

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6613

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish Regional School Safety Development Centers to provide consultation for schools to develop or improve a school safety plan based on evidence-based best practices, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 6, 2023

Mr. RUTHERFORD (for himself, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. KILMER, Mr. JAMES, Mr. CORREA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mrs. HAYES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish Regional School Safety Development Centers to provide consultation for schools to develop or improve a school safety plan based on evidence-based best practices, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Preparing Leaders to
5 Assess Needs for School Safety Act of 2023” or the
6 “PLAN for School Safety Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. SCHOOL SAFETY DEVELOPMENT CENTER PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the
4 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.)
5 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 2220F. SCHOOL SAFETY DEVELOPMENT CENTER PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall make awards,
9 including grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, to
10 eligible entities to establish, improve, or maintain State-
11 wide or intrastate regional School Safety Development
12 Centers for the purposes of providing customized con-
13 sulting services to schools to develop, improve, or imple-
14 ment the school’s individualized school safety plan.

15 “(b) AWARDS.—

16 “(1) APPLICATION.—To seek an award under
17 this section, an eligible entity shall submit an appli-
18 cation to the Director at such time, in such manner,
19 and containing such information as the Director
20 may require. At minimum, any such application
21 shall include evidence of the applicant’s expertise in
22 comprehensive school safety and school climate, in-
23 cluding evidence-based violence prevention for stu-
24 dents and educators, suicide prevention, student
25 mental health, and school security.

1 “(2) PREFERENCE.—In making awards under
2 this section, the Director shall, as appropriate, give
3 preference to eligible entities that have existing rela-
4 tionships with local schools, particularly those in
5 rural, Tribal, or low-resourced communities, as ap-
6 plicable by the proposed geographical area, or minor-
7 ity-serving institutions described in sections 371(a)
8 and 326(e)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
9 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a) and 1063b(e)(1)).

10 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Activities eligible for
11 funding through an award under this section include
12 the following:

13 “(A) Developing communications materials
14 for and disseminating to schools, educators,
15 parents, legal guardians, and youth, and in-
16 creasing State-wide or intrastate regional public
17 awareness of evidence-based research and best
18 practices for school safety and student mental
19 health.

20 “(B) Conducting individualized consulta-
21 tions with schools to research and analyze a
22 school’s existing school safety and student men-
23 tal health policies, or developing or improving,
24 in coordination with a school, a customized
25 school safety and student mental health plan to

1 fit the individualized, age- and developmentally-
2 appropriate needs of such school community
3 based on evidence-based best practices.

4 “(C) Assisting schools in the implementa-
5 tion of their customized school safety and men-
6 tal health plan, including the following:

7 “(i) Identification of Federal or State
8 government funding for enactment of the
9 plan, in whole or in part.

10 “(ii) Provide training, resources, or
11 technical assistance to assist schools in ap-
12 plying for such Federal or State govern-
13 ment funding.

14 “(iii) Providing training, resources,
15 and technical assistance to educate school
16 staff and families regarding the policies
17 and procedures of the plan.

18 “(4) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Federal
19 share of the cost of activities for which a grant is
20 made to an eligible entity under this section may not
21 exceed 95 percent of the total cost of such activities.

22 “(c) AWARD ADMINISTRATION.—

23 “(1) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—
24 The Director, in consultation with the Secretary of
25 Education and the Youth Advisory Council (estab-

1 lished pursuant to paragraph (2)(C)), shall provide
2 training and technical assistance to State-wide or
3 intrastate regional School Safety Development Cen-
4 ters on the following:

5 “(A) Best practices for individualized con-
6 sulting with schools based on their unique needs
7 for implementation in accordance with sub-
8 section (b)(3).

9 “(B) Evidence-based practices and rec-
10 ommendations established under section 2220D
11 that are presented in a clear and concise man-
12 ner for schools and the public.

13 “(2) SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS.—

14 “(A) PERSONNEL.—The Director shall
15 hire additional personnel and contractors with
16 expertise in school mental health and school ad-
17 ministration to provide additional subject mat-
18 ter expertise in implementing evidence-based
19 programming within schools to carry out para-
20 graph (1).

21 “(B) DETAILEE.—

22 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of
23 Education shall detail to the Agency an
24 employee of the Department of Education
25 to assist in the provision of the training

1 and technical assistance described in para-
2 graph (1).

3 “(ii) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Sec-
4 retary of Education shall reimburse the
5 Director for any costs associated with the
6 detailee under clause (i).

7 “(C) YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL.—

8 “(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later
9 than one year after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this section, the Director shall es-
11 tablish and convene a Youth Advisory
12 Council for the purpose of providing advice
13 on the implementation of this section.

14 “(ii) PARTICIPATION.—The Youth Ad-
15 visory Council shall include participation
16 from the following:

17 “(I) Parents, academic experts,
18 mental health professionals, and mem-
19 bers of civil society with respect to the
20 prevention of violence in schools.

21 “(II) Youth representation, in-
22 cluding youth who have experienced
23 school violence.

24 “(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than two
25 years after the date of the enactment of this section and

1 annually thereafter, the Director shall submit to the Com-
2 mittee on Homeland Security, the Committee on the Judi-
3 ciary, the Committee on Education and the Workforce,
4 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of
5 Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security
6 and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Health,
7 Education, Labor, and Pensions, and the Committee on
8 Appropriations of the Senate a report on actions taken
9 by the Director to implement this section, including infor-
10 mation relating to the following:

11 “(1) The name, location, and number of eligible
12 entities in each State receiving awards under this
13 section.

14 “(2) A comparative analysis of actions rec-
15 ommended in school safety plans by School Safety
16 Development Centers.

17 “(3) A formal evaluation of whether the activi-
18 ties described in subsection (b)(3) were implemented
19 by eligible entities receiving awards under this sec-
20 tion.

21 “(4) An assessment of the effectiveness of the
22 School Safety Development Centers in assisting eli-
23 gible entities that received awards under this sec-
24 tion, including instances of averted violence, includ-

1 ing self-harm, if applicable, and policy recommenda-
2 tions for improved effectiveness.

3 “(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

4 “(1) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in
5 this section may be construed to establish, satisfy, or
6 waive any requirement under any of the following:

7 “(A) Title II of the Americans With Dis-
8 abilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.).

9 “(B) The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29
10 U.S.C. 701 et seq.).

11 “(C) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of
12 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.).

13 “(D) Title IX of the Education Amend-
14 ments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.).

15 “(E) The Age Discrimination Act of 1975
16 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.).

17 “(F) The Family Educational Rights and
18 Privacy Act of 1973 (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

19 “(2) NO EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in
20 this section may be construed to preclude or con-
21 tradict any other provision of law authorizing train-
22 ing in the use of firearms.

23 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this section,
2 there are authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000
3 for fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

4 “(2) RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—
5 Amounts made available to carry out this section
6 may not be used to—

7 “(A) consult or train any school or person
8 in the use of firearms; or

9 “(B) hire school personnel or school-based
10 contractors.

11 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The term ‘eligible
13 entities’ means any of the following:

14 “(A) A State.

15 “(B) A State educational agency (as such
16 term is defined in section 8101 of the Elemen-
17 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
18 U.S.C. 7801).

19 “(C) A Tribal educational agency (as such
20 term is defined in section 6132 of the Elemen-
21 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
22 U.S.C. 7452)).

23 “(D) An institute of higher education eligi-
24 ble for assistance under title III of the Higher

1 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1051 et
2 seq.).

3 “(E) A Tribal College or University (as
4 such term is defined in section 313 of the High-
5 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c)).

6 “(2) EVIDENCE-BASED.—The term ‘evidence-
7 based’ has the meaning given such term in section
8 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
9 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

10 “(3) SCHOOL.—The term ‘school’ has the
11 meaning given such term in section 2704 of the Om-
12 nibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968
13 (34 U.S.C. 10554).

14 “(4) SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN.—The term ‘school
15 safety plan’ means a set of common actions schools
16 can take to address the foundational elements of
17 school safety, including designated staff, school cli-
18 mate and mental health, reporting systems, threat
19 assessment, emergency planning, educator training,
20 student prevention training, exercises and drills, site
21 assessments, and recovery plans.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
23 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is

1 amended by inserting after the item relating to section

2 2220E the following new item:

“Sec. 2220F. School Safety Development Center program.”.

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