

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 14, 2024

Karhlton F. Moore
Director
Bureau of Justice Assistance – Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice
810 7th Street NW
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Director Moore:

I write in strong support of the application submitted by the City of Franklin School District for funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Students, Teachers, Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Program. The City would use funds to expand on its efforts to address student mental health crises, raise community awareness and cultivate supportive emotional environments inside and outside of Franklin's schools.

The City of Franklin experiences higher-than-average levels of poverty and all of its related disadvantages, including substance use issues and an increased risk of trauma and adverse childhood experiences. In response to these issues, the Franklin School District created the Office of School Wellness to oversee the social and emotional learning of students and provide teachers, staff, families and community partners with the skills to recognize and respond to trauma. It has provided interventions and guidance at the schoolwide and individual levels with the understanding that prevention is an important tool in stopping school violence and enhancing school safety.

With support from BJA, the Franklin School District would build on its successes and its efforts to improve the climate and culture of its schools. It would rely on a Multi-Tiered System of Support framework that focuses on student wellness through youth engagement, resilience-building, community involvement, school staff training and trauma response. The Franklin School District successfully administered a STOP School Violence Program grant in previous years and worked to enrich community partnerships, develop intervention methods and expand services available to students. Additional funding would enable the district to build the capacity of its school-based and community-based teams to continue meeting the needs of students and fostering safer learning environments.

I support the application from the City of Franklin School District and urge your serious consideration of its worthy proposal. If you have any questions, please contact Jon Jarvis from my staff at (603) 647-7500.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator