



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

ESSA and Implications for School Mental Health

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ESSA and Mental Health

- ESSA acknowledges the direct link between students' mental and behavioral wellness and overall positive student achievement, school climate, high school graduation rates, and the prevention of risky behaviors and disciplinary incidents.



Key points

- Schoolwide Title 1 Programs
- Professional Development Title 2 Funds
- Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants: Title 4 funds
- State accountability systems: Non-academic indicator of school success



School-based mental health services providers

- Include state-licensed or state-certified school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, or other state licensed or certified mental health professionals qualified under state law to provide mental health services to children and adolescents.



Title I, II and IV Funds

- Implement multi-tiered systems of support to address the academic, social–emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs of all students.
- Implement positive behavior interventions and support and early intervening services.
- Improve school climate and comprehensive safety.
- Increase access to comprehensive school mental and behavioral health services.
- Implement trauma informed practices, and mental health first aid.
- Improve quality and effectiveness of school community partnerships.
- Offer ongoing and job embedded professional development.



Title I

- Schoolwide Title I programs in schools where at least 40 percent of the students are from low-income families. Schools can also receive a waiver from the State Educational Agency (SEA) of the 40 percent threshold.
- Funds are allocated to states based on the Title I formula. States then allocate funding to each district, also based on the Title I formula.
- ESSA expands the use of Title I funds
- Examples of programs that are applicable for Title I funds include
 - integrated services
 - counseling
 - school-based mental health programs
 - mentoring
 - any other strategies that can help improve students' skills outside of academics



Title II- Professional Development Funding

- Title II's professional development resources can be used to support school health and mental health professionals, school nurses, paraprofessionals, and other school staff.
- ESSA's Title II specifically highlights that ESSA funds can be used for professional development programming that trains school staff to recognize and address student behavioral and mental health needs and chronic absenteeism, for example.



Title IV Part A: Student Support and Academic Enhancement Grants (SSAEC)

- Consolidates 49 separate grant programs into a new grant program
- Flexible block grant authorized at \$1.6 billion
- Funds will be allocated to states using the Title I funding formula; states will then allocate funds to LEAs using the same formula.
- Specialized instructional support personnel must be involved in the development of district plans and applications for these funds
- Required needs assessment
 - access to, and opportunities for, a well-rounded education for all students
 - school conditions for student learning in order to create a healthy and safe school environment
 - access to personalized learning experiences supported by technology
 - professional development for the effective use of data and technology



Title IV-SSAEC continued

- SEC. 4108. ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT SAFE AND HEALTHY STUDENTS
 - are coordinated with other schools and community-based services and programs;
 - foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free environments that support student academic achievement;
 - promote the involvement of parents in the activity or program



Title IV-SSAEC continued

- SEC 4108: Activities to Support Safe and Healthy Students
 - Drug and violence prevention activities
 - School-based mental health services
 - School-based mental health services partnership programs
 - are conducted in partnership with a public or private mental health entity or health care entity
 - provide comprehensive school-based mental health services and supports and staff development for school and community personnel working in the school



Title IV-SSAEC continued

- SEC 4108:Activities to Support Safe and Healthy Students cont.
 - Integrate health and safety practices into school or athletic programs
 - Nutritional education
 - Physical education
 - Help prevent bullying and harassment
 - Relationship-building
 - Mentoring and school counseling
 - School dropout prevention



Title IV-SSAEC continued

- SEC 4108:Activities to Support Safe and Healthy Students cont.
 - Training for school personnel in: suicide prevention, effective and trauma informed practices in classroom management, crisis management and conflict resolution, human trafficking, school-based violence prevention strategies, drug abuse prevention, bullying and harassment prevention
 - Child sexual abuse awareness and prevention
 - Programs to reduce exclusionary discipline practices
 - Schoolwide positive behavioral interventions and supports
 - Site resource coordinator





Title IV-SSAEC continued

- Districts **must use at least 20% of these funds** on activities to support safe and healthy students described in SEC. 4108 which could include
 - comprehensive school mental and behavioral health service delivery systems
 - trauma informed policies and practices
 - bullying and harassment prevention
 - social–emotional learning
 - improving school safety and school climate
 - mental health first aid training and professional development activities



Non-academic Indicator of School Success

- For all public schools in the State, not less than one indicator of school quality or student success that—
 - allows for meaningful differentiation in school performance;
 - is valid, reliable, comparable, and statewide (with the same indicator or indicators used for each grade span, as such term is determined by the State)

Examples:

- student engagement
- educator engagement
- student access to and completion of advanced coursework
- postsecondary readiness
- school climate and safety
- any other indicator the State chooses that meets the requirements of this clause