

**Title IV, Part A: Quick Reference Guide – Fund Code 309**

**Allowable Uses to Support Safe and Healthy Schools**

**Priorities of Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE):**

1. Provide all students with access to a well-rounded education;
2. Improveschool conditions for learning to ensure safe and healthy students; and
3. Improve the use of technology to improve academic achievement.
4. Support key district and school improvement initiatives **in coordination with** other federal grant funds and state and local resources so initiatives and their impact **are sustained** beyond the life of individual sources of funding.

**Allowable SSAE Activities to Support Safe and Healthy Students**

The second purpose of the SSAE program is to improve school conditions for student learning. When students are healthy and feel safe and supported, they are more likely to succeed in school. **An LEA or consortium of LEAs that receives $30,000 or more in SSAE program funds must use at least 20 percent of those funds to develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive programs and activities that:**

* 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;
* May be conducted in partnership with an IHE, business, nonprofit organization, community-based organization, or other public or private entity with a demonstrated record of success in implementing activities authorized under section 4108; and
* May include a wide variety of programs and activities discussed in detail below among other programs and activities. (ESEA section 4108(1)-(5)).

It is important to note that a State or LEA receiving funds under the SSAE program, generally must obtain prior written, informed consent from the parent of each child who is under 18 years of age to participate in any mental-health assessment or service that is funded with SSAE program funds. Prior written, informed consent means active consent; silent (passive) consent does not constitute prior written, informed consent is therefore not sufficient. Section 4001 of the ESEA describes in detail the contents of such consent, as well as limitations and exceptions to when prior, written informed consent is required.

Generally, the SSAE program funds may be used under section 4108 for any program or activity that fosters safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free school environments, including direct student services and professional development and training for school staff. As indicated in the table on the next page, the authorized LEA activities in section 4108 may be categorized by topic as: 1) Safe and supportive learning environments; and 2) Student physical and mental health, including substance abuse prevention. Three of the authorized activities--mentoring and school counseling, schoolwide positive behavioral interventions, and pay for success initiatives--are cross-cutting and are applicable to both topics.

Section 4108 supports programs, activities, and professional development and training activities that are cross-cutting in nature and that can positively impact both safe and supportive learning environments as well as physical and mental health. For example, the SSAE program presents an opportunity for LEAs and schools to promote safe, healthy, and affirming school environments that are inclusive of all students. The SSAE funds can be used to reduce incidences of bullying and harassment against all students, including bullying and harassment based on a student’s (or their associates) actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity), disability, sexual orientation, religion, or any other distinguishing characteristics that may be identified by the state or LEA. In addition, LEAs can use funds to implement school-wide positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS). PBIS provides a framework for SEAs and LEAs to develop their capacity to support the social, emotional, academic, and behavioral needs of all their students in which a wide range of evidence-based programs can be implemented including, but not limited to, prevention of the risk factors associated with substance abuse, bullying, and violence as well as promotion of mental health and wellness.

Many SEAs and LEAs have implemented programs that help students transition from correctional facilities back to school. An allowable SSAE program activity includes the development and implementation of a plan (also known as a youth PROMISE plan) that includes evidence-based strategies to reduce exclusionary discipline practices, reduce entry into the prison system, and support reentry and transition of youth offenders returning from confinement back to their community and their local schools by providing mentoring, intervention, school counseling, and other education services to address unique risk factors. To assist LEAs and SEAs in improving their reentry strategies, ED recently released a [Reentry](http://lincs.ed.gov/reentryed/) [Education Tool Kit.](http://lincs.ed.gov/reentryed/) The guide is designed to help education providers and their partners create a reentry education continuum in their communities.

**Overview of Authorized Topics Under Section 4108 of the ESEA\***

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| **Safe and Supportive Schools** | **Student Physical and Mental Health** |
| * Preventing Bullying and Harassment * Relationship-Building Skills * School Dropout Prevention * Re-Entry Programs and Transition Services for Justice Involved Youth * School Readiness and Academic Success * Child Sexual Abuse Awareness and Prevention * Reducing Use of Exclusionary Discipline Practices and Promoting [Supportive School Discipline](https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/school-discipline/index.html) * Suicide Prevention * Violence Prevention, Crisis Management and Conflict Resolution * Preventing Human Trafficking * Building School and Community Relationships * Culturally Responsive Teaching and Professional Development of Implicit Bias | * Drug and Violence Prevention * Health and Safety Practices in School or Athletic Programs * School-Based Health and Mental Health Services * Healthy, Active Lifestyle, Nutritional Education * Physical Activities * Trauma-Informed Classroom Management * Preventing Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, Marijuana, Smokeless Tobacco, Electronic Cigarettes * Chronic Disease Management |
| **Cross Cutting Authorized Topics** | |
| * Mentoring and School Counseling * Schoolwide Positive Behavioral Interventions * Pay for Success Initiatives aligned with the purposes of Title IV | |

***\*Please note: This is not an exhaustive list.*** [***Contact***](mailto:federalgrantprograms@doe.mass.edu) ***our office for more specific, situational and fiscal guidance as needed. This document is sourced directly from the*** [***US Department of Education’s Non-Regulatory Guidance for SSAE Grants***](https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/essassaegrantguid10212016.pdf)***.***

**Supplement not Supplant in Title IVA**

* LEAs that receive Title IVA funds must comply with a supplement not supplant requirement. This means that Title IVA funds should add to (supplement) and not replace (supplant) state and local funds.
* Supplanting is presumed when:
  + A district uses IVA funds to pay for an activity that is required by federal, state or local law
  + A district uses SSAE funds to pay for an activity it supported with state or local funds the prior year

**Allocations Reminder**

**Districts that receive less than $30,000 must:**

* Spend funds on one or more of the Title IV, Part A priorities listed at the very top of this guide.

**Districts that receive $30,000\* or more must:**

* Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment that includes a focus on the Title IVA priorities (see above).   
  ***Note:*** *Districts may fulfill (or may have fulfilled) this requirement as part of the development of the districts' strategic plan, improvement plan, etc.*
* Spend at least 20% of the allocation on access to well-rounded educational opportunities.
* Spend at least 20% of the allocation on safe and healthy schools.
* Spend some amount on improving the use of technology.
* Spend the remainder on activities that support any/all of the three priorities.

**\**Including funds that are “flexed” from Title IIA into Title IVA***