$75 million for school safety grants

- Under this program, the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance is authorized to make grants to States, units of local government (e.g., LEAs, schools, law enforcement agencies) and Indian tribes to provide training and technical assistance to schools to improve safety conditions on school grounds.
- Grantees are permitted under the law to use these funds on school safety interventions such as hiring and training school resource officers and mental health professionals, implementing schoolwide programs that improve climate and culture, and installing technologies, such as security cameras and metal detectors.



Questions or Comments?

