


MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents
FROM: Daniel M. French, Ed.D., Secretary of Education 
SUBJECT: ESEA Title IV-A: Prohibition on Use of Funds for Weapons or Weapons Training
DATE: September 2, 2022

Background

Title IV, Part A (Title IV-A) is an important program that will help our students achieve academic recovery and begin the school year successfully. Recently, one aspect of Title IV-A allowability that has received attention is the use of Title IV-A funds to pay for weapons and weapons training. The Title IV-A program State coordinators have received information from the United States Department of Education resolving this question. Please forward this communication to those in your district who are responsible for making funding decisions about school safety or any other relevant funding decisions.

Prohibition of Use of ESEA Funds for Weapons or Weapons Training

The Office of Safe and Supportive Schools at the United States Department of Education shared information regarding S. 2938, the [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act](#), signed into law by President Biden on June 25, 2022.

Section 13401 of the Act amends section 8526 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to add a prohibition that no funds under the ESEA may be used for the provision to any person of a dangerous weapon, as defined in section 930(g)(2) of title 18, United States Code, or training in the use of a dangerous weapon.

A dangerous weapon is defined in section 930(g)(2) as a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocketknife with a blade of less than 2 1/2 inches in length.

The prohibition went into effect immediately on June 25, 2022, and applies to all ESEA funds, existing and future awards under all ESEA programs, including Title IV-A. If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Parker at heidi.parker@vermont.gov.