

2012-2013 Safe Schools Appropriation Conference Report on House Bill 5001

The Legislature appropriates Safe Schools funds as a part of the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) in the annual Appropriations Act. FEFP funds go directly to school districts according to a formula based on the number of full-time equivalent students and additional factors that may be specified by proviso. The law governing how these funds are to be allocated and used for 2012-13 reads as follows *[formatting added]*:

From the funds in Specific Appropriations 6 and 84, \$64,456,019 is provided for Safe Schools activities and shall be allocated as follows:

\$62,660 shall be distributed to each district, and the remaining balance shall be allocated as follows:

- two-thirds based on the latest official Florida Crime Index provided by the Department of Law Enforcement and
- one-third based on each district's share of the state's total unweighted student enrollment.

Safe Schools activities include:

(1) after school programs for middle school students;

(2) middle and high school programs for correction of specific discipline problems;

(3) other improvements to enhance the learning environment, including implementation of conflict resolution strategies;

(4) behavior driven intervention programs that include anger and aggression management strategies;

(5) alternative school programs for adjudicated youth that may include a web-based virtual system that results in mastery and certification, competency or credentials in the following inter-related counseling disciplines necessary for success in education and the work environment, including adjustment, educational, employment and optimal mental health areas that will include, but are not limited to, anger and impulse control, depression and anxiety, self-esteem, respect for authority, personal behavior, goal setting, time and stress management, social and workplace adjustment, substance use and abuse, workplace soft skills, communication skills, work ethic, the importance of timeliness, attendance and the self-marketing skills for future educational and/or employment opportunities;

- (6) suicide prevention programs;
- (7) bullying prevention and intervention; and
- (8) school resource officers.

Each district shall determine, based on a review of its existing programs and priorities, how much of its total allocation to use for each authorized Safe Schools activity. The Department of Education shall monitor compliance with reporting procedures contained in section 1006.147, Florida Statutes. If a district does not comply with these procedures, the district's funds from the Safe Schools allocation shall be withheld and reallocated to the other school districts. Each school district shall report to the Department of Education the amount of funds expended for each of the eight activities.

-----Proviso Language, Specific Appropriation 84, page 21,
Chapter 2012-118, Laws of Florida
<http://laws.flrules.org/2012/118>