

Maryland Safe to Learn Act

Article - Education

§7-1501.

- (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (b) “Advisory Board” means the School Safety Subcabinet Advisory Board.
- (c) (1) “Behaviors of concern” means behaviors or threats that indicate a student may pose a risk of self-harm or harm to others.
- (2) “Behaviors of concern” includes:
- (i) Expressions of hopelessness;
 - (ii) Known drug use;
 - (iii) Suicidal gestures or statements; and
 - (iv) Known gang activity.
- (d) “Center” means the Maryland Center for School Safety.
- (e) “Drill” means a formalized exercise by which school system personnel, staff, or students rehearse a school emergency plan.
- (f) “Fund” means the Safe Schools Fund.
- (g) “Local law enforcement agency” means:
- (1) A police department of a county or municipal corporation in the State; or
 - (2) A sheriff’s office that provides a law enforcement function in a county or municipal corporation in the State.
- (h) “Safety evaluation” means a written assessment of the safety conditions in each public school, including ingress, egress, and access to areas of refuge for all students.
- (i) “School emergency plan” means a plan for each local school system and each public school within the school system that addresses mitigation of, preparedness for, response to, and recovery from emergencies, including:
- (1) Violent or traumatic events on school grounds during regular school hours or during school-sponsored activities; and
 - (2) Events in the community that affect school operations.
- (j) “School resource officer” means:
- (1) A law enforcement officer as defined under § 3-101(e) of the Public Safety Article who has been assigned to a school in accordance with a memorandum of understanding between the chief of a law enforcement agency as defined under § 3-101(b) of the Public Safety Article and the local education agency; or
 - (2) A Baltimore City school police officer, as defined in § 4-318 of this article.
- (k) “School security employee” means an individual, as defined in regulations adopted by the Subcabinet, who:
- (1) Is not a school resource officer; and
 - (2) Is employed by a local school system to provide safety and security-related services at a public school.
- (l) “Subcabinet” means the School Safety Subcabinet.
- (m) “Wraparound services” means services provided to students, and their families as appropriate, including:
- (1) Mentoring;
 - (2) Tutoring;
 - (3) Child care services;
 - (4) Housing referrals;
 - (5) Transportation;
 - (6) Crisis intervention;
 - (7) Substance abuse prevention and treatment;
 - (8) Legal aid;
 - (9) Academic counseling; and
 - (10) Career counseling.

§7-1502.

- (a) There is a Maryland Center for School Safety.
- (b) The Center is an independent unit within the Department.
- (c) The Center shall be based at the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center.

- (d) The head of the Center is the executive director, who shall be appointed by the Subcabinet.
- (e) The Center may employ the additional staff necessary to carry out the Center’s functions as provided in the State budget.
- (f) The Center shall establish a satellite office at Bowie State University.
- (g) The Center shall perform the following functions and duties:
- (1) Provide technical assistance and consultation to local school systems, State and local government, and community organizations on best practices for safe schools and violence prevention;
 - (2) Develop a website containing a searchable database of definitive research, books, videos, white papers, speakers, websites, and other school safety resources;
 - (3) Develop criteria that may be applied consistently and uniformly in local school systems for coding unsafe incidents and serious or violent offenses;
 - (4) Research and recommend the use of common assessment tools to be used to identify specific problems and needs of schools and neighborhoods to facilitate intervention before assessed findings become problematic;
 - (5) Assist local school systems to conduct a thorough assessment of their school safety data, school building layouts, and use of human resources for monitoring purposes to determine the need for:
 - (i) Surveillance and other security technology; and
 - (ii) Innovations to maximize the use of human resources to monitor activity and influence positive relationship building;
 - (6) Maintain and maximize relationships with emergency responders, law enforcement personnel, parents, and other emergency preparedness stakeholders to ensure seamless execution in an emergency event, including:
 - (i) Consolidate resources among stakeholders to maximize support and secure necessary skills to ensure emergency plan implementation;
 - (ii) Conduct collaborative training and preparation exercises; and
 - (iii) Identify improvements and ensure nonduplication of effort in emergency response procedures;
 - (7) Provide safety information on traveling to and from school to parents and students twice a year that includes data related to bus and pedestrian safety, strategies for ensuring personal safety, efforts of the local school system or school to improve safety, and information on the available options for reporting incidents or concerns;
 - (8) Utilize and update an existing clearinghouse of law enforcement resources that are available to support school safety to ensure that it includes information regarding the purpose and process for accessing available funding;
 - (9) Assist local school systems to improve and monitor traffic control measures in the immediate vicinity of schools to reduce the potential for pedestrian and vehicle accidents;
 - (10) Assist the Department to evaluate and update current data systems to ensure they are best suited for providing useful information on school safety issues;
 - (11) Assist local school systems to monitor local school system and individual school behavior data to ensure fairness in the application of consequences for student misbehavior;
 - (12) Assist the Department and local school systems:
 - (i) To prepare an annual report that combines multiple school safety data systems into one format for public review; and
 - (ii) To incorporate new data points into existing data collection systems;
 - (13) Assist in the development of safety and security criteria for the design and operation of school facilities;

- (14) Assist local school systems to identify resources and implement training for students and parents about relationship violence, identifying the signs of unhealthy relationships, and preventing relationship violence;
- (15) Provide technical assistance to local school systems in the review of safety and security audits and the implementation of improvements in school facilities;
- (16) Analyze data on school resource officers and develop guidelines and training for local school systems as required under § 7–1508 of this subtitle;
- (17) Certify school safety coordinators as required under § 7–1508 of this subtitle;
- (18) Submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a summary of reports on school resource officer and local law enforcement agency coverage in public schools as required under § 7–1508 of this subtitle;
- (19) Consult with local school systems on safety evaluations developed under § 7–1510 of this subtitle;
- (20) Review and comment on school emergency plans developed under § 7–1510 of this subtitle; and
- (21) Report to the General Assembly and the Governor on life-threatening incidents as required under § 7–1510 of this subtitle

§7–1503.

- (a) There is a School Safety Subcabinet.
- (b) The Subcabinet is the governing board of the Center.
- (c) The Subcabinet consists of the following members:
 - (1) The State Superintendent, or the State Superintendent’s designee;
 - (2) The Secretary of State Police, or the Secretary’s designee;
 - (3) The Attorney General, or the Attorney General’s designee;
 - (4) The Secretary of the Department of Disabilities, or the Secretary’s designee;
 - (5) The Secretary of Health, or the Secretary’s designee; and
 - (6) The Executive Director of the Interagency Commission on School Construction, or the Executive Director’s designee.
- (d) The State Superintendent, or the State Superintendent’s designee, shall chair the Subcabinet.
- (e) The executive director of the Center shall provide staff for the Subcabinet.
- (f) The Subcabinet shall meet regularly at such times and places as it determines.
- (g) The Subcabinet shall:
 - (1) Collaborate with local school systems in the State, law enforcement agencies, State and local government agencies, community organizations, parents, and other stakeholders to provide a comprehensive, coordinated approach to school safety;
 - (2) In partnership with the Advisory Board and other stakeholders:
 - (i) Disseminate information on best practices, programs, and resources;
 - (ii) Provide technical assistance and training to local jurisdictions and local school systems;
 - (iii) Collaborate on collection, analysis, and integration of statewide data; and
 - (iv) Promote interagency efforts that support safe schools for all students, school staff, parents, and community members;
 - (3) Establish a Safe School Information and Best Practices Clearinghouse of up-to-date, research-based, and data-driven information on effective strategies for creating and maintaining safe schools;
 - (4) Identify safe school professional staff development best practices;
 - (5) Initiate collaborative partnerships and facilitate coordination among local school systems, law enforcement agencies, State and local government, and community organizations to leverage existing resources to deliver school safety services uniformly to local school systems;

- (6) Foster coordination among all entities responsible for ensuring the safety and security of school facilities in the State;
- (7) Distribute grants from the Fund in accordance with § 7–1512 of this subtitle;
- (8) Collaborate with the Department on the model policy for an assessment team under § 7–1507 of this subtitle;
- (9) Adopt regulations to define a school security employee for the purpose of the training and report required for school security employees under § 7–1508 of this subtitle;
- (10) Provide general oversight and direction to the Center;
- (11) Approve the annual budget for the Center;
- (12) Adopt any regulations necessary to carry out the Subcabinet’s duties under this subtitle; and
- (13) Perform other duties assigned by the Governor.
- (h) (1) The Subcabinet shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on or before December 15 each year.
- (2) The report shall include:
 - (i) A list of all the activities of the Center, including aggregate data on the information collected from each local school system under § 7–1510 of this subtitle;
 - (ii) An update on the current status and effectiveness of the Center;
 - (iii) Data collected on school resource officers under § 7–1508 of this subtitle; and
 - (iv) Recommendations made by the Subcabinet for improving school and student safety.

§7–1504.

- (a) There is a School Safety Subcabinet Advisory Board.
- (b) The Advisory Board shall include the following members:
 - (1) One member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;
 - (2) One member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
 - (3) A representative of local superintendents of schools, appointed by the Public School Superintendents’ Association of Maryland;
 - (4) A representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, appointed by the Association;
 - (5) A school psychologist or licensed or clinical social worker, appointed by the State Superintendent;
 - (6) A special education administrator, appointed by the State Superintendent;
 - (7) A classroom teacher, appointed jointly by the Maryland State Education Association and the Baltimore Teachers Union;
 - (8) A school principal, appointed by the State Superintendent;
 - (9) One representative of the Department of Human Services, appointed by the Secretary of Human Services;
 - (10) One representative of the Department of Juvenile Services, appointed by the Secretary of Juvenile Services;
 - (11) A school resource officer, appointed by the Maryland Association of School Resource Officers;
 - (12) A sheriff, appointed by the Maryland Sheriffs’ Association;
 - (13) A chief of police, appointed by the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, Inc.;
 - (14) An emergency medical, fire, or rescue services professional, appointed by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems;
 - (15) The Director of the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, or the Director’s designee;
 - (16) One representative of the Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Care, appointed by the Assembly;
 - (17) One representative of the Maryland Association of Student Councils, appointed by the Association;
 - (18) One representative of the Center for School Mental Health at the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus, appointed by the Center for School Mental Health;

(19) One representative of Disability Rights Maryland, appointed by Disability Rights Maryland; and

(20) The following four members of the public, appointed by the Governor:

- (i) A parent of a public school student in the State;
 - (ii) A parent of a child with disabilities who attends a school in the State;
 - (iii) A representative of a nonpublic school in the State; and
 - (iv) A representative of school bus drivers.
- (c) The Governor shall appoint a chair of the Advisory Board from among its members.
- (d) A member appointed by the Governor:
- (1) Serves at the pleasure of the Governor;
 - (2) Serves for a term of 3 years and until a successor is appointed and qualifies; and
 - (3) May be reappointed but may not serve more than two consecutive terms.
- (e) A member of the Advisory Board:
- (1) May not receive compensation as a member of the Advisory Board; but
 - (2) Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- (f) The Advisory Board shall meet regularly at such times and places as it determines.
- (g) The Advisory Board shall provide the Subcabinet with advice and assist the Subcabinet in completing its duties.

§7-1505.

- (a) In this section, “child care center” has the meaning stated in § 9.5-401 of this article.
- (b) The Center may make grants to schools and child care centers determined to be at risk of hate crimes or attacks as described under § 10-305 of the Criminal Law Article for security-related technology and security-related facility upgrades.
- (c) Any school or child care center determined to be at risk of hate crimes or attacks as described under § 10-305 of the Criminal Law Article by the Center may apply to the Center for a State grant to be applied toward the cost of a security-related project.
- (d) The allocation and use of State funds under this section are subject to the following:
- (1) State funds may be used only for funding additional security training needs, security personnel, security cameras, security-related technology, door-hardening, improved lighting, or other security-related facility upgrades; and
 - (2) The amount of the State grant for any project shall be determined after consideration of all eligible applicants, the total of the unallocated State funds available at the time the application is received, and the priorities of area need as may be established by the Center.
- (e) Funding for the State grants under this section shall be as provided by the Governor in the annual State budget.
- (f) The Subcabinet may adopt regulations for receiving and considering applications and for disbursing funds to applicants.

§7-1506.

- (a) Beginning in fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall provide not less than \$2,000,000, not including any appropriation provided for the Fund, in the annual State budget to carry out the ongoing operation of the Center.
- (b) The operation of the Center shall be supported by:
- (1) Funds as provided by the Governor in the annual State budget;
 - (2) Grants or other assistance from local education agencies;
 - (3) Federal grants; and
 - (4) Any other grants or contributions from public or private entities received by the Center.

§7-1507.

- (a) On or before September 1, 2018, the Subcabinet shall develop a model policy for the establishment of an assessment team or teams in each local school system.
- (b) The model policy developed under subsection (a) of this section shall include:
- (1) Mechanisms for identifying individuals whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of an individual attending or working in a public school;
 - (2) Mechanisms for the assessment of student behavior and interventions if student behavior poses a threat to the safety of an individual attending or working in a public school;
 - (3) Mechanisms for the assessment of the behavior of an individual who is not a student at a public school but who may pose a threat to the safety of an individual attending or working in the public school;
 - (4) Best practices for promoting communication and appropriate responses within a school community, including measures for:
 - (i) Training faculty, administrators, and staff to identify, properly respond to, and report threats or behaviors of concern that may pose a threat to the safety of an individual attending or working in a public school;
 - (ii) Teaching students to identify, and encouraging students to report, behaviors of concern exhibited by their peers or others that may pose a threat to the safety of an individual attending or working in a public school, including sharing thoughts about or plans for engaging in violence at the school; and
 - (iii) Increasing outreach to and the awareness of parents and guardians concerning the emotional and social health and well-being of students;
 - (5) Procedures for members of the school community or others to report behaviors of concern that may pose a threat to the safety of an individual attending or working in a public school;
 - (6) Policies regarding anonymous reporting by members of the school community or others of behaviors of concern that may pose a threat to the safety of an individual attending or working in a public school;
 - (7) Guidance for establishing an appropriate number of assessment teams within a local school system that:
 - (i) Shall coordinate among school officials and law enforcement, mental health, and other appropriate entities to monitor and respond to information about behavior, statements, or plans that may pose a threat of violence at a school; and
 - (ii) Shall include individuals with expertise in student counseling, education instruction, school administration, and law enforcement; and
 - (8) Policies for training assessment teams, including training on implicit bias and disability and diversity awareness with specific attention to racial and ethnic disparities.
- (c) On or before September 1, 2019, each local school system shall adopt a policy for the establishment of assessment teams that is consistent with the model policy developed by the Subcabinet and includes:
- (1) A process for regular assessment and intervention, including diversion and de-escalation, if an individual exhibits behavior that may pose a threat to the safety of another individual attending or working in a public school;
 - (2) Standards for timely response and procedures for coordination among the members of an assessment team, including referral to appropriate local law enforcement officials, the local school system, and the county superintendent of information indicating that an individual may pose a threat of violence to the school; and
 - (3) Standards and procedures for referral of an individual for evaluation, services, or treatment when appropriate.

§7-1508.

- (a) (1) Each local school system shall designate a school safety coordinator.
- (2) A designated school safety coordinator shall:
- (i) Be certified by the Center; and
 - (ii) Serve as a liaison between the local school system, the local law enforcement agency, and the Center.
- (b) (1) (i) On or before September 1, 2018, the Center, in consultation with local school systems, shall:
1. Develop a specialized curriculum for use in training of school resource officers and school security employees; and
 2. Submit the curriculum to the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission for approval.
- (ii) The specialized curriculum developed under this subsection shall include training in:
1. De-escalation;
 2. Disability awareness;
 3. Maintaining a positive school climate;
 4. Constructive interactions with students; and
 5. Implicit bias and disability and diversity awareness with specific attention to racial and ethnic disparities.
- (iii) 1. The specialized curriculum developed under this subsection may not go into effect until it is approved by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.
2. If the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission does not initially approve the specialized curriculum, the Center shall amend the curriculum until it meets with the Commission's approval.
- (2) On or before March 1, 2019, the Center shall develop and submit to the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission for approval a model training program that meets the requirements of the curriculum approved under paragraph (1) of this subsection.
- (3) Each local law enforcement agency shall:
- (i) Enroll individuals assigned to be school resource officers in the model training program developed by the Center under paragraph (2) of this subsection; or
 - (ii) 1. Submit to the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission for approval a training program that is consistent with the curriculum developed under paragraph (1) of this subsection; and
 2. Enroll individuals assigned to be school resource officers in the training program developed under this subparagraph.
- (4) Beginning September 1, 2019, to be assigned as a school resource officer an individual shall:
- (i) Complete:
 1. The model training program developed by the Center under paragraph (2) of this subsection through instruction provided by the Center in collaboration with the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission; or
 2. A local law enforcement agency's training program developed under paragraph (3)(ii) of this subsection; and
 - (ii) Be certified by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.
- (5) Beginning September 1, 2019, to be employed as a school security employee at a public school, an individual shall complete:
- (i) The model training program developed by the Center under paragraph (2) of this subsection through instruction provided by the Center in collaboration with the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission; or
 - (ii) A local law enforcement agency's training program developed under paragraph (3)(ii) of this subsection.
- (c) The Center shall collect data regarding the school resource officers in each local school system, including:
- (1) The number of full-time and part-time school resource officers assigned to each elementary school, middle school, and high school; and

- (2) Any other local school system employees or local law enforcement officers who are fulfilling the role of a school resource officer.
- (d) (1) On or before December 15, 2018, the Center, in collaboration with local law enforcement agencies and local school systems, shall analyze the initial data collected under subsection (c) of this section and develop guidelines to assist local school systems in:
- (i) Identifying the appropriate number and assignment of school resource officers, including supplemental coverage by local law enforcement agencies; and
 - (ii) Collaborating and communicating with local law enforcement agencies.
- (2) On or before July 1, 2019, each local school system, in consultation with local law enforcement agencies, shall:
- (i) Develop a plan to implement the guidelines developed by the Center; and
 - (ii) Submit the plan to the Center for review and comment.
- (e) (1) Before the 2018-2019 school year begins, each local school system shall file a report with the Center identifying:
- (i) The public high schools in the local school system's jurisdiction that have a school resource officer assigned to the school; and
 - (ii) If a public high school in the local school system's jurisdiction is not assigned a school resource officer, the adequate local law enforcement coverage that will be provided to the public high school.
- (2) Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, and each school year thereafter, before the school year begins, each local school system shall, in accordance with the plan developed under subsection (d)(2) of this section, file a report identifying:
- (i) The public schools in the local school system's jurisdiction that have a school resource officer assigned to the school; and
 - (ii) If a public school in the local school system's jurisdiction is not assigned a school resource officer, the adequate local law enforcement coverage that will be provided to the public school.
- (3) On or before October 1, 2018, and each October 1 thereafter, the Center shall submit a summary of the reports required under this subsection to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.
- (f) Each local school system shall post on the school system's website information on the role and authority of school resource officers assigned to public schools within the school system.
- (g) (1) For fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall appropriate in the annual State budget \$10,000,000 to the Fund for the purpose of providing grants to local school systems and local law enforcement agencies to assist in meeting the requirements of subsection (e) of this section.
- (2) Grants provided under this subsection shall be made to each local school system based on the number of schools in each school system in proportion to the total number of public schools in the State in the prior year.
- (h) (1) The Center shall collect data on incidents of use of force between:
- (i) Any school resource officer and a student while a school resource officer is carrying out the officer's duties; and
 - (ii) Any school security employee and a student while the school security employee is carrying out the employee's duties.
- (2) On or before December 1, 2020, and each December 1 thereafter, the Center shall submit a report on the data collected under paragraph (1) of this subsection for each jurisdiction, in accordance with federal and State law, to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

§7-1509.

- (a) The Department, in consultation with the Subcabinet, may adopt regulations to incorporate in the annual schedule of drills for each local school system developmentally and age-appropriate components of:

- (1) The Active Shooter Preparedness Program developed by the Department of Homeland Security or guidelines; or
- (2) The active shooter guidelines adopted by the Maryland Active Assailant Work Group established under Executive Order 01.01.2018.08.
- (b) Drills incorporated into the annual schedule of drills under subsection (a) of this section may include developmentally and age-appropriate procedures for students or school personnel in:
 - (1) Securing classrooms;
 - (2) Barricading classrooms and school entries;
 - (3) Taking refuge in the classroom; and
 - (4) When appropriate, escape from the classroom or school.
- (c) The Department shall notify the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Legislative Policy Committee of proposed changes to regulations that alter the annual schedule of drills as provided under this section.
- (d) Each local school system shall collaborate with the local law enforcement agency to establish policies for responding to an emergency at each public school in the county.

§7-1510.

- (a) On or before June 15, 2019, and regularly thereafter, each local school system shall conduct a safety evaluation of each public school under the local school system's jurisdiction to:
 - (1) Identify and, if necessary, develop solutions for physical safety concerns, including issues with building security; and
 - (2) Identify and evaluate any patterns of safety concerns on school property or at school-sponsored events.
- (b) In performing the safety evaluations, each designated safety coordinator shall:
 - (1) Consult with the Center for guidance;
 - (2) Coordinate with the Interagency Commission on School Construction's facility assessment process, established under § 5-310 of this article in identifying issues with public school facilities that could impact school safety; and
 - (3) Submit a summary of the completed safety evaluations to the Center.
- (c) On or before December 1, 2019, the Department, in consultation with the Center and local school systems, shall update the Emergency Planning Guidelines for Local School Systems and Schools to accommodate the findings made in the initial safety evaluations under subsection (a) of this section.
- (d) On or before August 1, 2020, and regularly thereafter, each local school system shall update the school emergency plan for each public school in the school system's jurisdiction to:
 - (1) Include detailed plans for the manner in which each public school will address:
 - (i) Behavioral threats;
 - (ii) Emergency events; and
 - (iii) Accommodations for students with disabilities in emergency events;
 - (2) Conform with the Emergency Planning Guidelines updated under subsection (c) of this section; and
 - (3) Incorporate any changes required under subsection (f) of this section.
- (e) Each local school system shall submit the plans updated under subsection (d) of this section to the Center for review and comment.
- (f) (1) On or before August 1, 2020, and each August 1 thereafter, each local school system shall submit a report to the Center that includes, for the immediately preceding school year:
 - (i) Aggregate data about threats made against any school or school system facility;
 - (ii) Information about any school lockdowns, evacuations, or other emergency responses that occurred;

- (iii) Incidents in which a public school's emergency plan failed in part or in whole to function as anticipated in an emergency or an emergency drill; and
- (iv) School hours spent in an emergency or an emergency drill.
- (2) Each local school system shall, in consultation with the Center, update each emergency plan to correct weaknesses identified under paragraph (1) of this subsection.
- (g) (1) Each local school system shall promptly inform the Center of any critical, life-threatening incidents that occur on school grounds.
- (2) (i) After informing the Center under this subsection, a local school system shall host an after-action review and evaluation of lessons learned from the event.
- (ii) The local school system shall invite the Center, local law enforcement agencies, and emergency responders to participate in the after-action review and evaluation required under this paragraph.
- (iii) A local school system shall file a report on the after-action review and evaluation with the Center.
- (3) (i) The Center shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly within 45 days after a local school system has filed a report on the after-action review and evaluation under paragraph (2)(iii) of this subsection.
- (ii) The Center shall include in the report filed under this paragraph:
 - 1. Lessons learned from the life-threatening incident; and
 - 2. Any recommendations for improving school safety

§7-1511.

- (a) On or before September 1, 2018, each local school system shall appoint a mental health services coordinator.
- (b) Each mental health services coordinator shall:
 - (1) Coordinate existing mental health services and referral procedures for mental health services within the local school system;
 - (2) Working in collaboration with the local health department, the local department of social services, and other local entities that provide mental health services, ensure that a student who is referred for mental health services obtains the necessary services;
 - (3) Maximize external funding for mental health and wraparound services; and
 - (4) Develop plans for delivering behavioral health and wraparound services to students who exhibit behaviors of concern.
- (c) (1) The Subcabinet may provide grants from the Fund to local school systems to develop plans for delivering behavioral health and wraparound services to students who exhibit behaviors of concern.
- (2) In applying for a grant under this subsection, a local school system shall provide evidence of how external funding will be maximized to provide students with behavioral health and wraparound services, including through the submission of claims to health insurance plans, if applicable, for any covered health services.
- (d) The Subcabinet shall adopt regulations to carry out this section.

§7-1512.

- (a) There is a Safe Schools Fund.
- (b) The purpose of the Fund is to provide grants to local school systems to enhance school safety.
- (c) The Subcabinet shall administer the Fund.
- (d) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.
- (2) The Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately and the Comptroller shall account for the Fund in conjunction with the Executive Director.
- (e) The Fund consists of:
 - (1) Money credited to the Fund under § 17-106(e) of the Transportation Article;
 - (2) Money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund;
 - (3) Money appropriated to the Fund under § 7-1508 of this subtitle;

- (4) Money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the Fund; and
- (5) Any interest earnings of the Fund.
- (f) Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, the Fund may be used only to provide grants to local school systems to enhance school safety, including:
- (1) Conducting training for students and school personnel on de-escalation of situations and identifying and reporting behaviors of concern;
 - (2) Conducting training of assessment teams;
 - (3) Conducting school safety evaluations;
 - (4) Establishing formal and anonymous mechanisms for reporting safety concerns;
 - (5) Reimbursing local law enforcement agencies for school resource officer training provided by the Center;
 - (6) Enrolling school security employees in training provided by the Center;
 - (7) Developing plans to deliver school-based behavioral health and other wraparound services to students who exhibit behaviors of concern, including establishing systems to maximize external funding for services;
 - (8) Outreach to the broader school community to improve school safety, including to heighten awareness of existing mental health services and other services;
 - (9) Providing information to students and parents on traveling safely to and from school, including data related to bus and pedestrian safety, strategies for ensuring personal safety, efforts of the local school system to improve safety, and information on available options for reporting incidents and concerns; and
 - (10) Assisting local school systems to improve and monitor traffic control measures in the immediate vicinity of schools to reduce the potential for pedestrian and vehicle accidents.
- (g) Beginning in fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter, at least \$10,000,000 of the money in the Fund shall be used to provide grants to local school systems and local law enforcement agencies as provided under § 7-1508 of this subtitle.
- (h) (1) The Subcabinet may make grants to local school systems and local law enforcement agencies from the Fund.
- (2) The Subcabinet shall establish procedures for local school systems and local law enforcement agencies to apply for grants from the Fund.
- (i) (1) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the same manner as other State money may be invested.
- (2) Any interest earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.
- (j) Expenditures from the Fund may only be made:
- (1) in accordance with the State budget; or
 - (2) by the budget amendment procedure as provided in § 7-209 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, if at least 45 days have passed since the budget amendment and supporting information were submitted to the budget committees for their review and comment.
- (k) Money expended from the Fund by local school systems to enhance school safety is supplemental to and is not intended to take the place of funding that otherwise would be appropriated to local school systems