School Safety and Security Grant Program
Eligible Project Activities – Full Listing

For reference purposes, the full listing of eligible project activities allowed under 24 P.S. §13-1306-B(j)(1-30), as amended by Act 33 of 2023, is included below:[1]

(j) Specific purposes.--The committee shall provide grants to school entities for programs that address safety and security, including:

(1) Safety and security assessments that meet the committee's criteria.[2]

(2) Conflict resolution or dispute management, including restorative justice strategies.

(3) School-wide positive behavior support[3] that includes primary or universal, secondary and tertiary supports and interventions in school entities.

(4) School-based diversion programs as defined in section 1301-A[4], including costs associated with the hiring of qualified professional staff members to provide assistance and services related to the programs.

(5) Peer helper programs.

(6) Risk assessment, safety-related, violence prevention curricula, including dating violence curricula, restorative justice strategies, mental health early intervention, self-care and suicide awareness and prevention curricula.

(7) Classroom management.

(8) Student codes of conduct.

(9) Training to undertake a districtwide assessment of risk factors that increase the likelihood of problem behaviors among students.

(10) Development and implementation of research-based violence prevention programs that address risk factors to reduce incidents of problem behaviors among students, including, but not limited to, mental health early intervention, self-care, bullying and suicide awareness and prevention.

(11) Thorough, districtwide school safety, violence prevention, emergency preparedness and all-hazards plans, including revisions or updates to such plans and conducting emergency preparedness drills and related activities with local emergency responders.

(12) Security planning and purchase of security-related technology, which may include metal detectors, protective lighting, specialty trained canines, surveillance equipment, special emergency communications equipment, automated external defibrillators, electronic locksets, deadbolts, trauma kits and theft control devices and training in the use of security-related technology.[5]

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[1] This listing is provided for reference use only. Please refer to each individual, and specific, funding announcement for eligible activities. Depending upon the announcement, there may be limitations on project activity spending.

[2] School entities seeking funding to perform safety and security assessments must utilize the criteria adopted by the SSSC. Further, the SSSC has developed a registry of vendors that perform the safety and security assessment utilizing the SSSC's criteria. The criteria and registry can both be found online at PCCD's website at https://www.pccd.pa.gov/schoolsafety/Pages/default.aspx.

[3] Act 33 of 2023 revised the definition of "school-wide positive behavior support" to mean a school-wide, evidence-based tiered framework for supporting students' behavioral, academic, social, emotional and mental health.

[4] Act 33 of 2023 revised the definition of "school-based diversion programs" to mean programs and interventions designed to redirect youth who commit minor offenses in school from exclusionary disciplinary practices or formal processing in the juvenile justice system, while still holding the student accountable for the student's actions. These programs include, but are not limited to, youth aid panels, positive youth development programming, teen/youth courts, restorative justice interventions, truancy prevention and intervention programs, mentoring programs, and intervention programs and educational practices to assist students with persistent disruptive and serious problem behaviors.

[5] Act 33 of 2023 eliminated a provision within Activity 12 that required applicants to provide a letter of support from the school entity's board of school directors to support security planning and purchase of security-related technology. This letter of support, board minutes, or other documentation are no longer needed to justify these purchases under this Activity section.

(13) Institution of student, staff and visitor identification systems, including criminal background check software.

(14) Provision of specialized staff and student training programs, including training for Student Assistance Program team members in the referral of students at risk of violent behavior to appropriate community-based services and behavioral health services and training related to prevention and early intervention.

(15) Counseling services for students, including costs associated with the training and compensation of mental health staff or expanding contracts with mental health providers that provide support to students in a school setting.

(16) A system for the management of student discipline, including misconduct and criminal offenses.

(17) Staff training programs in the use of positive behavior supports, de-escalation techniques, appropriate responses to student behavior that may require immediate intervention and trauma-informed treatment for mental health providers in schools.

(18) Costs associated with the training and compensation of school resource officers and school police officers.

(19) Costs associated with the training and compensation of certified school counselors, licensed professional counselors, licensed social workers, licensed clinical social workers and school psychologists.

(20) Administration of evidence-based screenings for adverse childhood experiences that are proven to be determinants of physical, social and behavioral health and provide trauma-informed counseling services as necessary to students based upon the screening results.

(21) Trauma-informed approaches to education[6], including:

    (i) Increasing student and school employee access to quality trauma support services and behavioral health care, including the following:

        (A) Hiring or contracting with certified school counselors, licensed professional counselors, licensed social workers, licensed clinical social workers, school psychologists and other professional health personnel to provide services to students and school employees.

        (B) Developing collaborative efforts between the school entity and behavioral health professionals to identify students in need of trauma support and to provide prevention, screening, referral and treatment services to students potentially in need of services.

        (C) Partnering with community-based organizations for peer or family support.

        (D) Training on youth-focused mental health first aid for school employees to help recognize signs of mental health distress in students.

        (E) Providing activities to improve mental health in a school entity and after-school programming.

    (ii) Programs providing:

        (A) Trauma-informed approaches to education in the curriculum, including training of school employees, school directors and behavioral health professionals to develop safe, stable and nurturing learning environments that prevent and mitigate the effects of trauma.

        (B) Services for children and their families, as appropriate, who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing trauma, including those who are low-income, homeless, involved in the child welfare system or involved in the juvenile justice system.

(22) Programs designed to reduce community violence, including:

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[6] The PA Public School Code requires that any school entity applying for a grant under 24 P.S. §13-1306-B(j)(21) (i.e., trauma-informed approaches to education) utilize a trauma-informed approach plan that meets the criteria established in statute and through a Model Trauma-Informed Approach Plan adopted by the SSSC on August 28, 2019. Applicants may utilize their own existing plan, provided that it meets the SSSC's Model Plan criteria, or may seek funding to support the development of their own plan.

(i) Increasing access to quality trauma-informed support services and behavioral health care by linking the community with local trauma support and behavioral health systems.

(ii) Providing health services and intervention strategies by coordinating the services provided by eligible applicants and coordinated care organizations, public health entities, nonprofit youth service providers and community-based organizations.

(iii) Providing mentoring and other intervention models to children and their families who have experienced trauma or are at risk of experiencing trauma, including those who are low-income, homeless, in foster care, involved in the criminal justice system, unemployed, experiencing a mental illness or substance abuse disorder or not enrolled in or at risk of dropping out of an educational institution.

(iv) Fostering and promoting communication between the school entity, community and law enforcement.

(v) Any other program or model designed to reduce community violence and approved by the committee.

(23) The implementation of Article XIII-E (relating to threat assessment).[7]

(24) Expanding telemedicine delivery of school-based mental health services, including equipment.

(25) Providing technical assistance for a school entity related to billing insurance providers in order to better provide mental health services in a school setting.

(26) Creating or expanding Statewide programs and intervention frameworks, such as school assistance programs, positive behavioral intervention and supports and multitiered systems of support.

(27) Training and related materials for school employees or students that are evidence based and focus on identifying the signs and signals of anxiety, depression, suicide or self-harm in students and best practices for seeking appropriate mental health assistance.

(28) Providing, increasing or enhancing partnerships between a school entity and a community-based nonprofit organization, a Statewide youth-serving nonprofit or a library for out-of-school programming for at-risk school-age students.

(29) Coordinating and integrating local and county mental health services and programs for school employees or students.

(30) Providing online programs, educational materials and applications to provide supplemental mental health services to students that may include peer support, self-guided evidenced-based therapeutic tools and clinical interactions.[8]

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[7] For more information about Threat Assessment Teams, please see PCCD's Threat Assessment (pa.gov) webpage for resources and training opportunities.

[8] NOTE: In the PCCD Egrants system, certain items/activities on this list are summarized and will appear truncated.