



## **Summary of the Ohio Student Wellness and Success Fund**

As part of the operating budget for Fiscal Years 2020-2021 (House Bill 166), \$675 million of state funding was allocated to create the Ohio Student Wellness and Success Fund. Funding is distributed to all traditional public school districts, community schools, joint vocational school districts, and STEM schools by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). Funding is distributed twice per year, with the first half disbursed in October and the second half in February. Funding is distributed on a per-pupil basis, scaled based on poverty data from the federal census. Schools will receive a minimum of \$25,000 in FY 2020 and a minimum of \$36,000 in FY 2021. Funds are paid directly to the district in which a student is educated, with no transfers or deductions from a student's resident district, unlike most state education funding.

Student Wellness and Success funds are restricted and are required to be spent on qualifying initiatives in coordination with at least one approved community partner. "Services for homeless youth" are one of the eleven approved initiatives for the Student Wellness and Success Fund. School districts can work with local homeless services agencies, as nonprofit organizations qualify as approved community partners. It seems likely that interventions such as rapid rehousing and homeless prevention programs would qualify for funding.

Initiatives and partners do not have to be approved by ODE ahead of time, but schools are required to report how they used the funding at the end of each fiscal year. School districts are also allowed to partner with other schools to launch joint initiatives and can use funding for capital projects if they meet the initiative and community partner requirements.

As to the question of who qualifies to be served under the Student Wellness and Success Fund, based on information provided by ODE, the program appears to target only currently enrolled students. While this is not explicitly stated in ODE policy or state law, since funding is distributed on a per-pupil basis it seems that the state's intent is for the funding to be used by schools to assist currently enrolled students. The legislative language is quite flexible on the meaning of services for homeless youth. Since school district plans do not have to be pre-approved by ODE, schools have a lot of flexibility in the use of their funds and are highly encouraged by ODE to make a clear implementation plan and maintain extensive record keeping.

In order to maximize funding and encourage purposeful spending, schools are not required to spend funds in the same year they are received and are encouraged to bill other federal or state funds, such as Medicaid, if a community partner's services can be paid with other funds. Schools are also allowed to use other funds to supplement Student Wellness and Success Funds to support larger initiatives. Student Wellness and Success Funds are not restricted under the United States Department of Education's "supplement, not supplant" regulations. Since it is a federal requirement and this is additional state money, the regulations do not apply and schools are able to shift expenses to the Student Wellness and Success Funds, if they were already funding an eligible program. Funding information for specific districts can be found on the School Payment Reports page on ODE's website (see links on final page).

| <b>A. STUDENT WELLNESS AND SUCCESS INITIATIVES (ORC 3317.26(B))</b>  | <b>B. COMMUNITY PARTNERS (ORC 3317.26(C))</b>   |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mental health services</li> <li>2. Services for homeless youth</li> <li>3. Services for child welfare involved youth</li> <li>4. Community liaisons</li> <li>5. Physical health care services</li> <li>6. Mentoring programs</li> <li>7. Family engagement and support services</li> <li>8. City Connects programming</li> <li>9. Professional development regarding the provision of trauma-informed care</li> <li>10. Professional development regarding cultural competence</li> <li>11. Student services provided prior to or after the regularly scheduled school day or any time school is not in session</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A board of alcohol, drug and mental health services</li> <li>2. An educational service center</li> <li>3. A county board of developmental disabilities</li> <li>4. A community-based mental health treatment provider</li> <li>5. A board of health of a city or general health district</li> <li>6. A county department of job and family services</li> <li>7. A nonprofit organization with experience serving children</li> <li>8. A public hospital agency</li> </ol> |

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## Resources

Program Overview: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Student-Wellness-and-Success>

Funding Information for School Districts: <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Student-Wellness-and-Success/Student-Wellness-and-Success-Funding-Information-f>

School Payment Reports: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/School-Payment-Reports>

Ohio Revised Code Section 3317.26:  
<https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Student-Supports/Student-Wellness-and-Success/Student-Wellness-and-Success-Funding-Information-f/3317-26.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>

Resources for Districts and Community Partners:  
<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Student-Wellness-and-Success/Student-Wellness-and-Success-Resources-for-District>

McKinney-Vento Homeless Resources for Awareness:  
<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/District-and-School-Continuous-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Elementary-and-Secondary-Education-Act/Programs-Administered-Under-ESEA/McKinney-Vento-Resources-for-Awareness>

Funding FAQ: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Student-Wellness-and-Success/Student-Wellness-and-Success-Funding-FAQ>

Program Guidance: <http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Student-Supports/Student-Wellness-and-Success/SWSF-Guidance.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>

Reporting Template: <http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Student-Supports/Student-Wellness-and-Success/SWSF-Guidance-Appendix-A-Reporting-Tool.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>

House Bill 166 Overview: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-166>

For further information or consultation from ODE, please contact Anna Miller at [Anna.Miller@education.ohio.gov](mailto:Anna.Miller@education.ohio.gov).