

## About Safe and SUPPORTIVE Schools

Congress has provided \$1 billion in Title IV, Part A formula funding to state educational agencies (SEAs) to develop state grant programs to provide all students with safe and supportive learning opportunities and environments that are critical for their success.

<https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/midwest-region-department-awards-nearly-1-billion-56-states-and-territories-provide-students-safer-and-healthier-learning-environments>

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The U.S. Department of Education stresses that **“These funds can also be used to support school and community partnerships that pursue multifaceted solutions to more effectively prevent and respond to acts of bullying, violence, and hate that impact members of our school communities at both individual and systemic levels.”** The Department also strongly encourages SEAs to consider providing LEAs with direction for using these funds: “(1) create positive, inclusive, and supportive school environments; and increase access to place-based interventions and services (2) Engaging students, families, educators, staff, and community organizations in the selection and implementation of strategies and interventions to create safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environments (3) Designing and implementing policies and practices that are responsive to underserved students, protect student rights, and demonstrate respect for student dignity and potential.”

**We read this as an opportunity to use such funds along with other grants to significantly focus on improving/transforming student/learning supports.**

And, as always, we stress that meeting the goals of public education requires that schools have a nonmarginalized and unified, comprehensive, and equitable system of student and learning supports. See:

*Student/Learning Supports: A Brief Guide for Moving in New Directions*

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/pdfdocs/briefguide.pdf>

Please share this information with those who may find it helpful.