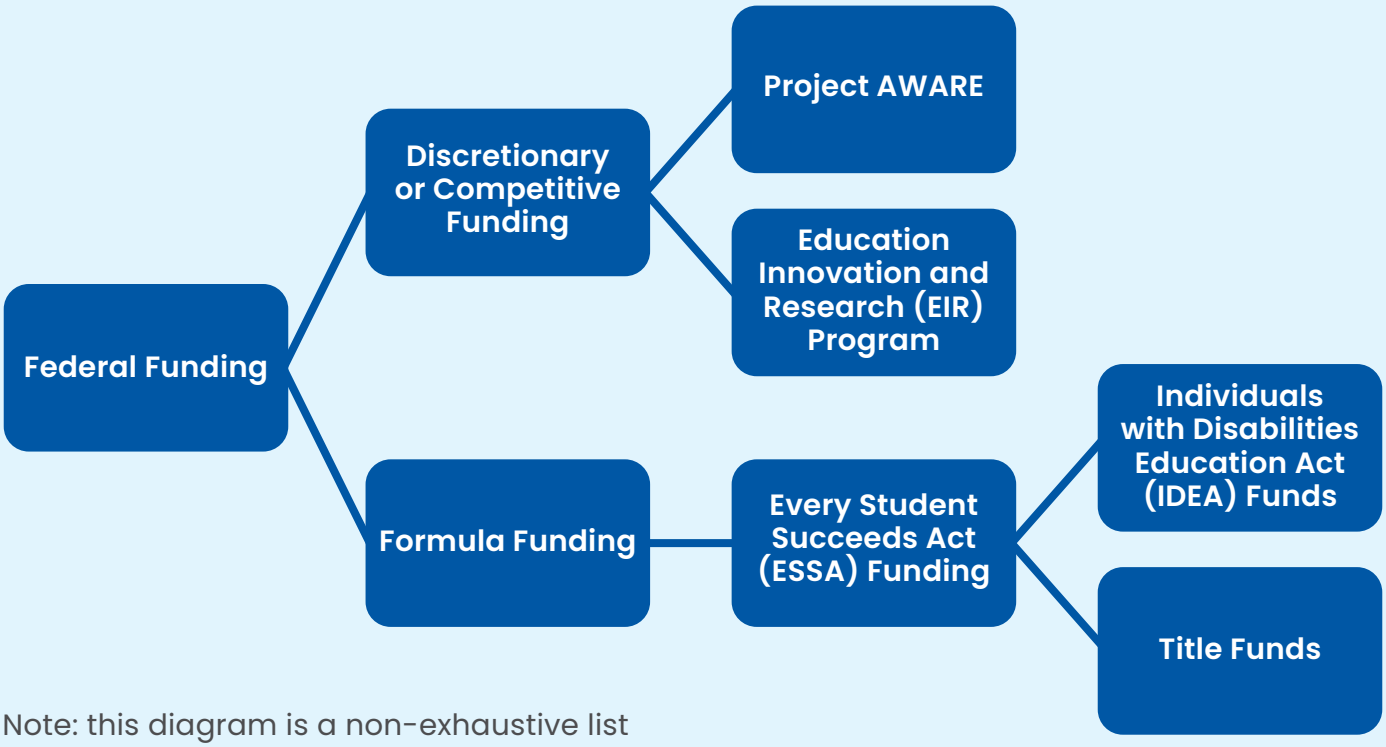
Navigating U.S. Funding for Social Emotional Learning

Social emotional learning (SEL) programs and services, like The Zones of Regulation® Digital Curriculum and Zones Trainings, are essential for supporting learners' well-being. Schools can fund SEL programs and trainings through different federal, state, and local resources, grants, and community partnerships. This guide provides an overview of U.S. federal funding available and how The Zones of Regulation Digital Curriculum and Zones Trainings can qualify.

Federal Funding Opportunities

The majority of federal funding for SEL comes from the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Funding typically falls into two categories: (1) Formula Funding, and (2) Discretionary or Competitive Funding.



Note: this diagram is a non-exhaustive list

Formula Funding for SEL

Formula funding is given to organizations, such as schools, based on criteria set by the federal government. The "formula" usually considers factors such as population size and median income within a school district. This approach determines both eligibility and the amount of funding provided. Unlike discretionary or competitive grants, formula funding ensures that all qualifying schools will receive financial support. For schools, this funding is often managed and distributed by the U.S. Department of Education.

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A main source of formula funding is the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which includes the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Title funds. ESSA helps distribute federal money to state and local education agencies. Below is an overview of each funding source and how the funds can be used to support SEL with The Zones of Regulation.

Tip for Maximizing Funding: If formula funding does not fully meet your needs, you can supplement it by applying for a discretionary or competitive grant (see section below).

Table Key

DC: The Zones Digital Curriculum offers a comprehensive approach to SEL for learners ages 4 and older.

T: The Zones Trainings ensure proper application of the curriculum across learning environments.

CR: The Zones Companion Resources include a wide array of tools and further guidance to implement the curriculum.

Funding Source	Funding Description	How The Zones Qualifies	DC	T	CR
IDEA Part B *Grants to States Program*	Provides funding to states to support education for children with disabilities ages 3-21, ensuring special education and related services to meet their needs.	Funds can be used to train special education teachers on The Zones of Regulation framework, integrate it into individualized education plans (IEPs) for students with disabilities, and purchase resources such as books, posters, and digital resources that support the Digital Curriculum.	✓	✓	✓
IDEA Part B *Preschool Grants for Children with Disabilities*	Provides funding for preschool-aged children with disabilities, supporting their special education and related services to promote school readiness.	Funds can be used for The Zones of Regulation to help young children with disabilities develop early self-regulation skills. Funding can be used for the Digital Curriculum and for training preschool staff to facilitate the learning of regulation skills.	✓	✓	✓

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Funding Source	Funding Description	How The Zones Qualifies	DC	T	CR
IDEA Part C *Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers*	Provides funding for early intervention services for infants and toddlers (birth to age three) with disabilities or developmental delays, along with their families.	Funds can be used for the Digital Curriculum and training of early intervention educators to use The Zones of Regulation with families and caregivers during home visits, helping them to foster these skills in young children with developmental delays or disabilities.	✓	✓	✓
Title I Part A *Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies*	Provides financial assistance to schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families.	Funds can be used to implement The Zones of Regulation Digital Curriculum and training across schools serving low-income students, where educators can be trained to support emotional and behavioral learning alongside academic instruction.	✓	✓	✓
Title I Part C *Migrant Education Program State Grants*	Supports educational programs for migrant children to help reduce the educational disruptions and other problems that result from repeated moves.	Funds can be used for Digital Curriculum and training for educators on how to use The Zones of Regulation with migrant children to support the social and emotional challenges that arise from frequent relocations and settlement.	✓	✓	✓
Title I Part D *Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At-Risk*	Funding for programs that provide educational services for children and youth in state-run institutions or community day programs.	Funds can be used to implement The Zones of Regulation Digital Curriculum and train educators in alternative schools and juvenile detention centers to support youth in regulation and promoting better social interactions and educational outcomes.	✓	✓	✓

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Funding Source	Funding Description	How The Zones Qualifies	DC	T	CR
Title II Part A *Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants*	Provides financial assistance to increase student achievement by improving the quality and effectiveness of teachers, principals, and other school leaders.	Funds can be used for educator professional development in using The Zones of Regulation, helping them to better support students' social and emotional needs in the classroom.		✓	
Title VI Part A *Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants*	Funding to improve students' academic achievement by increasing capacity to provide all students with access to a well-rounded education, improve school conditions for student learning, and improve the use of technology to enhance academic outcomes and digital literacy.	Funds can be used to support Digital Curriculum and training initiatives aimed at enhancing students' academic achievement by providing a well-rounded education that includes essential emotional and self-regulation skills. By integrating The Zones of Regulation, schools can improve learning conditions and climate to create safer and more supportive environments for academic success.	✓	✓	✓
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act	Provides funding to schools with high numbers or high percentages of children that are homeless or highly mobile to ensure they have access to the same free, appropriate public education, as other children.	Funds can support the purchase of The Zones of Regulation Digital Curriculum and the training of educators in schools with high rates of homelessness, providing a consistent framework for helping homeless and highly mobile students manage emotional stress and instability they may experience.	✓	✓	✓

Note: click the funding source title for access to additional information

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Discretionary or Competitive Funding for SEL

Competitive grants, often referred to as discretionary funding, are awarded based on how well a project meets certain criteria. Applicants are required to plan, budget, and describe a project in a detailed proposal. The proposal is submitted to a funding agency, where it is reviewed by a team who determines if the project aligns with the funding objectives.

At the federal level, the U.S. Department of Education offers a Getting Started Guide for those interested in discretionary or competitive grant applications. Below is an overview of two federal funding sources and how the funds can be used for The Zones of Regulation. Additionally, many competitive grants are offered at the state-level, and we recommend looking at your state Department of Education website for more information.

Tip for Success: When applying for a competitive grant, it is important to thoroughly review the requirements of the application. A well-developed project proposal can significantly boost your competitiveness and the likelihood you will receive funding.

Funding Source	Funding Description	How The Zones Qualifies	DC	T	CR
Project AWARE *(Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education)*	Provides funding to promote youth mental health awareness among schools and communities and improve connections to services. This program supports state and local education agencies in training school personnel and other adults to detect and respond to mental health issues in children and young adults.	The Zones of Regulation can be included in Project AWARE applications to enhance the mental health literacy of school personnel and other adults. The Zones of Regulation promotes the healthy social and emotional development of learners, aligning with Project AWARE's goals of increasing awareness and fostering safe and supportive schools.	✓	✓	✓

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Funding Source	Funding Description	How The Zones Qualifies	DC	T	CR
Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Program	Provides funding to create, develop, implement, replicate, or take to scale evidence-based, field-initiated innovations to improve student achievement and attainment for high-need students.	The Zones of Regulation can be used in an EIR grant that employs innovative delivery methods or pedagogical strategies that enhance the effectiveness of teaching SEL skills. Proposals may focus on using evidence-based approaches to expand The Zones' reach or impact, aligning with EIR's objectives of scaling proven educational innovations to improve student achievement and behavior.	✓	✓	✓

State Funding Resources

State funding is another option for supporting SEL initiatives. However, this funding varies significantly depending on the state. Here are some general tips and strategies to help you locate state-level funding opportunities:

- **Check your State's Department of Education Website:** Most state education departments have a grants or funding section on their website where they list available funding opportunities. This can include grants specifically for SEL or broader educational grants that could be applied to SEL programs.
- **Search Using Relevant Keywords:** Use specific keywords when searching online to find relevant funding opportunities. Keyword examples include "SEL funding," "state grants for SEL," "education grants," "mental health education funding," "school climate funding," in addition to the name of your state. This will help narrow down the search results to the most relevant opportunities.
- **Subscribe to Newsletters:** Many educational organizations and state education departments send out newsletters with updates on available grants and funding opportunities. Subscribing can keep you informed about new opportunities as they become available.
- **Network with Other Educators:** Networking with other educators and attending state educational conferences can provide insights and tips on how to secure state funding. Often, firsthand experiences from peers can offer practical advice and lead you to resources you may not have found on your own.

By integrating these strategies into your search for state funding, you can enhance your chances of securing financial support for your SEL initiatives.

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Additional Funding Resources

- **Grants.gov** lists formula funding and discretionary grant opportunities from 26 federal agencies.
- **Forecast of Funding** is a database of programs and competitions for the Department of Education.
- **Greenlights Grant Initiative** offers webinars and tutorials for how to access federal grants, including lists of grant opportunities and grant writing support.

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