

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This document is being provided in response to some of the questions that have been received regarding the School Safety RFA for FY 20 and FY 21.

As a reminder, applications must be received by the Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment ON OR BEFORE Aug. 14, 2019, by 5:00 P.M. (PDT).

The complete application packet can be found at the link below:

- [School Safety RFA](#)

Requirement for increases in staffing for the Social Workers in Schools Enhancement or the School Resource/Police Officers

LEA's are **not** required to show an increase in the total number of social workers or other licensed mental health workers or in school resource/police officers across **each** fiscal year.

The requirement for an increase in the number of professionals in each of these fields is across the biennium as a whole. For example, if an LEA is able to hire additional professionals in FY 20 and then maintains those professionals in FY 21 that meets the requirement for an increase in professionals. That being said, as there are additional dollars for FY 21 if an LEA is able to hire additional professionals in both FY 20 and FY 21 that is also acceptable.

Prioritization of funding awards

NDE has consistently prioritized the maintenance of existing mental and behavioral health professionals in schools, as those relationships are critical in the successful implementation of these types of services for young people. As such, priority has been extended to retaining those professionals and those services which have previously been funded through state and federal dollars through the continuation awards. This pattern will continue through the coming biennium as LEA's use School Safety funds to expand access to mental and behavioral health services in their schools.

School List Document Formatting Challenges

It has been brought to the attention of the Department that one of the required documents in the RFA was not appropriately formatted to allow LEA's to select the level of full time equivalency for social workers or other licensed mental health workers for

which they are applying. That document has been corrected and can be found with the rest of the RFA materials at the link listed above.

School Safety Facility Improvements

LEA's who wish to apply for funding to support the completion of a safety audit at any of their campuses should list the estimated costs for each audit on the appropriate sheet of the School List and in the budget for FY 20. LEA's may make a reasonable effort to estimate facility improvement costs which may be identified on the audits and may include that information in the budget for FY 21. Once the audits are complete, awarded LEA's may make a budget revision request to reflect the actual costs for the facility improvements. Any known facility improvements identified on previous audits should be included on the appropriate sheet of the School List and in the budgets for FY 20 and FY 21, as appropriate.

Use of Data in Determining Which Schools to Apply For

As a reminder, there is no data reporting requirement included in this RFA. NDE will be using data which has been pulled for the 17-18 SY along with school climate data for the 18-19 SY to assist reviewers in determining need. Part I of the RFA materials includes a list of which data points are included in the data pull for the 17-18 SY. There is no expectation, however, that LEA's will use only that data in making a determination of which schools to include in this RFA. Any rationale for the selection of the schools should be included in the narrative portion for each program, as applicable.