

Federal Formula Grants and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

There is tremendous excitement in Ohio about Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and the importance of a positive school climate in increasing student success. Ohio’s recently adopted strategic plan for education, [Each Child, Our Future](#), recognizes the need for a positive climate in every school to support student well-being, academic achievement and future success. Moreover, Ohio recently enacted the *Supporting Alternatives for Fair Education (SAFE)* Act. To benefit students and schools, this law strengthens requirements for school districts to implement PBIS, social-emotional learning supports and trauma-informed practices.

Each Ohio district and school now is required to have a PBIS framework that includes a continuum of behavioral intervention supports based on a three-tiered model or multi-tiered system of support (MTSS). Federal formula grants, such as Title I-A, Title II-A and Title IV-A, can be used for many purposes that could form part of a PBIS framework. In general, districts must use federal funds to supplement, not supplant, state or local funding sources. Find more on supplement, not supplant [compliance here](#). Any services required on a child’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may not be supported with Title I-A, II-A, III, IV-A, or V-B funds.

The chart below lists PBIS requirements for all districts and supplemental PBIS activities within federal formula grants. The suggestions below are possible supplemental PBIS activities, but are not the only allowable activities. Talk to your Federal Programs Coordinator if you need additional guidance.

Requirement:	State Law:	Possible Supplemental Activity:	Federal Fund:
A PBIS framework at all schools in the district that provides a continuum of behavioral intervention supports based on a three-tiered model or multi-tiered system of support (MTSS).	Ohio Revised Code 3319.46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counseling. • Behavior interventions. • School-based mental health services. 	<i>Title I-A</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for the use of referral mechanisms that link children to appropriate treatment and intervention services in the school and community, where appropriate. • Training for partnerships between school-based mental health programs and public or private mental health organizations. • Training for issues related to school conditions for student learning, such as safety, peer interaction, drug and alcohol abuse, and chronic absenteeism. 	<i>Title II-A</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stipends or supplemental contracts for PBIS leadership teams. • Purchase of supplemental or PBIS data systems to go beyond office referrals and detention. • Supplemental supplies, such as videos, posters and other resources to improve the effectiveness of the multi-tiered PBIS strategy. • Secondary reinforcements (previously called “incentives”) for demonstrating appropriate behavior in PBIS Tier I that are reasonable and necessary. Find reinforcements here. • Supplemental resources for Tiers 2 and 3 of the PBIS strategy, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Costs for evidence-based curricula; ○ Costs for building-level data collection; ○ A percentage of salary for internal PBIS coaches to be released from class time to work on PBIS; ○ Tiers 2 and 3 functional behavior assessments and plans; and ○ Expanded portion of the salary for a school resource officer. 	<i>Title IV-A</i>

<p>Each school district must provide professional development or continuing education in PBIS by November 2021 for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers in buildings that serve students in any of grades preK-3 who completed a teacher preparation program before Nov. 2, 2018; and Administrators who serve students in any of grades preK-3 who have not already completed a course, professional development or continuing education in PBIS. 	<p>Ohio Revised Code 3319.46</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting in-service training for school personnel on when and how to refer students affected by trauma and children with, or at risk of, mental illness. 	<p><i>Title II-A</i></p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PBIS training for staff of grades K-3, beyond Ohio's basic requirement of three hours of training. PBIS training for staff in grades 4-12. 	<p><i>Title IV-A</i></p>

Additional federal, state or local funds may be available to support PBIS and school climate initiatives. Be sure to follow federal supplement, not supplant, guidance for formula grants when using multiple funds to support the PBIS framework.

Additional PBIS Guidance:

[SAFE Act, Ohio Revised Code 3319.46](#)

[Ohio Administrative Code 3301-35-15](#)

[Policy on Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports and Restraint and Seclusion](#), adopted by the State Board of Education