

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7942

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

JUNE 3, 2022

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

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.

