

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8008

To allow States and local educational agencies to use any remaining COVID–19 elementary and secondary school emergency relief funds for school security measures.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2022

Mr. GARCIA of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To allow States and local educational agencies to use any remaining COVID–19 elementary and secondary school emergency relief funds for school security measures.

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 “Safe Schools Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR SCHOOL SECURITY.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
7 sion of an ESSERF program or any other law, a State  
8 or local educational agency that has received funds under  
9 an ESSERF program may, in lieu of the original re-

1 requested or authorized use for such funds, use a portion  
2 of, or all, of the unexpended funds to carry out 1 or more  
3 school security measures.

4 (b) NO FEDERAL INTERFERENCE.—The Secretary of  
5 Education shall not—

6 (1) prevent or discourage any State or local  
7 educational agency from using any ESSERF pro-  
8 gram funds for school security measures;

9 (2) require the use of funds under subsection  
10 (a) to be in response to, or in any way connected  
11 with, the coronavirus; or

12 (3) enforce any requirement of an ESSERF  
13 program if such requirement would prevent a State  
14 or local educational agency from carrying out a  
15 school security measure authorized under subsection  
16 (a).

17 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) ESSERF PROGRAM.—The term “ESSERF  
19 program” means a program carried out under—

20 (A) section 18003 of the CARES Act (20  
21 U.S.C. 3401 note; Public Law 116–136);

22 (B) section 313 of division M of the Con-  
23 solidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law  
24 116–260; 134 Stat. 1929); or

1 (C) section 2001 of the American Rescue  
2 Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2; 135 Stat.  
3 19).

4 (2) SCHOOL SECURITY MEASURE.—The term  
5 “school security measure” means any of the fol-  
6 lowing:

7 (A) An evidence-based strategy or program  
8 to prevent violence, which may include the use  
9 of appropriate technologies, including the place-  
10 ment and use of metal detectors and other de-  
11 terrent measures and emergency notification  
12 and response technologies.

13 (B) Training to prevent student violence  
14 against others and self, including training for  
15 local law enforcement officers, school personnel,  
16 and students.

17 (C) The development and operation of an  
18 anonymous reporting system for threats of  
19 school violence, including a mobile telephone ap-  
20 plication, hotline, or internet website.

21 (D) The development and operation of—

22 (i) a school threat assessment and  
23 intervention team that may include coordi-  
24 nation with law enforcement agencies and  
25 school personnel; and

1 (ii) specialized training for school offi-  
2 cials in responding to mental health crises.

3 (E) Coordination with local law enforce-  
4 ment agencies.

5 (F) A security assessment.

6 (G) Security training of personnel and stu-  
7 dents.

8 (H) Acquisition and installation of tech-  
9 nology for expedited notification of local law en-  
10 forcement during an emergency.

11 (I) Reinforcing or replacing classroom  
12 doors, locks, or window panels.

13 (J) Constructing fencing, bollards, plant-  
14 ers, curbs, walls, or any other entry control  
15 measure to create a single point of entry to the  
16 campus.

17 (K) Clearing exterior spaces of foliage or  
18 structures to eliminate spaces that could con-  
19 ceal illicit activity, provide access to the build-  
20 ing above the first floor, or otherwise aid an in-  
21 truder.

22 (L) Installing a system to monitor hall-  
23 ways, stairwells, and utility rooms, such as  
24 physical inspection or surveillance cameras.

1           (M) Hiring and paying the salaries of  
2           qualified individuals, such as retired law en-  
3           forcement officers or military veterans, to serve  
4           as armed school resource officers.

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