

FY18 Budget Amendment - \$400,000

Safe and Supportive Schools

Line Item 7061-9612

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Ruth Balser



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Realizing the Vision for Safe and Supportive Schools

In 2014, the Legislature incorporated the Safe and Supportive Schools law into its groundbreaking *Act Relative to the Reduction of Gun Violence*. The Legislature's vision was to help schools create safe and supportive whole-school cultures that effectively address many barriers to learning, such as substance abuse, gun violence, and bullying, so that all students can succeed in school. Continued support is crucial for spreading implementation across the Commonwealth.

The Safe and Supportive Schools Commission issued its second annual report in February 2017 and recommended [continuing funding for the Safe and Supportive Schools Line Item](#). This funding would be used to accomplish the following:

1. [Continue the Safe and Supportive Schools Grant Program](#). Grantee schools have up to 3 years to use the Safe and Supportive Schools Framework and accompanying online Self-Assessment Tool to develop school-wide Action Plans and include them in their annual School Improvement Plans.
 - Convene focus groups and gather input from experts
 - Collect feedback from students, families, and other stakeholders
 - Develop and disseminate model practices
2. [Maintain DESE staffing](#) that will continue to:
 - Coordinate the Grant Program
 - Hold state and regional trainings and conferences
 - Update the online Framework and Self-Assessment Tool
 - Provide technical assistance to schools and districts
 - Provide administrative support to the Commission
3. [Provide for statewide conferences](#) where educators across the Commonwealth can share best practices, helping to spread the work beyond grantee schools and districts.
4. [Conduct an independent evaluation](#) of the activities funded by the line item to help DESE and the Commission learn what is working well.
5. [Provide technological assistance](#) to improve usability of the Online Self-Assessment Tool.

Amendment Line-Item Language

#7061-9612 — For the implementation of subsection (f) of section 1P of chapter 69 of the General Laws to create safe and supportive school environments; provided, that funds shall be expended for the safe and supportive schools grant program and for a full-time staff member devoted to carrying out the responsibilities as provided in said subsection (f) of said section 1P of said chapter 69; provided further, that funds shall be expended for statewide and regional conferences, expert technological assistance in upgrading the usability of the online self-assessment tool and an evaluation of the grant program; provided further, that grants shall be awarded to school and district teams that create schoolwide action plans based on all the elements of the safe and supportive schools framework and self-assessment tool; provided further, that recipient schools shall incorporate said school-wide action plans into the annual school improvement plan required by section 1(i) of chapter 69 of the General Laws; provided further, that districts shall create district plans that support recipient schools; provided further, that grant awards shall be allocated by the department to schools and districts by November 1, 2017; provided further, that recipients shall have up to two years to expend the grant funds; and provided further, that any unexpended funds in this item shall not revert but shall be made available for the purposes of this item until June 30, 2019.**\$400,000**

Recent Funding History

FY17	\$400,000
FY18 Governor	\$400,000
FY18 HWM	\$200,000
Amendment	\$400,000

Safe and Supportive Schools Grantees

FY14

Agawam Public Schools
 Beverly Public Schools
 Boston Public Schools
 Brockton Public Schools
 Lowell Public Schools
 Mashpee Public Schools
 Newburyport Public Schools
 Newton Public Schools
 North Central Charter Essential School
 Orange Elementary School District
 Quaboag Regional School District
 Reading Public Schools
 Seven Hills Charter School
 Shrewsbury Public Schools
 Tantasqua Regional School District
 Wareham Public Schools
 Winchendon Public Schools

FY16

Barnstable Public Schools
 Boston Public Schools
 Brimfield Elementary School District
 Framingham Public Schools
 Holyoke Public Schools
 Newburyport Public Schools
 Northampton Public Schools
 Quaboag Regional School District
 Reading Public Schools
 Triton Regional School District

FY17

Arlington Public Schools
 Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter Public School (Adams)
 City on a Hill Charter Dudley Square (Boston)
 City on a Hill Charter New Bedford
 Chelsea Public Schools
 Clinton Public Schools
 Fall River Public Schools
 Gill-Montague Regional School District (Turners Falls)
 Groton-Dunstable Regional School District (Groton)
 Lawrence Public Schools
 Leominster Public Schools
 Melrose Public Schools
 Milton Public Schools
 North Adams Public Schools
 Saugus Public Schools
 Tantasqua Public Schools (Fiskdale)
 Whitman-Hanson Public Schools (Whitman)
 Wilmington Public Schools