

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 887

To authorize local educational agencies and non-public schools to use funds, services, or assistance provided under section 2001 or 2002 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for school safety, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2023

Mr. OWENS (for himself, Mr. STEWART, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

---

## A BILL

To authorize local educational agencies and non-public schools to use funds, services, or assistance provided under section 2001 or 2002 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for school safety, and for other purposes.

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 “Securing Our Students  
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMER-**  
2 **GENCY RELIEF FUND.**

3 A local educational agency that receives funds under  
4 section 2001 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021  
5 (20 U.S.C. 3401 note) may use funds not reserved under  
6 subsection (e)(1) of such section for school safety uses (in  
7 addition to the purposes specified in subsection (e)(2) of  
8 such section).

9 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO NON-PUBLIC**  
10 **SCHOOLS.**

11 A non-public school that receives services or assist-  
12 ance under section 2002 of the American Rescue Plan Act  
13 of 2021 (20 U.S.C. 3401 note) may use such services or  
14 assistance for school safety uses (in addition to any serv-  
15 ices or assistance authorized under the Emergency Assist-  
16 ance to Non-Public Schools Program).

17 **SEC. 4. APPLICATION AMENDMENT.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—

19 (1) ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL  
20 EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND.—A State making sub-  
21 grants under section 2001(d) of the American Res-  
22 cue Plan Act of 2021 (20 U.S.C. 3401 note) shall,  
23 not later than 10 days after the date of the enact-  
24 ment of this Act, inform local educational agencies  
25 eligible to receive such subgrants that the agencies  
26 may amend their subgrant applications to include

1 school safety uses among the planned uses of funds  
2 not reserved under section 2001(e)(1) of such Act.

3 (2) EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO NON-PUBLIC  
4 SCHOOLS.—A Governor providing services or assist-  
5 ance to non-public schools under section 2002 of the  
6 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (20 U.S.C. 3401  
7 note) shall, not later than 10 days after the date of  
8 the enactment of this Act, inform non-public schools  
9 eligible to receive such services and assistance that  
10 the schools may amend their applications to include  
11 school safety uses among the requested services and  
12 assistance.

13 (b) CONTENTS.—An amendment authorized under  
14 subsection (a) shall include—

15 (1) what school safety uses are desired to be  
16 implemented and how such uses will support known  
17 needs for the local educational agency or non-public  
18 school;

19 (2) an assurance that such uses will be evi-  
20 dence-based;

21 (3) what professional development for school  
22 personnel will be conducted to ensure compliance  
23 and understanding of the new school safety uses;

24 (4) when the implementation of such uses will  
25 be completed; and

1           (5) an assurance that school safety uses shall  
2           be included in any required reporting under the  
3           American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (20 U.S.C. 3401  
4           note).

5           (c) APPROVAL.—A State or Governor shall approve  
6           expeditiously an amendment authorized under subsection  
7           (a) if it satisfies the requirements of subsection (b).

8           (d) REPORTING.—A State or Governor shall report  
9           to the Secretary of Education what percentage of the  
10          funds provided to the State or Governor under section  
11          2001 or 2002 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021  
12          (20 U.S.C. 3401 note), respectively, are used for school  
13          safety uses.

14       **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

15          For purposes of this Act:

16           (1) The term “local educational agency” has  
17           the meaning given such term in section 8101 of the  
18           Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965  
19           (20 U.S.C. 7801).

20           (2) The term “school safety uses” means im-  
21           proving school conditions for student learning by  
22           planning and designing school buildings and facili-  
23           ties, installing infrastructure, providing safety edu-  
24           cation for all school personnel and volunteers, and  
25           implementing technology or other measures, that

1 strengthen security on school premises, which may  
2 include—

3 (A) controlling access to school premises or  
4 facilities, through the use of metal detectors or  
5 other measures, including technology, in accord-  
6 ance with the particular needs of a school;

7 (B) infrastructure—

8 (i) to cover and conceal students with-  
9 in a school during crisis situations;

10 (ii) for school safety reinforcement, in-  
11 cluding bullet-resistant doors and windows;

12 and

13 (iii) for classroom access security  
14 measures;

15 (C) developing methods to provide notifica-  
16 tion to, and communicate with, relevant law en-  
17 forcement, first responders, hospitals, and other  
18 necessary officials during a crisis situation;

19 (D) hiring school security officers, includ-  
20 ing school resource officers, to increase the  
21 safety of school students and staff; and

22 (E) developing a communications system  
23 that can more rapidly and accurately commu-  
24 nicate information to parents, including pro-

- 1           viding status updates during and after a crisis
- 2           situation.

○