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Trump administration 'considers funding guns in schools'

The Trump administration is considering allowing schools to access federal education funding to purchase guns for teachers, US media report.

The Department of Education (DoE) is looking at allowing states to use academic enrichment funds for firearms, the New York Times first reported.

- 5 Congress forbids using federal funds for school safety to purchase weapons.

After the school shooting in March that left 17 people dead, US lawmakers passed a \$50m (£39m) school safety bill that approved spending on metal detectors, locks and other security - but expressly forbade the purchase of guns.

- 10 US media report that the DoE is now turning to Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants to serve as a way of arming teachers and school officials with federal funds.

- 15 The enrichment programme is meant "to improve students' academic achievement" through providing a well-rounded education, improving school conditions for learning and improving the use of technology and digital literacy, according to the education department website.

These grants do not forbid the use of funds to buy weapons.

Currently, states are able to approve programmes giving teachers and staff permission to carry firearms.

At least 14 states already allow teachers to carry guns in school.

- 20 Democratic Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut responded to these reports on Thursday morning by introducing an amendment to a funding bill that would bar* the education department from letting schools use federal money to buy guns.

But some educators would be ready to use federal funds to purchase weapons.

- 25 President Donald Trump has called for arming teachers in response to recent school shootings in Florida and Texas.

Adapted from www.bbc.com, August 23rd, 2018

* bar = forbid