The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) has implications for schools and communities that want to increase mental health resources. ESSA allows for new flexibility in the use of all Title I, II, and IV funding for schools. ESSA expands allowable uses of all Title I, II, and IV funds for school-wide purposes in order to best serve the mental health needs of students. This includes integrated services, counseling, school-based mental health programs, mentoring, partnerships with community providers, and other strategies that can help improve students’ skills beyond academics.

Below are some opportunities for schools and districts to obtain new and realign current funding to support assessment, planning, and development of school mental health programs and services that help with social-emotional, well-being and behavior.

**Finding Funding**

**Formula funds:**
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C
  - Early intervention services, birth-2yo
- Title 1, Part A—Impact Aid
- Title II, Part A for Professional Development Component
- Title III, Bilingual Education
- Title IV, 21st Century Schools
  - Mental health and family engagement
- Title VI, Part B—Rural Education
- Title VII—Indian Education
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Funds
- Impact Aid
- State Trust Land Grants

**Competitive grants:**
- Planning grants for Expansion of the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and their Families
- Community Transformation
- Smaller Communities Program from the Centers for Disease Control
- School-Based Health Center Capital Program
- Project LAUNCH
- Safe Schools/Healthy Students
- Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Program
- Title 1, Section 1003(a) and (g)—School Improvement Funds
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- Race to the Top for Districts
Additional funding ideas:

- Anti-bullying initiatives
- Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) grants
- State block grants
- Initiative #6 of RESPECT Project
- Autism grants
- Mental health grants
- School safety grants
- School climate initiatives
- Technology grants
- Drop-out prevention grants
- PTA funds
- Community foundations
- Private foundations
- Partnerships with local mental health providers and community organizations

To learn more about school funding opportunities, visit www.FundingForSchools.com