PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME & DELINQUENCY (PCCD) SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE (SSSC)

Revised Behavioral Health Baseline Criteria (2023) with Examples

The Baseline Criteria Standards were adopted initially by the SSSC in 2021 (revised in May 2023) to serve as a resource schools could use to guide and prioritize decisions about physical security and behavioral health needs. The Behavioral Health Criteria below organize behavioral health-related services, trainings, policies, programs, and activities into a multi-leveled structure (i.e., from Level 1, which would be the most basic element, to Level 3, the most advanced).

For the purposes of grant funding use, school entities may apply for funding to address any gaps identified as part of a recent Student Assistance and Behavioral Health Assessment conducted by an individual recognized to perform such assessments on the PCCD School Safety and Security Assessor Registry.

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
A. Student Assistance & Behavioral Health Support Assessment		
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Student Assistance and Behavioral Health	Student Assistance and Behavioral Health	Student Assistance and Behavioral Health
Support Assessment (aligned with <u>standards</u>	Support Assessment (aligned with standards	Support Assessment (aligned with standards
and guidance adopted by the School Safety	and guidance adopted by the SSSC) has been	and guidance adopted by the SSSC) has been
and Security Committee (SSSC)) has been	conducted at each educational level	conducted school-entity wide.
conducted that is representative of the school	(elementary, middle, and high).	
entity.		Conduct ongoing/follow-up assessments at
	If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 2	regular intervals or when new programs,
If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 1	item, the appropriate eligible project activity (see	services, or initiatives are implemented.
item, the appropriate eligible project activity (see	Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) is Activity 1. Example:	
Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) is Activity 1. Example:	Paying a vendor to conduct the BH assessment for each educational level of the school entity.	If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 1
Paying a vendor to conduct a Student Assistance and BH Assessment representative of the school	each educational level of the school entity.	item, the appropriate eligible project activity (see
entity.		Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) is Activity 1. Example:
Circley.		Paying a vendor to conduct the BH assessment for every school in the school entity.
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LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	
	B. Student Assistance Program (SAP)		
School entity has a process in place for coordination of services and referrals as part of a Student Assistance Program (SAP). If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 1 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may be Activity 14 or Activity 21(a)(ii). Example: Funding can be used to support costs associated with the school entity's SAP process and procedures.	School entity's SAP teams work closely with their SAP liaison agency* and/or coordinates with community providers of behavioral health services and other child-serving agencies to assist students in removing barriers to their education. SAP team members are trained to coordinate with other school-based processes, procedures, and/or policies (threat assessment, Safe2Say, Act 71 suicide prevention, etc.). *Note: SAP liaison agencies can include Single County Authorities (SCAs), behavioral health agencies, and other designated providers. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 2 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may be Activity 14 or Activity 21(a)(ii). Example: Funding can support training expenses (including costs for providing substitute coverage) for SAP team members and/or SAP partners.	SAP teams include representative liaisons from county/community provider drug & alcohol and behavior/mental health services as standing members. School entity regularly evaluates its SAP process in consultation with key internal and external stakeholders (including parents/families, students, etc.) to identify any gaps or areas for improvement. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 3 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may be Activity 14 or Activity 21(a)(ii). Example: Funding can be used to support SAP training for teachers and other professional staff. Funding can also be used to support substitute teachers so that teachers may attend the training.	
C. Mental/Behavioral Health Personnel & Services/Supports			
School entity has met statutory requirements related to the provision of certified school nursing services. ¹	School entity has school nursing services provided by a qualified individual consistently available for all students.	Each school building has a full-time school nurse. ^{2,3}	
If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 1 item, the appropriate eligible project activity (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) is Activity 21(a)(i);	*Note: As an example, a school nurse is present in school buildings on a regular basis to address health needs of students in that building.	School nurse to student ratio does not exceed 1:750 for regular education population, 1:225 for mixed regular and special education	

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
however, as meeting this criterion is already statutorily required, applicants will need to show how school safety funding is needed to supplement current spending to meet statutory requirements. Applicants will also have to show how requests for funding are not supplantation.	If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 2 item, the appropriate eligible project activity (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) is Activity 21(a)(i), focusing on the behavioral health connection between school nursing services and student health. Applicants will also have to show how requests for funding are not supplantation.	population, and 1:125 for students with severe or profound disabilities. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 3 item, the appropriate eligible project activity (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) is Activity 21(a)(i), focusing on the behavioral health connection between school nursing services and student health. Applicants will also have to show how requests for funding are not supplantation.
School entity has a school counseling program* in place to ensure all students have access to qualified services, when needed. *Note: As defined in Chapter 4, Chapter 12 (Student Services Plan 12.41), Chapter 339 If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 1 item, the appropriate eligible project activity (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) is Activity 15; however, as meeting this criterion is already statutorily required, applicants will need to show how school safety funding is needed to supplement current spending to meet statutory requirements.	Dedicated school counseling services are placed in each school building to address and support students' developmental needs and growth. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 2 item, the appropriate eligible project activity (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) is Activity 15. Examples: Funding can be used to hire school counselors as well as provide for costs associated with a school counseling program (e.g., training, supplies, etc.).	School entity has a school counselor for every 250 students. ⁴ If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 3 item, the appropriate eligible project activity (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) is Activity 15. Example: Funding can be used to hire school counselors to meet the recommended ration of 1:250.
School entity has a student services plan in place that includes access to a qualified school psychologist. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 1 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may be Activity 19 or Activity 21(a)(i). Examples: School entities can request grant funding to cover costs associated	School entity has at least one full-time/dedicated school psychologist employed/contracted to provide academic, behavioral and mental health support. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 2 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may be Activity 19 or Activity 21(a)(i). Examples: Funding can be used to	School entity has a full-time/dedicated school psychologist assigned for every 500 students. ⁵ If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 3 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may be Activity 19 or Activity 21(a)(i). Example: Funding can be used to hire school psychologists to meet the recommended ration of 1:500.

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
with school psychologist services/personnel and other related expenses.	hire or contract a school psychologist along with related expenses (e.g., supplies, etc.).	
School entity has a student services plan that includes access to qualified social work services. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 1 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may be Activity 19 or Activity 21(a)(i). Examples: School entities can request grant funding to cover costs associated with social work services/personnel and other related expenses.	School entity has at least one full-time/dedicated licensed social worker, licensed clinical social worker, and/or certified school social worker employed/contracted to provide both macro-level support and direct services to students. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 2 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may be Activity 19 or Activity 21(a)(i). Examples: Grant funds can support personnel costs (e.g., hiring or contracting licensed and/or certified social workers) as well as other expenses related to the provision of social work services for students.	School entity has a full-time, certified school social worker for every 250 students (or less for students with more intensive needs). If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 3 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may be Activity 19 or Activity 21(a)(i). Example: Funding can be used to hire certified school social workers to meet the recommended ration of 1:250.
	D. School Climate	
School entity conducts a survey that includes or addresses school climate-related questions at least every two years. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 1 item, the appropriate eligible project activity (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) is Activity 21. Examples: School entities can request grant funding to cover costs associated with developing, purchasing,	School entity has a team in place to review climate-related data and develop an improvement plan that addresses training, systems, and practices. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 2 item, the appropriate eligible project activity (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) is Activity 21. Examples: Grant funds can support staff time and/or	School entity implements specific recommendations from school climate-related data to address student conduct, build skills, and foster positive relationships among students. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 3 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may include Activities 9,
and/or administering school climate surveys; school entities can also request funding needed to cover costs associated with administering the PA Youth Survey (PAYS).	consultants to assist with school climate-related data analysis and/or creation of an improvement plan.	10, 14, 17, 20, and 21. Examples: School entities can request funding to address key findings/gaps identified in their school climate-related data (e.g., trainings, programming, etc.).

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
School entity has policies and/or procedures in place that comply with state and federal civil rights requirements to respond to discrimination and promote a safe and supportive learning environment for all.* *Note: This criterion applies for students, staff, and others supported by the school environment. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 1 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may include Activities 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 23, and 26. The activity selected would be dependent upon the area the applicant is seeking to improve. As meeting this criterion is already statutorily required, applicants will need to show how school safety funding is needed to supplement current spending to meet these requirements.	School entity has policies and/or procedures in place that promote respect for differences (e.g., race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, personality, skills & abilities, etc.), support civil rights, and respond to discrimination. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 2 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may include Activities 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 23, and 26. The activity selected would be dependent upon the area the applicant is seeking to improve. Examples: Grant funds can cover staff and/or consultant time needed to develop or update policies and/or procedures, as well as other strategies to respond to discrimination allegations and/or support civil rights within the school entity (e.g., training, programming, etc.).	School entity provides training and professional development on respecting differences (e.g., race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, personality, skills & abilities, etc.), supporting civil rights, and responding to discrimination. School entity actively encourages students to respect differences by allowing and supporting clubs and organizations in schools that promote diversity. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 3 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may include any activities related to training, including Activities 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 27, 28, and 30. The activity selected would be dependent upon the area the applicant is seeking to improve. Examples: Grant funds can cover costs associated with programming, training, and other activities described above.
School entity has policies and/or procedures in place that address the appropriate student use of technology and social media. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 1 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may include Activities 7, 8, 10, or 21. Examples: Grant funds can cover staff and/or consultant time needed to develop or	School entity is responsive to changes in technology and/or the environment and amends its policies and procedures accordingly. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 2 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may include Activities 7, 8, 10, or 21. Examples: Grant funds can cover staff	School entity solicits input from teachers, administrators, students, and parents/families who review and recommend modifications to the technology and social media policies and procedures based on technological developments and/or the current environment. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 3
update policies and/or procedures related to technology and social media use.	and/or consultant time needed to develop or update policies and/or procedures related to technology.	If seeking funding to support meeting this Level item, the appropriate eligible project activities (s <u>Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)</u>) may include Activities 7,

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
		10, or 21. Examples: Grant funds can cover costs associated with programming, training, parent/family engagement strategies, etc.
School entity provides age-appropriate prevention education for students aligned with state and federal requirements (e.g., youth suicide awareness and prevention, opioid misuse prevention, threat assessment, etc.). If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 1 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may include Activities 3, 5, 6, 10, 14, 21, 27 and 30; however, as meeting this criterion is already statutorily required, applicants will need to show how school safety funding is needed to supplement current spending.	School entity provides prevention education at all school levels (e.g., character education, resiliency building, equity), aligned with school climate work. All teachers and administrators receive training in social emotional learning (SEL). If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 2 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may include Activities 3, 5, 6, 10, 14, 21, 27 and 30, and any other activity related to staff training. Examples: Grant funding can be used for developing and/or implementing prevention education programs (e.g., curriculum costs, etc.), teacher/administrator training (including substitute costs to allow staff to participate in training programs), etc.	Prevention education in the classroom, curriculum infusion, and evidence-based/ informed programs. All para-educators/support staff ⁷ and students receive instruction in the concept of SEL, and training/information is also offered to parents/families. School entity has mechanisms to track impact of SEL and other prevention programs (example: reductions in school discipline incidents, attendance improvement, PAYS data, etc.). If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 3 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may include Activities 3, 6, 10, 14, 21, and 27. Examples: Grant funding can be used for developing and/or implementing classroom-based prevention education programs (e.g., curriculum costs, etc.), teacher/administrator training (including substitute costs to allow staff to participate in training programs), data collection, analysis, and/or reporting mechanisms, etc.
Professional training provided to school entity employees pursuant to state and federal requirements* on topics related to student safety and well-being.	School entity provides ongoing professional development and training opportunities for all employees on topics related to student safety and well-being that are responsive to schooland/or community-specific needs.	School entity provides ongoing professional development and training opportunities for all employees and other individuals who work with students* on age-appropriate and rolespecific topics responsive to needs identified

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
*Note: See 24 P.S. §§ 1310-B, 1517, 1518 (school safety and security training); 24 P.S. §1205.6 (child abuse recognition and reporting); 24 P.S. §§ 102, 1205.7 (trauma-informed approaches); 24. P.S. §1526 (suicide awareness and prevention training); 34 CFR 106.45 (Title IX sexual harassment training); 24 P.S. §1303-D (Safe2Say Something training); 24 P.S. §§1205.4, 1410, 1424 (CPR/AED training). If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 1 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may include any activity related to staff training. Any applicant for school safety and security training may need to note why funding is needed when 'free' Act 55 of 2022 training is available as an alternative. In addition, as meeting this criterion is already statutorily required, applicants will need to show how school safety funding is needed to supplement current spending to meet statutory requirements.	If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 2 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may include any activity related to staff training. Any applicant for school safety and security training may need to note why funding is needed when 'free' Act 55 of 2022 training is available as an alternative. Examples: Grant funds can be used for costs associated with staff training (including substitute costs to allow staff to participate in the training).	through school climate-related data and other relevant metrics. *Note: "Other individuals" include, but are not limited to, coaches, SROs / SPOs, volunteers, contracted staff, other community-based partners. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 3 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may include any activity related to staff training. Any applicant for school safety and security training may need to note why funding is needed when 'free' Act 55 of 2022 training is available as an alternative. Examples: Grant funds can be used for costs associated with training programs and similar events on school climate-related topics.
School entity has policies and strategies in place to address incidents of bullying and has made that information available as required.*	School entity has implemented a bullying prevention program at one or more school levels.	Bullying prevention programs have been implemented school entity-wide and are integrated with other prevention and wellness efforts.
*Note: 24.P.S. § 1303.1-A If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 1 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see	If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 2 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may include Activities 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 21, 27 and 30. Examples: Funds	School entity has mechanisms to track impact of bullying prevention programs.
Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may include Activities 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 21, 27 and 30. In addition, as meeting this criterion is already statutorily required, applicants will need to show how school safety funding is needed to supplement current spending to meet statutory requirements.	can support bullying prevention, intervention, and education programs within specific grade levels or buildings that align with the school entity's adopted policy related to bullying.	If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 3 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may include Activities 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 21, 27 and 30. Examples: Funds can support bullying prevention, intervention, and education programs school entity-wide that align

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3 with the school entity's adopted policy related to bullying, as well as costs related to data collection, analysis, and/or reporting.
	E. Staff Training	
Where required by state or federal law, school entity has specialized staff training programs in place in the use of de-escalation techniques, and appropriate responses to student behavior that may require immediate intervention (e.g., training aligned with 22 Pa. Code Chapter 10 (Safe Schools), Chapter 14 (Special Education Services and Programs), Chapter 711 (Charter School and Cyber Charter School Services and Programs for Children with Disabilities); 24 P.S. § 1310-B (school safety and security training), etc.). If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 1 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may be Activity 7 or 17, or any other activity related to staff training; however, as meeting this criterion is already statutorily required, applicants will need to show how school safety funding is needed to supplement current spending to meet these requirements.	School entity has specialized staff training programs* in the use of positive behavior supports, de-escalation techniques, and appropriate responses to student behavior that may require immediate intervention. *Note: This training could be made available to all school entity staff who work with students, not just those that are required to undergo training as part of statutory mandates. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 2 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may be Activities 3, 7, 17, 21, 26, or 27, or any other activity related to staff training. Examples: Grant funds can support costs associated with developing and/or implementing specialized training programs for staff (including substitute costs to allow employees to participate in training) related to positive behavior supports, de-escalation techniques, crisis response, etc.	All school professional staff, paraeducators/support staff and other individuals working with students receive training in the use of positive behavior supports, deescalation techniques, and appropriate responses to student behavior that may require immediate intervention. Training for support staff and other individuals addresses working with youth for appropriate developmental stages. Implementation fidelity is regularly assessed/monitored. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 3 item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) may be Activities 3, 7, 17, 21, 26, or 27, or any other activity related to staff training. Examples: Grant funds can support costs associated with developing and/or implementing broader training programs for individuals within the school community related to positive behavior supports, de-escalation techniques, crisis response, etc.; grant funds could also be used to support evaluation, monitoring, data collection, etc.

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	
	F. Trauma-Informed Approach Plan		
School entity develops a trauma-informed approach plan. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 1 item, the appropriate eligible project activity (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) is Activity 21. Example: Consultant or staff time expenses for developing a high-level trauma-informed approach plan for the school entity.	Trauma-informed approach plan developed for each school level (elementary, middle, high), including training and implementation procedures of the plan. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 2 item, the appropriate eligible project activity (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) is Activity 21. Examples: Consultant or staff time expenses for developing a trauma-informed approach plan for each grade span/school level; training and professional development costs; monitoring, data collection, etc.	Trauma-informed approach plan developed and adopted school entity-wide that addresses each school level. Trauma-informed approaches responsive to adopted plan have been implemented and monitored for impact, ongoing needs, etc. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 3 item, the appropriate eligible project activity (see Section 1306-B(I)(1-30)) is Activity 21. Example: Consultant or staff time expenses for developing a trauma-informed approach plan for each grade span/school level across the school entity; training and professional development costs; monitoring, data collection, etc.	
	G. Threat Assessment & Management ⁸		
School entity has established at least one threat assessment team and developed policies and/or procedures for assessing and intervening with students whose behavior may indicate a threat. If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 1 item, the appropriate eligible project activity (see Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)) is Activity 23; however, as meeting this criterion is already statutorily required, applicants will need to show how school safety funding is needed to supplement current spending to meet these requirements.	Threat assessment team members are trained to coordinate with other school-based processes, procedures, and/or policies (SAP, IEP/Section 504, Safe2Say, Act 71 suicide prevention, etc.). Threat assessment team(s) work closely with community-based partners (e.g., law enforcement, mental/behavioral health, juvenile justice, etc.) as part of their established threat assessment process. School entity has provided awareness education for students, parents/families, and	School entity's threat assessment team(s) is/are integrated within a comprehensive multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS). School entity has a consistent mechanism in place for documentation and/or case management. School entity's threat assessment team(s) have standing members representing community-based partners (e.g., law enforcement, mental/behavioral health, juvenile justice, etc.).	

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
	community members related to threat	School entity's threat assessment team(s)
	assessment.	have conducted collaborative tabletop
		exercises and/or scenario-based training.
	If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 2	
	item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see	If seeking funding to support meeting this Level 3
	<u>Section 1306-B(J)(1-30)</u>) may include Activities 23	item, the appropriate eligible project activities (see
	and 29, and any other activity related to staff	Section 1306-B(J)(1-30) may be Activities 3, 11,
	training and/or working with community partners.	23, 26, and 27. Examples: Multidisciplinary
	Examples: Costs associated with developing and/or	training/professional development opportunities;
	disseminating awareness and education	case management/documentation systems.
	programming (training, materials).	

¹ PA Public School Code of 1949, §1402(a.1) requires that every child of school age shall be provided with school nurse services and establishes that the number of students under the care of each school nurse shall not exceed 1,500. Further, Department of Health regulations contained in Chapter 23 of Title 28 of the Pennsylvania Code, list required school health services and required school health personnel.

² The Role of the 21st Century School Nurse, NASN Position Statement, rev. 2018

³ AAP Policy Statement Recommends Full Time Nurse in Every School, 5/23/16

⁴ American School Counselor Association recommendation; see also PA School Counselors Association legislative update

⁵ National Association of School Psychologists, Policy Platform, Section I; Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania, Student-to-School Psychologist Ratios Press Release.

⁶ School Social Work Association of America, Resolution Statement

⁷ Definitions provided in 2021 Standards: **Auxiliary staff:** Non-professional school personnel who provide direct and/or supportive infrastructure services, e.g. food service, custodial, secretarial, and information technology personnel; may be a school employee or a contracted worker. **Para-Professional Staff:** Supportive personnel who assist professional staff in working with students, e.g. education aide, nurse aide, therapeutic staff support, etc.; may be a school employee, contracted worker, or external provider agency staff.

⁸ PA Public School Code of 1949, Article XIII-E, §1301-E et seq.