

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2577

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish Regional School Safety Development Centers to provide consultation for schools to develop or improve a school safety plan based on evidence-based best practices, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 2025

Mr. RUTHERFORD (for himself, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. CORREA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mrs. HAYES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

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## A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish Regional School Safety Development Centers to provide consultation for schools to develop or improve a school safety plan based on evidence-based best practices, 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 “Preparing Leaders to  
5 Assess Needs for School Safety Act of 2025” or the  
6 “PLAN for School Safety Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. SCHOOL SAFETY DEVELOPMENT CENTER PRO-**  
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the  
4 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.)  
5 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 2220F. SCHOOL SAFETY DEVELOPMENT CENTER PRO-**  
7 **GRAM.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall make awards,  
9 including grants or cooperative agreements, to eligible en-  
10 tities to establish, improve, or maintain statewide or intra-  
11 state Regional School Safety Development Centers  
12 (‘School Safety Development Centers’) for the purposes of  
13 providing customized consulting services to schools to de-  
14 velop, improve, or implement the school’s individualized  
15 school safety plan.

16 “(b) AWARDS.—

17 “(1) APPLICATION.—To seek an award under  
18 this section, an eligible entity shall submit an appli-  
19 cation to the Director at such time, in such manner,  
20 and containing such information as the Director  
21 may require. At minimum, any such application  
22 shall include evidence of the applicant’s expertise in  
23 comprehensive school safety and school climate, in-  
24 cluding evidence-based violence prevention for stu-  
25 dents and educators, suicide prevention, student  
26 mental health, and school security.

1           “(2) PREFERENCE.—In making awards under  
2 this section, the Director shall, as appropriate, give  
3 preference to eligible entities that have existing rela-  
4 tionships with local schools, particularly those in  
5 rural, Tribal, or low-resourced communities, as ap-  
6 plicable by the proposed geographical area, or minor-  
7 ity-serving institutions described in sections 371(a)  
8 and 326(e)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
9 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a) and 1063b(e)(1)).

10           “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity shall  
11 use an award received under this section to estab-  
12 lish, improve, or maintain a School Safety Develop-  
13 ment Center, which shall include each of the fol-  
14 lowing:

15           “(A) Developing communications materials  
16 for and disseminating to schools, educators,  
17 parents, legal guardians, and youth, and in-  
18 creasing State-wide or intrastate regional public  
19 awareness of evidence-based research and best  
20 practices for school safety and student mental  
21 health.

22           “(B) Conducting individualized consulta-  
23 tions with schools to research and analyze a  
24 school’s existing school safety and student men-  
25 tal health policies, or developing or improving,

1 in coordination with a school, a customized  
2 school safety and student mental health plan to  
3 fit the individualized, age- and developmentally-  
4 appropriate needs of such school community  
5 based on evidence-based best practices.

6 “(C) Assisting schools in the implementa-  
7 tion of their customized school safety and men-  
8 tal health plan, including the following:

9 “(i) Identification of Federal or State  
10 government funding for implementation of  
11 the plan, in whole or in part.

12 “(ii) Provide training, resources, or  
13 technical assistance to assist schools in ap-  
14 plying for such Federal or State govern-  
15 ment funding.

16 “(iii) Providing training, resources,  
17 and technical assistance to educate school  
18 staff and families regarding the policies  
19 and procedures of the plan.

20 “(4) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Federal  
21 share of the cost of activities for which a grant or  
22 cooperative agreement is made to an eligible entity  
23 under this section may not exceed 95 percent of the  
24 total cost of such activities.

25 “(c) AWARD ADMINISTRATION.—

1           “(1) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—  
2           The Director, in consultation with the Secretary of  
3           Education and the Youth Advisory Council (estab-  
4           lished pursuant to paragraph (2)(C)), shall provide  
5           eligible entities receiving awards under this section,  
6           training and technical assistance on the following:

7                   “(A) Best practices for individualized con-  
8                   sulting with schools based on their unique needs  
9                   for implementation in accordance with sub-  
10                  section (b)(3).

11                  “(B) Evidence-based practices and rec-  
12                  ommendations established under section 2220D  
13                  that are presented in a clear and concise man-  
14                  ner for schools and the public.

15           “(2) SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS.—

16                   “(A) PERSONNEL.—The Director shall  
17                   hire additional personnel and contractors with  
18                   expertise in school mental health and school ad-  
19                   ministration to provide additional subject mat-  
20                   ter expertise in implementing evidence-based  
21                   programming within schools to carry out para-  
22                   graph (1).

23                   “(B) DETAILEE.—

24                           “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of  
25                           Education shall detail, on a reimbursable

1 basis, to the Agency an employee of the  
2 Department of Education to assist in the  
3 provision of the training and technical as-  
4 sistance described in paragraph (1).

5 “(ii) REIMBURSEMENT.—The Director  
6 shall reimburse the Secretary of Education  
7 for any costs associated with the detailee  
8 under clause (i).

9 “(C) YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL.—

10 “(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later  
11 than one year after the date of the enact-  
12 ment of this section, the Director shall es-  
13 tablish and convene a Youth Advisory  
14 Council for the purpose of providing joint  
15 advice on the implementation of this sec-  
16 tion.

17 “(ii) PARTICIPATION.—The Youth Ad-  
18 visory Council shall include participation  
19 from the following:

20 “(I) Parents, academic experts,  
21 mental health professionals, and mem-  
22 bers of civil society with respect to the  
23 prevention of violence in schools.

1                   “(II) Youth representation, in-  
2                   cluding youth who have experienced  
3                   school violence.

4           “(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than two  
5 years after the date of the enactment of this section and  
6 annually thereafter, the Director shall submit to the Com-  
7 mittee on Homeland Security, the Committee on the Judi-  
8 ciary, the Committee on Education and Workforce, and  
9 the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
10 resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security  
11 and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Health,  
12 Education, Labor, and Pensions, and the Committee on  
13 Appropriations of the Senate a report on actions taken  
14 by the Director to implement this section, including infor-  
15 mation relating to the following:

16                   “(1) The name, location, and number of eligible  
17 entities in each State receiving awards under this  
18 section.

19                   “(2) A comparative analysis of actions rec-  
20 ommended in school safety plans by such eligible en-  
21 tities through the School Safety Development Cen-  
22 ters assisted through such awards.

23                   “(3) An assessment of the effectiveness of such  
24 School Safety Development Centers in assisting  
25 schools to develop and implement school safety

1 plans, as a means to avert violence, including self-  
2 harm, if applicable, and policy recommendations for  
3 improved effectiveness.

4 “(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

5 “(1) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in  
6 this section may be construed to establish, satisfy, or  
7 waive any requirement under any of the following:

8 “(A) Title II of the Americans With Dis-  
9 abilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.).

10 “(B) The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29  
11 U.S.C. 701 et seq.).

12 “(C) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of  
13 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.).

14 “(D) Title IX of the Education Amend-  
15 ments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.).

16 “(E) The Age Discrimination Act of 1975  
17 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.).

18 “(F) The Family Educational Rights and  
19 Privacy Act of 1973 (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

20 “(2) NO EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in  
21 this section may be construed to preclude or con-  
22 tradict any other provision of law authorizing train-  
23 ing in the use of firearms.

24 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this section,  
2 there are authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000  
3 annually from fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

4           “(2) RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—  
5 Amounts made available to carry out this section  
6 may not be used to—

7                   “(A) consult or train any school or person  
8 in the use of firearms; or

9                   “(B) hire school personnel or school-based  
10 contractors for the schools the School Safety  
11 Development Centers are advising under sub-  
12 section (b)(3).

13           “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14                   “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The term ‘eligible  
15 entities’ means any of the following:

16                           “(A) A State.

17                           “(B) A State educational agency (as such  
18 term is defined in section 8101 of the Elemen-  
19 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
20 U.S.C. 7801).

21                           “(C) A Tribal educational agency (as such  
22 term is defined in section 6132 of the Elemen-  
23 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
24 U.S.C. 7452)).

1           “(D) An institution of higher education eli-  
2           gible for assistance under title III of the Higher  
3           Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1051 et  
4           seq.).

5           “(E) A Tribal College or University (as  
6           such term is defined in section 313 of the High-  
7           er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c)).

8           “(2) EVIDENCE-BASED.—The term ‘evidence-  
9           based’ has the meaning given such term in section  
10          8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
11          Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

12          “(3) SCHOOL.—The term ‘school’ has the  
13          meaning given such term in section 2704 of the Om-  
14          nibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968  
15          (34 U.S.C. 10554).

16          “(4) SCHOOL SAFETY PLAN.—The term ‘school  
17          safety plan’ means a set of common actions schools  
18          can take to address the foundational elements of  
19          school safety, including designated staff, school cli-  
20          mate and mental health, reporting systems, threat  
21          assessment, emergency planning, educator training,  
22          student prevention training, exercises and drills, site  
23          assessments, and recovery plans.”.

24          (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
25          in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is

1 amended by inserting after the item relating to section

2 2220E the following new item:

“Sec. 2220F. School Safety Development Center program.”.

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