

Dear Ohio School Administrators:

As you may know, HB 318 passed the Ohio legislature in July 2018. HB 318 – full summary [here](#) – changes Ohio’s law by 1) modifying requirements for School Resource Officers (SROs), 2) promoting positive behavior intervention supports (PBIS), & 3) providing \$14 million in grants to schools, including \$12 million for school safety training and \$2 million in competitive grants to improve school climates.

HB 318 School Safety Training Grants: Your school or district is likely eligible to receive a portion of the \$12 million school safety training grants under HB 318, which are being disbursed on a [formula basis](#); this [chart](#) shows how much funding each district or school can receive. To access your funding, you must submit an [application](#) to the Attorney General’s office **by November 1, 2018**.

This grant funding can be used in the following ways (*note: any grant made under the uses asterisked below must be made with a law enforcement agency partner’s signature*):

1. Certification and training for *School Resource Officers (SROs)* (who are subject to new requirements as outlined in the HB 318 summary above).*
2. *Active shooter* and school safety training.*
3. All grade level type *educational resources*.*
4. Training to identify and assist *students with mental health issues*.
5. Any other *school safety training*.*

Funding Recommendations: In determining how to utilize your school or district’s school safety training funding, we recommend investing in [research-based, student- and teacher-supported approaches to school safety](#). Research shows that punitive approaches to school safety – such as hardware (i.e. metal detectors, cameras, gun lockers) – can make schools and students feel less safe. In addition, SROs are not a comprehensive or 100% effective solution to safety and can escalate situations, increase the number of youth referred to courts (particularly students of color), and undermine community-police relations. A brief on Ohio SROs is available [here](#).

To effectively address school safety, we recommended investing in the following options (*note: the options asterisked below also may be eligible for the \$2 million school climate grant funding*):

- Training teachers, administrators, and school staff on threat response, including developing a threat protocol and conducting threat assessments. Threat assessments are recommended by the FBI and Secret Service as effective tools to prevent violent incidents at school and emphasize building trust between students and staff to ensure the timely reporting and appropriate handling of threats. Federal funding also may be available through ODE under the Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Threat Assessment and Technology Reporting Program.
- Training teachers, administrators, school staff, and students in restorative practices that promote positive relationships between adults and students in schools and have been [effective in Ohio](#).*
- Training to raise awareness of mental health issues that students are facing, particularly on trauma-informed interventions, and build social-emotional skills with students to improve communication, prevent and resolve conflicts, and strengthen relationships between adults and students.*

Each of the trainings above will keep students safe and promote a positive school climate. **To help identify trainers, see page two or contact me (edavies@jjohio.org or 614-400-5548)**. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Erin Davies, Executive Director, Juvenile Justice Coalition

Potential Trainers

Potential Local Training Resources:

- Support staff in your school, including nurses, counselors, social workers, or psychologists.
- Local [Family and Children's First Councils](#) or [ADAMH Boards](#)
- [Community-based non-profit organization partners](#).
- Local [state support teams](#) available through Ohio Department of Education [PBIS](#) for Administrators.

Training Entity: [Project AWARE Ohio](#)

Contact: Visit the link above for statewide contacts and local ESC contacts

Subjects:

- Youth Mental Health First Aid training.

Training Entity: Ohio School Social Work Association

Contact: Rachel Meffe, LSSW, LISW-S, rachel.meffe@gmail.com

Subjects:

- Trauma-informed care.
- Suicide assessments and re-entry into the school protocols after psychiatric hospitalization.
- Threat assessment of students who threaten violence.

Training Entity: Ohio Education Association (OEA)

Contact: Makia Burns, OEA Organizer, (614) 227-0046, burnsm@ohea.org

Subjects:

- Cultural competency.
- Restorative practices.
- Implicit bias.
- White privilege.
- Trauma-informed practices.

Trainer: Professor Vernellia R. Randall, Professor Emeritus, University of Dayton School of Law

Contact: vrandall1@udayton.edu

Subjects:

- Institutionalized discrimination.
- Privilege (race, class, gender).
- Bias, prejudice, and stereotypes.

Training Entity: Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT)

Contact: Deb Tully, Director of Professional Issues, 614-314-7905 (cell), dtully@oft-aft.org

Subjects:

- Trauma-based schools.
- Culturally aware pedagogy
- Differentiated instruction
- AFT Professional Development series courses that support student learning.