

Title IV Part A Safe and Drug-Free Schools Overview

New Directors Meeting
Embassy Suites, Murfreesboro
October 21, 2009

Program Purpose

- To support programs that
 - Prevent violence in and around schools
 - Prevent the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs
 - Involve parents and communities
 - Are coordinated with other related Federal, State, school and community efforts and resources that foster a safe and drug-free learning environment.

Title IV: What it is and why it's important

- Only source of federal funding for alcohol and drug education and violence prevention for all school districts
- The ability of students to learn and teachers to teach is directly related to the safety and order of our schools and the health and well-being of our students

Funds for LEAs and Community-Based Organizations

- Title IV-A has 2 main components
 - Formula flow-through grants to LEAs
 - Governor's portion for competitive discretionary grants

SEC. 4115(a) PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVENESS-

- (1) **IN GENERAL-** For a program or activity developed pursuant to this subpart to meet the principles of effectiveness, such program or activity shall —
 - (A) be based on an assessment of objective data regarding the incidence of violence and illegal drug use in the elementary schools and secondary schools and communities to be served, including an objective analysis of the current conditions and consequences regarding violence and illegal drug use, including delinquency and serious discipline problems, among students who attend such schools (including private school students who participate in the drug and violence prevention program) that is based on ongoing local assessment or evaluation activities;

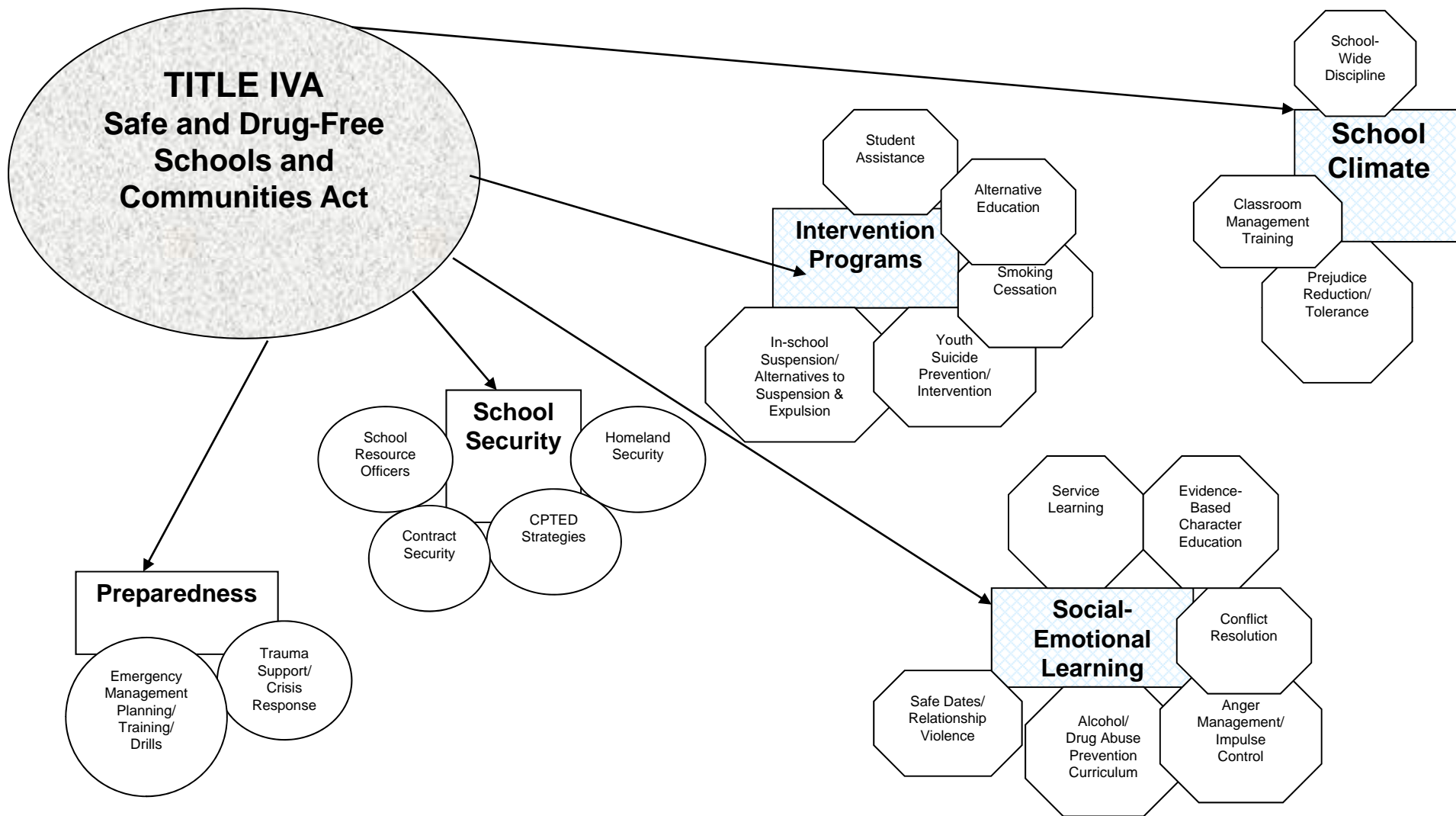
SEC. 4115(a) PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVENESS- (Contd.)

- (B) be based on an established set of performance measures aimed at ensuring that the elementary schools and secondary schools and communities to be served by the program have a safe, orderly, and drug-free learning environment;
- (C) be based on scientifically based research that provides evidence that the program to be used will reduce violence and illegal drug use;

SEC. 4115(a) PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVENESS- (Contd.)

- (D) be based on an analysis of the data reasonably available at the time, of the prevalence of risk factors, including high or increasing rates of reported cases of child abuse and domestic violence; protective factors, buffers, assets; or other variables in schools and communities in the State identified through scientifically based research; and
- (E) include meaningful and ongoing consultation with and input from parents in the development of the application and administration of the program or activity.

See Range of Activities / Use of Funds



Examples of Best Practices

- Preparedness
 - Emergency Management Planning
 - Secured & Prepared Schools Training
- Trauma Support and Crisis Response
 - Specialized training in best practices for responding to traumatic events coming soon

Examples of Best Practices

- School Security
 - School Resource Officer
 - Contract security personnel
- Intervention Programs
 - Student Assistance Programs
 - Youth Suicide Prevention / Intervention

Examples of Best Practices

- School Climate
 - Aspire
 - Peaceable Schools
 - Facing History and Ourselves
- Social-Emotional Learning
 - Service Learning
 - Life Skills Training
 - Second Step

Activities Authorized

Title IV-A, Sec.4115

- Developmentally appropriate drug and violence prevention
- Parent and community-wide involvement in drug and violence prevention
- Drug and violence prevention information dissemination
- Drug and violence professional development and community training
- Law enforcement and security activities

Authorized activities, cont.

- Expanding and improving mental health services.
- Conflict resolution and peer mediation.
- Alternative education for violent or drug abusing students.
- Counseling, mentoring, and referral services.
- Programs encouraging confiding in adults.

Authorized activities, cont.

- Programs and services regarding truancy, suspensions and expulsions
- Programs for testing students for illegal drug use and locker searches.
- Emergency intervention services following traumatic events.
- School records transfers.
- Character education programs.

Authorized activities, cont.

- School violence hotlines.
- Community service projects.
- Employee background checks.(state-mandated)
- Youth suicide warning training.
- Programs responding to the needs of youth faced with domestic violence or child abuse.

What does not work in youth drug and violence prevention

- Scare tactics
- Instructional programs that are too brief and not supported by a positive school administration
- Programs that focus exclusively on self-esteem
- Programs that provide information without helping students develop skills necessary to avoid and handle conflict
- One-time student assembly events

Unallowable Expenditures

- Construction
- Medical services, drug treatment, or rehabilitation, except for referral services
- Academic instruction
- Motivational speakers or presentations
- Give-aways (pencils, rulers, etc.)
- Costs for health education programs unrelated to drug and violence prevention

Unallowable Expenditures (contd.)

- Purely recreational or social activities
- Supplies associated with emergency management planning, such as flashlights, batteries, blankets, medical supplies, etc.
- Random drug testing of students (not based on reasonable suspicion of individual drug use)–AG Opinion #07-96
- Anything that is state-mandated

Spending Caps

- 2% on Administration
- No more than 20% can be used for security-related items, with the exception of up to 40% may be used if the “security-related expenditure” is for the hiring and training of a school resource officer.

Title IV-A Assurances

1. Develop its application through timely and meaningful consultation with state and local government representatives, representatives of schools to be served (including private schools), teachers and other staff, parents, students, community-based organizations, and others with relevant and demonstrated expertise in drug and violence prevention activities (such as medical, mental health, and law enforcement professionals).
2. Consult with such representatives and organizations on an ongoing basis in order to seek advice regarding how best to coordinate such agency's activities under this subpart, with other related strategies, programs, and activities being conducted in the community.
3. Ensure that the activities or programs to be funded comply with the principles of effectiveness described in section 4115(a) and foster a safe and drug-free learning environment that supports academic achievement.
4. Ensure that drug and violence prevention programs supported under this subpart convey a clear and consistent message that acts of violence and the illegal use of drugs are wrong and harmful.

Assurances (continued)

5. Have a plan for keeping schools safe and drug-free that includes:
 - a. Appropriate and effective school discipline policies that prohibit disorderly conduct, the illegal possession of weapons, and the illegal use, possession, distribution, and sale of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs by students;
 - b. Security procedures at school and while students are on the way to and from school;
 - c. Prevention activities that are designed to create and maintain safe, disciplined, and drug-free environments;
 - d. A crisis management plan for responding to violent or traumatic incidents on school grounds; and
- e. A code of conduct policy for all students that clearly states the responsibilities of students, teachers, and administrators in maintaining a classroom environment that:
 - allows a teacher to communicate effectively with all students in the class;
 - allows all students in the class to learn;
 - has consequences that are fair, and developmentally appropriate;
 - considers the student and the circumstances of the situation; and
 - is enforced accordingly.

Assurances (Continued)

6. Ensure that the application and any waiver request under section 4115(a)(3) will be available for public review after submission of the application.
7. Ensure that schools randomly selected will participate in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey or a similar evaluation instrument.
8. Comply with sections of Tennessee Code Annotated 49-6-4301, requiring referral to the criminal justice system or juvenile delinquency system of any student who brings a firearm or weapon to a school served by the LEA.
9. Comply with sections of Tennessee Code Annotated 49-6-4012 – 4015, 49-6-4017, and 49-6-4215 and the Federal law regarding expulsion of student possessing a firearm, which requires not less than a one year expulsion, as defined in Title 20, Chapter 70, Subchapter IV, Part A, Subpart 3, Sec. 7151, United States Code. Further the LEA will provide accurate descriptions to the SEA on an annual basis of the circumstances involving any expulsions imposed, including the name of the school concerned, the number of students expelled from such school, and the type of weapons involved.
10. Implement the Tennessee State Board of Education's Unsafe School Choice Policy and insure that all staff, parents and students are aware of their rights and responsibilities under the same.
11. Comply with the federal Pro-Children Act of 2001 regarding the prohibition of smoking within any indoor school facility and T.C.A. 39-17-1604, regarding smoking on school campus.

Unsafe School Choice Policy

- Must offer any student who has been the victim of a violent crime at school the opportunity to attend another school
- Must notify the State of the event and the action taken
- Must have documentation that principals know the procedures
- Must annually notify parents of the policy and the purpose of the policy

Upcoming Trainings

- Bullying Policy and SAVE Act Meetings
 - October 26 – Nashville
 - November 4 – Jackson

- Meth Free Education In Tennessee Schools
 - October 27 – Nashville
 - November 3 – Jackson

Safe Schools Act of 1988

- Appropriated annually by General Assembly
- Less restrictive than Title IV-A
- Use of SSA funds and Title IV-A funds should be coordinated to support and compliment each other

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