

# SEL Funding Guide

Because social and emotional learning is critical to the success of students, educators, and communities, many federal funding streams are already available to support the implementation of social-emotional learning for both the students and adults on a school campus. This document intends to expand awareness of the potential opportunities to fund the implementation of SEL activities and to open the door for further exploration.

Federal programs are listed in the left column, and references to the federal statutes and bulleted excerpts from the laws. In statute, every word is essential, and so in streamlining the language for this funding guide, some context was lost. Please reference the entire statute for a detailed understanding of allowable activities.

The far-right column provides concrete examples of activities that were approved in previous grant applications. These examples should help bring the statute to life and help you envision potential activities supported by federal funding streams. It's important to note that this does not mean these examples have certain approval. Needs must be identified in the school's Comprehensive Needs Assessment, and action steps must be included in the Integrated Action Plans, most likely in Principles 1, 2, 4 and 5.

Federal Program	Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Allowable Activities	Examples/What SEL Looks Like
Title I Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged	<p><b>ESSA Sec. 1114</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counseling, school-based mental health programs, specialized instructional support services, mentoring services, and other strategies to improve students' skills outside the academic subject areas;</li> <li>• Implementation of a school-wide tiered model to prevent and address problem behavior, and early intervening services, coordinated with similar activities and services carried out under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School counselors</li> <li>• Social workers</li> <li>• Restorative justice training or programs</li> <li>• SEL director or specialist</li> <li>• SEL curriculum</li> <li>• SEL student assemblies</li> <li>• Registration &amp; travel for SEL conferences</li> <li>• Extra duty pay stipends for teachers to facilitate student peer support groups.</li> </ul>
Part A Improving Basic Programs Operated by LEAs	<p><b>ESSA Sec. 1115</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family support and engagement services;</li> <li>• Integrated student supports; and</li> <li>• Professional development necessary to assist teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, other staff, and parents in identifying and meeting the comprehensive needs of eligible children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Books for staff book study on building resilience</li> <li>• Student books on SEL competencies, resiliency, feelings, self-regulation, etc.</li> <li>• Workshops for employees on SEL topics:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> self-regulation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> self-management</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> relationship skills</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> decision-making</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> social awareness</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> anti-bullying</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> wellness</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> mindfulness</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# SEL Funding Guide (cont.)

Federal Program	Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Allowable Activities	Examples/What SEL Looks Like
<p>Title I-C Education of Migratory Children</p>	<p><b>ESSA Sec. 1304</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach activities for migratory children and their families to inform such children and families of other education, health, nutrition, and social services to help connect them to such services;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent advisory council meetings</li> <li>• Community partnerships with local healthcare clinics</li> <li>• Collaboration with CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program)</li> <li>• Professional development</li> </ul>
<p>Title I-D Subpart 2 Programs For Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent or At-Risk</p>	<p><b>ESSA Sec. 1424</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination of health and social services for such individuals if there is a likelihood that the provision of such services, including day care, drug and alcohol counseling, and mental health services, will improve the likelihood such individuals will complete their education;</li> <li>• Special programs to meet the unique academic needs of participating children and youth, including career and technical education, special education, career counseling, curriculum based youth entrepreneurship education, and assistance in securing student loans or grants for postsecondary education;</li> <li>• Programs providing mentoring and peer mediation;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School counselors</li> <li>• Social workers</li> <li>• Restorative justice training</li> <li>• SEL competency training for students or staff</li> <li>• Stipends for teachers to facilitate student peer support groups</li> <li>• SEL-informed classroom management strategies</li> <li>• Dropout prevention</li> <li>• Physical education</li> <li>• Mindfulness education</li> <li>• Yoga &amp; wellness programs</li> <li>• Re-entry programs for justice involved youth</li> <li>• Anti-bullying programs</li> <li>• Drug prevention</li> <li>• Healthy relationships programs</li> <li>• SEL curriculum</li> <li>• Therapies (animal, art, trauma, family)</li> <li>• Violence prevention</li> <li>• Support groups</li> <li>• Home visits</li> <li>• Family engagement outreach</li> </ul>

# SEL Funding Guide (cont.)

Federal Program	Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Allowable Activities	Examples/What SEL Looks Like
<p>Title II-A Preparing, Training, &amp; Recruiting High Quality Teachers, Principals &amp; School Leaders</p>	<p><b>ESSA Sec. 2103</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing programs and activities that increase the ability of teachers to effectively teach children with disabilities, including children with significant cognitive disabilities, and English learners, which may include the use of multi-tier systems of support and positive behavioral intervention and supports, so that such children with disabilities and English learners can meet the challenging State academic standards;</li> <li>• In-service training for school personnel in the techniques and supports needed to help educators understand when and how to refer students affected by trauma, and children with, or at risk of, mental illness;</li> <li>• In-service training for school personnel in the use of referral mechanisms that effectively link such children to appropriate treatment and intervention services in the school and in the community, where appropriate;</li> <li>• In-service training for school personnel in forming partnerships between school-based mental health programs and public or private mental health organizations; and</li> <li>• In-service training for school personnel in addressing issues related to school conditions for student learning, such as safety, peer interaction, drug and alcohol abuse, and chronic absenteeism;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEL competency professional development</li> <li>• SEL/academic integration training</li> <li>• In-service in universal, Tier 1 explicit SEL</li> <li>• Mental health awareness training</li> <li>• Strengths-based behavior management training</li> <li>• Restorative justice training or programs</li> <li>• Mindfulness education</li> <li>• Peer coaching</li> <li>• Stipends for off-contract time teacher work groups to prepare SEL curriculum and SEL lessons, review survey data, create support tier groups, etc.</li> </ul>

# SEL Funding Guide (cont.)

Federal Program	Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Allowable Activities	Examples/What SEL Looks Like
<p>Title IV-A Student Support &amp; Academic Enrichment</p>	<p><b>ESSA Sec. 4104</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental health awareness training programs that are evidence-based to provide education to school personnel regarding resources available in the community for students with mental illnesses and other relevant resources relating to mental health or the safe de-escalation of crisis situations involving a student with a mental illness;</li> <li>• Expand access to or coordinate resources for school-based counseling and mental health programs, such as through school-based mental health services partnership programs;</li> <li>• Resources that are evidence-based addressing ways to integrate health and safety practices into school or athletic programs;</li> <li>• Disseminating best practices and evaluating program outcomes relating to any local educational agency activities to promote student safety and violence prevention through effective communication</li> </ul> <p><b>ESSA Sec. 4108</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School-based mental health services partnership programs that are conducted in partnership with a public or private mental health entity or health care entity; and</li> <li>• Comprehensive school-based mental health services and supports and staff development for school and community personnel working in the school</li> <li>• Programs or activities that integrate health and safety practices into school or athletic programs;</li> <li>• Programs or activities that support a healthy, active lifestyle, including nutritional education and regular, structured physical education activities and programs, that may address chronic disease management with instruction led by school nurses, nurse practitioners, or other appropriate specialists or professionals to help maintain the well-being of students;</li> <li>• Programs or activities that help prevent bullying and harassment;</li> </ul> <p>(continued on next page)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical education</li> <li>• Health educator</li> <li>• Yoga &amp; wellness programs</li> <li>• Yoga mats &amp; balls</li> <li>• Mindfulness curriculum, consultant, supplies</li> <li>• Extracurricular yoga classes for parents &amp; students</li> <li>• Family aerobics night</li> <li>• Sensory room</li> <li>• Gardening supplies</li> <li>• Social workers</li> <li>• School guidance counselors</li> <li>• Restorative justice training or programs</li> <li>• SEL-informed classroom enhancement strategies</li> <li>• SEL competency training for students or staff</li> <li>• Dropout prevention</li> <li>• Positive behavior management</li> <li>• Re-entry programs for justice involved youth</li> <li>• Anti-bullying programs</li> <li>• Drug prevention</li> <li>• Healthy relationships programs</li> <li>• SEL curriculum</li> <li>• Character education</li> <li>• SEL director/specialist</li> <li>• Mental health awareness student assemblies</li> <li>• Registration &amp; travel for SEL conferences</li> <li>• Extra duty pay stipends for teachers to facilitate student support groups</li> </ul>

# SEL Funding Guide (cont.)

Federal Program	Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Allowable Activities	Examples/What SEL Looks Like
<p>Title IV-A Student Support &amp; Academic Enrichment (cont.)</p>	<p><b>ESSA Sec. 4108 (cont.)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programs or activities that improve instructional practices for developing relationship-building skills, such as effective communication, and improve safety through the recognition and prevention of coercion, violence, or abuse, including teen and dating violence, stalking, domestic abuse, and sexual violence and harassment;</li> <li>• Programs or activities that provide mentoring and school counseling to all students, including children who are at risk of academic failure, dropping out of school, involvement in criminal or delinquent activities, or drug use and abuse;</li> <li>• Programs or activities that establish or improve school dropout and reentry programs;</li> <li>• Programs or activities that establish learning environments and enhance students' effective learning skills that are essential for school readiness and academic success, such as by providing integrated systems of student and family supports;</li> <li>• High-quality training for school personnel, including specialized instructional support personnel, related to—               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) suicide prevention;</li> <li>(ii) effective and trauma-informed practices in classroom management;</li> <li>(iii) crisis management and conflict resolution techniques;</li> <li>(iv) human trafficking</li> <li>(v) school-based violence prevention strategies;</li> <li>(vi) drug abuse prevention, including educating children facing substance abuse at home;</li> <li>(vii) bullying and harassment prevention;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Implementation of school-wide positive behavioral interventions and supports, including through coordination with similar activities carried out under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act</li> <li>• A site resource coordinator at a school or LEA to establish partnerships within the community to provide resources and support for schools, ensure all service and community partners are aligned with the academic expectations and strengthen relationships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Books for book study on building resilience</li> <li>• Student resources on resiliency, feelings, selfregulation, etc.</li> <li>• SEL workshops and professional development on SEL</li> <li>• Trauma informed educational practices, including professional development for teachers, curriculum and guidance, and resources</li> </ul>

# SEL Funding Guide (cont.)

Federal Program	Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Allowable Activities	Examples/What SEL Looks Like
<p>Title IV-B Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)</p>	<p><b>ESSA SEC. 4201</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide opportunities for communities to establish or expand activities in community learning centers that offer students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities, such as youth development activities, service learning, nutrition and health education, drug and violence prevention programs, Counseling programs, physical fitness and wellness programs</li> <li>• Offer families of students served by community learning centers opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their children’s education, including opportunities for literacy and related educational development.</li> </ul> <p><b>ESSA SEC. 4205</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic enrichment learning programs, mentoring programs, remedial education activities, and tutoring services,</li> <li>• Well-rounded education activities, including such activities that enable students to be eligible for credit recovery or attainment;</li> <li>• Programs that support a healthy and active lifestyle, including nutritional education and regular, structured physical activity programs;</li> <li>• Services for individuals with disabilities</li> <li>• Cultural programs;</li> <li>• Parenting skills programs that promote parental involvement and family literacy;</li> <li>• Programs that provide assistance to students who have been truant, suspended, or expelled to allow the students to improve their academic achievement;</li> <li>• Drug and violence prevention programs and counseling programs;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family engagement outreach professional</li> <li>• Restorative justice training</li> <li>• SEL curriculum</li> <li>• SEL professional development</li> <li>• Out of school time for SEL assemblies</li> <li>• Mentors</li> <li>• Counseling group sessions</li> <li>• Mindfulness activities</li> </ul>

# SEL Funding Guide (cont.)

Federal Program	Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Allowable Activities	Examples/What SEL Looks Like
<p>Title V Part B Rural Education Initiative Subpart 2 - RLIS</p>	<p><b>ESSA Sec. 5222</b> Grant funds awarded to local educational agencies under this subpart shall be used for any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Activities authorized under part A of title I.</li> <li>(2) Activities authorized under part A of title II.</li> <li>(3) Activities authorized under title III.</li> <li>(4) Activities authorized under part A of title IV</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See Title I, II, and IV.</li> </ul>
<p>Title VI, Native American and Alaska Native Education</p> <p><i>(Administered by the USED Office of Indian Education)</i></p>	<p><b>ESSA Sec. 6115</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities that recognize and support the unique cultural and educational needs of Indian children, and incorporate appropriately qualified tribal elders and seniors;</li> <li>• Culturally related activities that support the program described in the application submitted by the local educational agency;</li> <li>• Enrichment programs that focus on problem solving and cognitive skills development and directly support the attainment of challenging State academic standards;</li> <li>• Activities to educate individuals so as to prevent violence, suicide, and substance abuse;</li> <li>• Integrated educational services in combination with other programs that meet the needs of Indian children and their families, including programs that promote parental involvement</li> <li>• Strategies to meet the educational needs of at-risk Indian students in correctional facilities, including such strategies that support Indian students who are transitioning from such facilities to schools served by local educational agencies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teen pregnant mom training and support</li> <li>• Suicide prevention &amp; recovery</li> <li>• Human trafficking prevention &amp; recovery</li> <li>• Substance abuse prevention</li> <li>• Native gardening, nutrition, and cooking</li> <li>• Overall wellness &amp; traditional medicine</li> <li>• Exercise &amp; well-being</li> <li>• Native ceremony and rites of passage</li> <li>• Traditional lifeways: regalia/ clothes making</li> <li>• Native language</li> <li>• STE(A)M programs – Indigenous knowledge for career pathways</li> </ul>

# SEL Funding Guide (cont.)

Federal Program	Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Allowable Activities	Examples/What SEL Looks Like
<p>Title VII-B Impact Aid, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance</p>	<p><b>McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001 –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services</li> <li>• Expedited evaluations of the strengths and needs of homeless children and youths</li> <li>• Professional development and other activities for educators and pupil services personnel that are designed to heighten the understanding and sensitivity of such personnel to the needs of homeless children and youths</li> <li>• Referral services to homeless children and youths for medical, dental, mental, and other health services.</li> <li>• Services and assistance to attract, engage, and retain homeless children and youths, and unaccompanied youths, in public school programs and services</li> <li>• Before and after school, mentoring, and summer school programs</li> <li>• Pupil services (including violence prevention counseling) and referrals for such services</li> <li>• Activities to address the particular needs of homeless children and youths that may arise from domestic violence.</li> <li>• Other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental health co-pays</li> <li>• Prescriptions</li> <li>• Counseling</li> <li>• Transportation services</li> <li>• Peer support</li> <li>• Mentors</li> <li>• Teacher stipends</li> <li>• Violence prevention programs</li> <li>• SEL support groups</li> <li>• Home visits</li> <li>• Mindfulness activities</li> <li>• Family outreach programs</li> <li>• Family SEL training</li> <li>• Social workers in schools</li> <li>• SEL related software, IT</li> </ul>