![SIA - Security Industry Association]

SIA GUIDE TO SCHOOL SECURITY FUNDING

A guide to federal and state funding sources and programs for school safety and security improvements

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INTRODUCTION

The Security Industry Association (SIA) is pleased to introduce the SIA Guide to School Security Funding for SIA members, their clients and our organizational partners, in response to the need for more centralized information on the variety of sources of funding available specifically for K-12 school security solutions, as more education leaders seek security enhancements to their facilities as a part of their comprehensive school safety strategies.

As we aim to continually update and improve the information provided in this resource, we encourage you to reach out to our staff with any feedback or additional information you may have.

There are three primary sources of funding for school security improvements: funds from regular **operating budgets**, local school **infrastructure bonds** and **state/federal grants**. The scope of the information provided is primarily related to the last category, grant funds. Program information is included based on the following criteria:

- Programs that were/are active in the current fiscal year
- Programs that can be funded in future years (e.g., excluding one-time-only, non-recurring appropriations)

Notably, this guide does not include information about grants that primarily fund school resource officers (SROs), security staff or other personnel-related expenses or programs that are limited to violence prevention training, mental health services and similar activities; while these are all key elements of school safety, the purpose of this guide is help identify specific sources of funding for equipment and technology for school security enhancements.

Also provided in the Key Supporting Documents and Resources section are key resources applicants can use to build and support grant applications that include these enhancements across many different programs.

Regardless of the source, using the right procurement mechanism can provide significant cost savings that can help you achieve the most effective security enhancements with the funding available, as well as bolster support for your project across multiple stakeholders. See Cooperative Purchasing Mechanisms at the end of this guide for more information.

U.S. Department of Justice – STOP School Violence Act Programs

Through the STOP School Violence Act enacted in 2018, Congress authorized nearly $1 billion for U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) school safety and security grants through 2028. These funds support two different programs within DOJ, one focused on violence prevention training and anonymous reporting technology through the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the other focused specifically on school security equipment and technology and related uses under the School Violence Prevention Program.

School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)

Administered by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, the SVPP program received $50 million in funding in 2020. The purpose of the program is specifically "to improve security at schools and on school grounds." According to program reports, the most common elements include in project awards are camera systems, access controls (e.g., doors, locks), communications technology (e.g., panic alarms, radios, repeaters), expedited notification to law enforcement, training for law enforcement and visitor management technologies. Eligible applicants include local districts, police departments and sheriff's departments in addition to units of "general" government (e.g., city, county, township). The 24-month awards range up to a maximum of $500,000 and require a local cash match of 25 percent.

Allowable Costs (Highlights)

Equipment
- Entry control
- Intrusion alarm systems
- Screening equipment
- Security lighting

Other Technology
- Two-way radios
- Duress alarm systems
- Emergency alerts/communication systems
- Identification/visitor management
- School facility mapping
- Bus tracking/route mapping
- Video surveillance technology

Additional Uses
- Salary/benefits for coordination personnel (non-sworn, civilian)
- Supplies
- Travel/training
- Consultant services

For more information, see the official SVPP program page as well as additional analysis on SIA's website.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) – Homeland Security Grants

Created in 2003, the DHS Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) provides grants to local, state and federal government agencies to assist in the implementation of the National Preparedness System.

HSGP consists of three programs: the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP), the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) and Operation Stonegarden. Allocation of grant awards within a state, including to subrecipients, are managed by each state administrative agency (SAA), typically a state homeland security or public safety department.

DHS has identified education facilities as a critical infrastructure subsector to government facilities, requiring federal coordination and assistance to state and local governments to secure. Accordingly, assistance to schools for preparedness activities is a statutorily authorized use of the DHS HSGP.

Homeland security grants can provide critical assistance to school districts with extremely limited budgets and/or those at high risk, where needed investments may be out of reach due to initial infrastructure and equipment cost.

Following enactment of the State and High-Risk Urban Area Working Group Act in 2016, stakeholder representation in committees and working groups that set local priorities for grants awarded through of the UASI and the SHSGP must include representatives from educational facilities.

Analysis by the Government Accountability Office suggests that HSGP funds for school security-related activities are underutilized, noting limited use of homeland security grants for emergency planning efforts at local districts and/or schools.

DHS – Nonprofit Security Grant Program

Conversely, many private schools, particularly religious schools, have received assistance through the DHS Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) for security improvements, which supports projects that address physical security vulnerabilities for nonprofit organizations considered "high risk" for terrorist attacks.

Each SAA applies for and administers NSGP funds on behalf of nonprofit organizations and establishes a state-specific process for recipients to apply on an annual cycle. This program received $90 million in 2020. NSGP recipients were awarded grants of up to $100,000 based on risk analysis, anticipated effectiveness and integration with state and local law enforcement.

U.S. Department of Education – Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

Every district in all 50 states will receive federal funds through the Title IV-A flexible block grant program, which was funded at $1.2 billion in 2020. Provided annually under the Every Student Succeeds Act, the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) funds have many allowable uses that fall within the broad categories of 1) well-rounded education opportunities, 2) safe and healthy students and 3) effective use of technology. Safety and security enhancements could fall under either of the latter two categories. Districts receive SSAE funds by formula based on their Title I allocation, through applications approved by state educational agencies (SEAs), typically the state departments of education.

A number of states encourage or even require district use of awarded funds to prioritize school safety enhancements, including student safety and effective use of technology within the larger framework of school and district emergency preparedness activities that address security, safety and emergency management. Each SEA will have further guidance districts within the state applying for Title IV-A funding.

Federal Communications Commission – E-Rate Program

Broadband high-speed internet and related networking infrastructure have tremendously enhanced classroom instruction and other capabilities. This same infrastructure also enables connected security devices. Virtually all security solutions depend at least in part on physical network infrastructure, the most important of which is power-over-ethernet (POE) cabling. Public schools can utilize the federal E-Rate program to fund expansion of POE infrastructure, along with other network infrastructure and communications needs, which can in turn help offset and lower the overall cost of security projects that require additional cabling.

STATE GRANTS

The following information includes summaries of state grant programs that were or are active in the current fiscal year and may be funded in future years. We do not include grants that primarily fund SROs, security staff or other personnel-related expenses or programs that are limited to violence prevention training, mental health services and similar activities. While these are all key elements of school safety, the purpose of this guide is help identify specific sources of funding for equipment and technology for school security enhancements.

best practices from multiple sources; visit the Safety & Security Facility Information page for more guidance. Additionally, in 2019, Colorado's attorney general published a Colorado School Security Guide outlining school safety planning processes and procedures.

Links

- School Emergency Response Grant Programs
- Colorado School Safety Resource Center
- SFY 2019 School Security Disbursement Program Application

Colorado

Grant Program	School Access for Emergency Response Grant
Funding Available in 2020	$5 million
Statewide Requirements	Purchasing communication devices to improve or enhance security
Statewide Guidance	Colorado Department of Education/Attorney General Guidelines
School Safety Center	Colorado School Safety Resource Center

Grant Program: School Access For Emergency Response Grant

The School Access for Emergency Response (SAFER) program enacted by Colorado Senate Bill (SB) 18-158 provides funding for interoperable communication hardware, software, equipment maintenance and training to allow for seamless communications between existing school communications systems and first responder communications systems. Grant recipients may use the money received through the grant program to deliver training programs to teach effective communications with first responders in an emergency, to implement an interoperable technology solution to provide or upgrade a system for effective communication with first responders in an emergency, to maintain, improve or provide interoperable communications hardware or software and for any necessary radio system capacity expansions where school loading has been determined to have a significant impact on public safety system loading.

Eligibility

Schools (school district/public school/charter school/board of cooperative services) and public safety communications system owners.

Allowable Use

Purchase and install interoperable communication hardware, software, equipment maintenance and training for communications between school communication systems and first responder communication systems.

Points of Contact

- Austin Geddis (austin.geddis@state.co.us)
- Teresa Cummins (teresa.cummins@state.co.us)

Statewide Guidelines or Requirements for School Facility Security

The Division of Capital Construction under the Colorado Department of Education promotes a safe and secure environment for students and school staff. The division leverages guidelines and

STATE GRANTS

Indiana

Grant Program	Indiana Secured School Safety Grant Fund
Funding Available in 2020	$19 million
Statewide Requirements	Video surveillance cameras and communication and monitoring devices for classroom
Statewide Guidance	2018 Indiana School Safety Recommendations
School Safety Center	Indiana School Safety Hub

Grant Program: Indiana Secured School Safety Grant Fund

The Indiana Secured School Safety Grant Fund program supports a dedicated state grant fund that provides matching grants to school corporations, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools and a coalition of school corporations and/or charter schools applying jointly to:

1. Employ SROs (salary, benefits and basic 40-hour training course);
2. Conduct threat assessments
3. Purchase equipment to restrict access to school facilities or expedite the notification of first responders
4. Support firearms training in districts that choose to implement such programs (new for fiscal year 2020)
5. Support the implementation of student and parent support services programs (new for fiscal year 20)
6. Fund the one-time startup costs of active alert warning systems (new for fiscal year 2020)

Allowable Uses and Requirements

The Secured School Safety Grant is a matching and reimbursement grant, which means that all schools will be required to spend money from their own funds first before receiving grant funding in the form of reimbursement for expenditures that occur during the period of performance.

Each school can apply for up to $100,000 in grant funds. If a school chooses to apply for grant funding, it will be required to match the grant funds. Match is calculated based on the school's average daily membership (ADM) and the amount of grant funding requested.

Point of Contact

Indiana Department of Homeland Security (grants@dhs.in.gov; (317) 232-2222)

Statewide Guidelines or Recommendations for School Facility Security

To date, more than $100 million has been invested in securing Indiana's schools through money appropriated by the Indiana general assembly, federal grants and matching funds used by local school districts, charter schools and nonpublic accredited schools. These funds have been used to improve building security (e.g., new doors, access control systems, video cameras), fund SROs and perform threat assessments to determine what threats exist and how to eliminate or respond to them. The 2018 Indiana School Safety Recommendations outline guidelines to making schools safer for students and faculty alike.

Links
- Secured School Safety Grant Program
- Notice of Funding Opportunity and Application Information for Fiscal Year 2020 Secured School Safety Grant Program
- Secured School Safety Grant Program Grants Office Page
- Helpful Hints for Grant Grantees
- Indiana School Safety Hub

Additional Insights

Additional funding may be accessed through the Indiana Common School Fund for improvements in school safety if the school has already been approved for a matching grant from the Indiana Secured School Fund.

Pursuant to HEA 1230 and Ind. Code 20-49-10-5(a), advances may be used to purchase equipment or make capital improvements needed to restrict access to schools, expedite the notification of first responders or improve school security. Learn more and apply on the Indiana Common School Fund page.

Michigan

Grant Program	Competitive School Safety Grant Program
Funding Available in 2020	$10 million
Statewide Requirements	Panic alarms; life safety devices
School Safety Center	N/A

Grant Program: Competitive School Safety Grant Program

The Competitive School Safety Grant Program (CSSGP) – funded by the Michigan state government and administered by the Michigan State Police – is designed to improve the safety and security of students, staff and school buildings through the purchase of technology and equipment. The maximum award per school is $50,000, and the maximum award per district is $250,000.

Eligibility Requirements

There are three requirements for eligibility:

1. First, have a recently updated emergency operations plan (EOP) that aligns with the State of Michigan EOP.
2. Ensure the Michigan Department of Education is aware of your EOP. You should have notified them the last time you updated it.
3. Be in compliance and have a good record of filing incident reports within 24 hours of any incident.

Eligible Expenses

There are quite a few eligible categories ranging from exterior doors to technology systems; these categories include:

- Exterior doorways
- Vestibules
- Exterior windows/glass
- Access control systems
- Intercom system with access
- Interior/classroom doorways
- Non-classroom interior doorways

- Interior windows/glass
- Barrier systems
- Public address/notification systems
- Duress/panic alarm systems
- Classroom intercom systems/two-way radios

Point of Contact

Office of School Safety (MSP-SchoolSafety@michigan.gov)

Links

- MSP CSSGP Website
- Expanded School Safety Summary List
- Fiscal Year 2020 CSSGP Informational Briefing

Nevada

Grant Program	School Safety Facility Improvements
Funding Available in 2020	$7.5 million (2020)
Statewide Requirements	Safety facility improvements
School Safety Center	N/A

Grant Program: School Security Grants – School Safety Facility Improvements

In the spring of 2018, former Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval convened the statewide School Safety Task Force (SSTF) following the tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, on Feb. 14, 2018. Task force members were charged with examining elements that contribute to safe and respectful learning environments and making recommendations regarding policy or fiscal improvements to support comprehensive school safety. The task force met throughout the following six months and delivered a final report of recommendations to Gov. Sandoval on Nov. 1, 2018. Following the acceptance of the report by newly elected Gov. Steve Sisolak, those recommendations translated into policy recommendations and budget enhancements, which were included for consideration by the 80th (2019) session of the Nevada Legislature.

The passage of several key bills during the 2019 legislative session constitutes a comprehensive approach to school safety with both policy and fiscal enhancements to support a holistic approach to the creation of safe and respectful learning environments. These bills include SB 89, which was an all-inclusive omnibus bill reflecting the SSTF's final recomendations, as well as Nevada SB 528, 551 and 555, which appropriate funding to support the comprehensive approach envisioned by the task force.

This application creates the mechanism for compliance with those legislative mandates while supporting districts, charters and schools in efforts to meet the unique needs of their school communities and also acts as an agreement between local education agencies and the state education agency for creating the conditions necessary to support collaborative and responsive partnership as we work toward safer schools for all students and staff.

Eligible Applicants

This request for new funding application is open to all Nevada school districts and charter academies on behalf of those schools that wish to apply for funding from the school safety account.

Allowable Uses and Requirements

The school safety account was created in response to the recommendations included in the SSTF's final report, which is included in Part IV for your reference. The goals for each of the programs included in this application align with those recommendations as well as legislative intent as captured in the policy and appropriations bills that created this funding. A brief description of the goals for each program is listed below, and additional information can be found in the SSTF final report, in the funding legend and within the language of each bill.

School Safety Facility Improvements

This appropriation provides for a one-time allocation to support capital improvements based on a school facility safety audit which has been conducted within the previous four years and by an approved vendor, contractor or qualified district/charter employee who meets the qualifications to be a school safety specialist, as outlined in Section 7.5 of Senate Bill 89. Approved capital improvement projects must be identified in the school safety audit. This is the only program under the school safety account for which unexpended award funds will carry forward from fiscal year 2020 to fiscal year 2021.

Available Funds

The amounts for each program covered by the RFA and within the School Safety account are listed below. More information regarding funding for each program can be found in Part IV under the Funding Legend and in the Budget Instructions.

Facility Improvements: $7,500,000.00 one-time appropriation across the biennium for rural districts; $8,340,845.00 in fiscal year 2020 and $8,340,845.00 in fiscal year 2021 open to all districts.

Points of Contact

- Christy McGill, director (cmcgill@doe.nv.gov)
- Amber Reid, education programs professional (areid@doe.nv.gov, (775) 687-9161)

Links

- State of Nevada Department of Education Grant Information
- School Safety Funds Update
- Application School Safety Funding for FY20-FY21

New Jersey

Grant Program	Alyssa's Law Compliance and School Security Grants
Funding Available in 2020	$75 million for Alyssa's Law compliance (2020)
Statewide Requirements	Panic alarms (Alyssa's Law)
School Safety Center	New Jersey Center for School Safety

Grant Program: Alyssa's Law Compliance and School Security Grants

The Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act (Bond Act) provides $350 million in grants for eligible projects that expand career and technical education programs in county vocational school districts and enhance school security in all school districts. Of the $350 million, $75 million has been allocated for school security upgrades in public school districts. Funding for the installation of panic alarm systems to comply with Alyssa's Law, P.L. 2019, c.33, is prioritized.

Allowable Uses and Requirements

All New Jersey school districts are required to demonstrate compliance with Alyssa's Law using the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Homeroom application regardless of whether they intend to apply for school security grants authorized by the Bond Act.

Alyssa's Law Compliance and Application Information

Alyssa's Law defines a "panic alarm" as a silent security system signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-threatening or emergency situation requiring a response from law enforcement. The law states that each public elementary and secondary school building in New Jersey shall be equipped with at least one panic alarm that is directly linked to local law enforcement authorities. Further, the law requires that the panic alarm adhere to nationally recognized industry standards, including those of the National Fire Protection Association and Underwriters Laboratories, and be installed by a licensed alarm system installer.

In December 2019, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (NJSDA) adopted regulations addressing Procedures for Compliance with Alyssa's Law and, in collaboration with NJDOE, issued Preliminary Guidance on Alyssa's Law Compliance and School Security Grants. Districts should review NJSDA's regulations and the preliminary guidance for information on compliant systems as they complete the online application.

The compliance application will be preloaded with the schools in each district and will walk districts through the information and supporting documentation necessary to achieve a certification of compliance for each school building. Districts will be notified through the Homeroom system of NJSDA's certification of compliance, requests for further supporting information or denial of certification.

The application deadline for the Alyssa's Law Compliance Certification is Aug. 12, 2020.

School Security Grant Eligibility

To be eligible for a school security grant under the Bond Act, districts must first demonstrate Alyssa's Law compliance or provide a proposed plan for Alyssa's Law compliance for each school building in the district. Each district should therefore begin work on the Alyssa's Law compliance application as soon as possible and obtain a certification of compliance or approval of planned work to comply with Alyssa's Law before applying for a Bond Act grant. The application for Bond Act grants is anticipated summer 2020.

Points of Contact

- Alyssa's Law compliance inquiries (AlyssasLaw@njsda.gov)
- Bond Act grant funding inquiries (chapter26A@doe.nj.gov)

Links

- Alyssa's Law Compliance
- New Jersey Center for School Safety
- Preliminary Guidance on Alyssa's Law Compliance and School Security Grants

New York

Grant Program	Religious and Independent School – School Safety Equipment Funds
Funding Available in 2020	TBD
Statewide Requirements	Video surveillance cameras and communication and monitoring devices for classrooms; life safety devices
School Safety Center	New York State Center for School Safety

Grant Program: Religious and Independent School – School Safety Equipment Funds

New York's Religious and Independent School – School Safety Equipment Funds program provides religious and independent schools with reimbursement for expenditures related to certain school safety and health expenses.

Eligibility

Religious and independent schools (nonprofit or not-for-profit schools only) that have New York State Education Department (NYSED)-issued Basic Educational Data System (BEDS) codes, have valid Office of the State Comptroller Vendor ID numbers (or will obtain them), have filed BEDS enrollment data for the 2017-18 school year that include grades kindergarten and higher and are currently open are eligible for this program. Eligibility has already been determined based upon department data.

Allowable Uses and Requirements

- External lighting to illuminate primary entry doors
- Access control systems, which may include:
  - An intercom to speak to visitors
  - Remote electronic door unlatching systems
  - External cameras
  - Interface with the building management system
  - Central lockdown buttons
- Bollards and steel safety guards
- Acceptable door hardening items, including:
  - Door replacement
  - Door hardware replacement
  - Door frame replacement
  - Sidelight removal
  - Sidelight frame replacement
  - Door or window vision panels sized to limit opening size
  - Door or sidelight glass material changes
  - Bars, grills or other protective measures over existing glass to prevent access
- Security fences
- Glass films including security films or tinted films
- Walkie-talkies and radios

Projects ineligible for reimbursement include but are not limited to:

- The instillation of bullet-resistant glass in perimeter windows other than entrances
- Systems to scan visitor ID (such as driver's licenses) and compare those results with law enforcement databases (considered an operation expense)
- Other construction expenses

Points of Contact

- Office of School Governance, Policy and Religious and Independent Schools
  Christina Coughlin, assistant commissioner (emscmgts@nysed.gov)
- Facilities Planning
  Rosanne Groff, coordinator (emscfp@nysed.gov)
- Grants Management (emscmsa@nysed.onmicrosoft.com)
- Additional Grant Questions (soris@nysed.gov)

Links

- NYSED.gov Nonpublic School Safety Page
- New York State Center for School Safety

Ohio

Grant Program	Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation School Safety and Security Grants
Funding Available in 2020	$40,000 per employer
Statewide Requirements	Exterior access controls; classroom locks
School Safety Center	Ohio School Safety Center

Grant Program: Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation School Safety and Security Grants

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) School Safety and Security Grant Program provides assistance to Ohio employers with ensuring the safety of their staff who instruct children throughout the state. The program is available to eligible Ohio employers who wish to purchase equipment to substantially improve the safety and security of facilities and to reduce or eliminate injuries or illnesses associated with providing educational services to children.

The program is available only to Ohio employers that operate licensed preschool through 12th- grade educational facilities. View the complete policy for the program here. Eligible employers may receive up to $40,000 for the duration of the program.

Allowable Uses and Requirements

Allowable uses and requirements for school safety and security grants include (but are not limited to):

- Incident response equipment, including:
  - Equipment bags/backpacks stocked with trauma first aid supplies
  - Two-way communication devices and software designed to directly interface with emergency responder radio systems
  - School-wide panic alarm/panic button system
- Building/grounds/transportation security, including:
  - Interior and exterior security doors and mechanisms (e.g., panic bars or other fire code-compliant door locking mechanisms, bulletproof glass, bullet-resistant coating materials for existing glass)
  - Protective vehicle crash barriers in front of entrances
  - Modifications of building/facility entrances to restrict access
  - Secured key card systems
  - Metal detectors (fixed or portable)
  - Security cameras
  - Emergency (police dispatch) call poles

Note: A local match of 25 percent of the grant amount is required.

Point of Contact

BWC Division of Safety & Hygiene (DSHSG@bwc.state.oh.us)

Links

- Ohio BWC School Safety and Security Grant Program
- Ohio School Safety Center

STATE GRANTS

Texas

Grant Program	School Safety and Security Grant
Funding Available in 2020	$100 million
Statewide Requirements	Security upgrades and security systems
School Safety Center	Texas School Safety Center

Grant Program: School Safety and Security Grant

$100 million was appropriated to the Texas Education Agency to provide funding to public schools for:

- Exterior doors with push bars
- Metal detectors at school entrances
- Erected vehicle barriers
- Security systems that monitor and record school entrances, exits and hallways
- Campus-wide active shooter alarm systems that are separate from fire alarms
- Two-way radio systems
- Perimeter security fencing
- Bullet-resistant glass or film for school entrances
- Door locking systems

Points of Contact

- Cory Green, Department of Grant Compliance and Administration (cory.green@tea.texas.gov, (512) 463-8992)
- Funding contact: Lisa Gonzales, Grants Administration Division (lisa.gonzales@tea.texas.gov, (512) 463-8525)

Links

- Texas Education Agency 2019-2021 School Safety and Security Grant
- 2019-2021 School Safety and Security Grant Program Guidelines Texas School Safety Center

Virginia

Grant Program	School Security Equipment Grants
Funding Available in 2020	$12 million
Statewide Requirements	Exterior access controls and classroom locks
School Safety Center	Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

Grant Program: School Security Equipment Grants Program

Districts in Virginia are eligible to receive up to $250,000 each fiscal year through a competitive grant process. To be considered, grant applications must be submitted to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). Applications to VDOE can be accessed through the Single Sign-On for Web-based Systems portal under the Security Equipment Grant Management application.

Allowable Uses and Requirements

Districts are required to use these funds to purchase security equipment that will be used in school buildings and any related equipment installation costs in eligible schools. School security equipment may include, but is not limited to, the following equipment (and associated installation costs):

- Intercom systems
- Hurricane or ballistic security window film
- Technology equipment to support security systems
- Security door hardware
- Electronic access control systems
- Visitor badging system
- Surveillance equipment and cameras
- Security scanning equipment
- Two-way radios
- Security alarm systems
- Mass notification telephone systems equipment
- Security panic systems
- Security lighting systems
- Classroom security door locks
- Uninterrupted power supply

Note: A local match of 25 percent of the grant amount is required.

Funding History

In 2019, the Virginia General Assembly doubled the maximum grant allowed for each school division from the original $6 million in grant funding to $12 million.

Point of Contact

Division of Support Services

Email: Vijay.Ramnarain@doe.virginia.gov, Hunter.Barnes@doe.virginia.gov, Ann.Belanger@doe.virginia.gov

Phone: (804) 225-2037 or (804) 225-2035

Link

- Virginia Department of Education Security Equipment Grants
- Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

Key Supporting Documents and Resources for Grant Applications

Grant applicants are often asked or required to provide supporting documentation for their projects to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent to support programs, technology and equipment that are both needed by the applicant and effective. There is a significant and growing body of work on school security best practices to help validate these technology and equipment needs, which have been identified in part through public commissions and task forces throughout the country established to provide recommendations, formulate guidelines and set standards for school security, as well as initiatives by nongovernmental organizations.

SchoolSafety.gov

SchoolSafety.gov is a clearinghouse of "actionable recommendations to create a safe and supportive learning environment where students can thrive and grow" launched in 2020 as a key recommendation of the Federal Commission on School Safety. Physical security is one of nine school safety topics covered on the site, which provides key federal resources on school security, including recent DHS guidance and U.S. Department of Education tools, as well as third-party information.

Partner Alliance for Safer Schools

The Partner Alliance for Safer Schools (PASS) offers the most comprehensive information available on best practices specifically for securing school facilities, vetted extensively by experts across the education, public safety and industry sectors. PASS' key publication, the PASS Safety and Security Guidelines for K-12 Schools, is endorsed by SchoolSafety.gov and included as one of its recommended resources.

NSBA Center for Safe Schools

The NSBA Center for Safe Schools is an initiative of the National School Boards Association (NSBA) to "support and ensure a safe and secure environment for students, staff and the community by providing resources, information and best practices." Resources provided fall under four key categories, including infrastructure, or physical aspects of school buildings and facilities designed to safeguard against attacks and potential threats.

Additional Resources

- Final Report of the Federal Commission on School Safety
- Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission
- Sandy Hook Commission Recommendations
- Connecticut School Safety and Security Plan Standards
- Indiana School Safety Guidelines
- New Jersey School Safety Task Force
- Texas Unified School Safety and Security Standards
- DHS Building and Infrastructure Protection Series: Primer to Design Safe School Projects (FEMA-428/BIPS-07)

State-Specific Security Requirements

More than a dozen states have established guidelines or set standards, and many others are working to do the same. One of the core reasons grant funding is sought for safety and security enhancements is to meet requirements or guidelines that apply to the jurisdiction. While an exhaustive listing and comparison of these measures is beyond the current scope of this guide, the following are the most common requirements.

- Restricted visitor access and sign-in
- Exterior access controls

- Crime prevention through environmental design
- Two-way communications in classrooms and other areas
- Interior access controls/locks
- Panic/emergency notification systems
- Electronic surveillance
- Bullet-/blast-resistant materials
- Staff and student IDs and access management

Cooperative Purchasing Mechanisms

Cooperative Purchasing Using the General Services Administration Schedule Contract

Cooperative purchasing under the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) Contract allows local government agencies like school districts to use the GSA Contract for Schedule 70 (information technology products and services) and Schedule 84 (security, law enforcement, building controls and emergency preparedness products and services). Cooperative purchasing effectively allows these local agencies to work with vetted suppliers of these products and services under the same terms and pricing competitively negotiated with the federal government while avoiding the hassle of administering their own procurement processes.

To ensure customers receive the best value from GSA Schedule contractors, GSA recommends, but does not require, that state and local purchasing officials follow schedule ordering procedures in Federal Acquisition Regulation 8.4. All entities should follow the ordering and competitive procedures that meet their local procurement regulations."

For more information, visit GSA's purchasing page and FAQs page. Additionally, note that:

- An approved contractor will have a ![COOP PURCH] symbol next to their approved special item numbers or categories in the GSA eLibrary and next to their approved products and services in the GSA Advantage system.
- State and local entities may do market research and online ordering through the online GSA Advantage system.
- State and local entities may post requests for information and requests for quote, in order to ensure competition, through GSA's online tool GSA eBuy

Other Cooperative Purchasing Programs for State and Local Government

Local agencies may use other cooperative agreements offered throughout the nation, which include the following:

U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance

U.S. Communities has over 90,000 participating agencies from both the public and nonprofit sectors. Its co-sponsors include the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the National Governor Association, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Association of School Business Officials International.

Generally, the following agencies are eligible to use the U.S. Communities program:

- Counties, cities, towns and villages
- Special districts (e.g., fire, sewer, water)
- Public schools, including K-12 schools, community colleges, universities and technical and vocational institutions
- State agencies
- Other local governments
- Nonprofit corporations (including private K-12 schools and private colleges and universities)

COOPERATIVE PURCHASING MECHANISMS

U.S. Communities offers participating public agencies the ability to make purchases through existing, competitively solicited contracts between suppliers and lead public agencies. When the lead public agency issues a solicitation, it contains language based on the lead jurisdiction "Joint Powers Authority" or "Cooperative Procurement" program. Applying these competitive principles satisfies the competitive bid requirements for most state and local government agencies. U.S. Communities contracts are established to meet both the competitive solicitation and consent requirements. Public agencies accessing U.S. Communities consent to a Master Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement. There is no cost to agencies to participate. The suppliers pay a minimum fee to participate. U.S. Communities does not have a most favored customer requirement.

NASPO ValuePoint

NASPO ValuePoint is a cooperative purchasing program facilitating public procurement solicitations and agreements using a lead-state model. NASPO ValuePoint is the cooperative purchasing arm of the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO). All 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories may participate. Opportunities are posted on the NASPO ValuePoint eMarket website. To access the website, you must first register in the supplier's toolbox.

National IPA Cooperative

National IPA uses the cooperative buying power of more than 50,000 entities. Each contract is competitively solicited, evaluated and awarded by a public agency/governmental entity (e.g., state, city, county, public university, school district) acting as the lead agency. All agreements offered through National IPA have been awarded via a thorough request for proposal competitive solicitation. For even the most restrictive agencies nationwide to realize the best value offered by cooperative procurement, National IPA ensures that industry best practices, processes and procedures are applied and includes language to make the agreement accessible nationally to agencies in states that allow intergovernmental (e.g., "piggyback") contract usage. Lead agencies include the following:

National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance

Region 14 ESC is the lead public agency of the National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (NCPA). Region 14 ESC is a local governmental agency in the state of Texas, authorized by Chapter 8 of the Education Code. The lead public agency competitively solicits master contracts on behalf of NCPA and public agencies. Contracts are based on quality, performance and pricing. These contracts are advertised nationally for a minimum of 30 days. The solicitation contains language that allows the contract to be accessible nationally to public agencies in states whose laws allow for intergovernmental contract use (also known as "piggybacking" or "adopting"). Vendors respond to the solicitation with sealed responses that are recorded and publicly opened. The lead agency is responsible for evaluating the responses and awards the contract. Over 90,000 agencies participate in this program. Companies interested in becoming an awarded vendor must respond to a solicitation for the commodity or service that best fits their offering. All solicitations are advertised through USA Today and posted on the NCPA Solicitations page.

Sourcewell (formerly the National Joint Powers Alliance Cooperative or NJPA)

As a service cooperative, Sourcewell is a government unit of the state of Minnesota, and all employees are government employees. Sourcewell was authorized by state law as an educational cooperative service unit (Service Cooperative #924) to serve education and government entities with solutions, as outlined in Minn. Stat. 123A.21. All education and government entities, as well as nonpublic schools and nonprofit organizations, can apply for Sourcewell membership.

Additional Cooperative Purchasing Contracts
- Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies
- Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee
- Buyboard
- Capitol Region Purchasing Council
- Choice Partners National Purchasing Cooperative
- Educational & Institutional Cooperative Purchasing
- Go Green Communities
- GoodBuy Purchasing Cooperative
- H-GAC Cooperative Purchasing Program
- HGAC Energy Purchasing Corporation
- Kansas City Regional Purchasing Cooperative
- Midwestern Higher Education Compact
- NPPGov
- Public Sourcing Solutions
- Purchasing Cooperative of America
- Southeast Florida Governmental Purchasing Cooperative
- OMNIA Partners, Public Sector (formerly The Cooperative Purchasing Network)
- Texas Department of Information Resources
- Unified Purchasing Cooperative of the Ohio River Valley
- Washington School Information Processing Cooperative