



Federal School Safety Grants Public K-12 Schools

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Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) - US DOJ

Best Practices for School Building Security

Federal Commission on School Safety, Protect and Mitigate

- School building target hardening:
 - Campus property, buildings, classrooms and offices
 - Layers of security, protective measures, eliminate gaps
 - Detect, deter, or deflect crime and active threats
 - The principles of CPTED - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- Improving culture and climate of the schools:
 - Evidence based approaches
- Tiered approach that includes:
 - Access control, Mass notifications, video surveillance, access control, visitors management, etc...
 - Integrated and intuitive systems for the non-security professional

School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)

The U.S. Department of Justice COPS Office provides funding for school safety through the [School Violence Prevention Program](#).

This is a competitive grant program that provides funding directly to states, units of local government, Indian tribes, and public K-12 school districts, to be used to improve safety and security at schools and on school grounds.

This program was developed, after the Parkland Florida school shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School, to fill the gaps of school security and safety needs.

Quick facts:

- Public K-12 School Districts only (no private schools or higher Ed)
 - Charter Schools may be a sub-grantee of a municipality or police department
- SVPP - Allowable Costs - [Source document](#)
- The grant is typically released for application in March with a 60 day application period (10 year appropriation of Congress)
- Maximum Federal award is \$500,000. There is a 75/25 percent match.
 - Example - if the project was about \$670,000 total, the grant award would be \$500,000 with a local match of \$170,000 (25% plus the award that is capped at \$500,000)
- A partnership is required between law enforcement and schools with a memorandum of understanding or intergovernmental agreement
- How to apply: required [SAM](#), [Grants.gov](#) account, and a US DOJ [Justgrants Portal](#)

Some preference is given to clients in:

- Enhanced Public Safety in Qualified Opportunity Zones
- High-Poverty Areas or Persistent-Poverty Counties
- Historically Disadvantaged Communities
- Rurality

Understanding the WHY - Writes a better Application

Summary and resource links:

The United States Department of Justice ([US DOJ](#)), Office of Community Oriented Policing Services ([COPS](#)) provides funding for public K-12 school safety through the School Violence Prevention Program Grant.

This grant program was designed to help fill the gaps in school safety and security. It was developed based on the extensive research conducted, after the Parkland Florida [school massacre](#), at Stoneman Douglas High School.

Types of Projects

- The following are only examples of projects that have been successful in past grant awards.
- This tiered approach should drive the conversation of next steps.
- All school districts will be in different places in their needs for security and safety solutions.
- This approach is our recommendation of best practice based on our research and experience on how school districts may proceed with their safety and security priorities.

Resources:

- Allowable Projects
 - Past grant approved safety measures can be found at this [link](#).
- Map
 - See if a school district in your area received a SVPP grant at this [link](#).

Tier 1

If you are starting from scratch, start with these:

Mass communication emergency notification system

- That broadcasts a message to the entire interior and exterior of the building, while communicating with police, administration...

Electronic Access Control

- Entry control equipment, with limited access points that are integrated with the mass communication system requiring FOB access and lockable if panic button activated, while...

Two-Way Radios with Repeaters

- School and District wide FCC licensed two-way radio communication...

Panic Buttons - Front Office Silent Alarms

- These buttons serve as a silent alarm notification to police, administration, and ...

Visitor Management System at all sites

- District wide visitor management that provides for system alerts, allows for local warnings on potential visitors, and checks visitors against sex offender registration.

Tier 2

These are the next tier defenses against school violence:

Interior Door Locks - Lockdown Locks

- Provide standard door hardware and universal key for the interior ability to lockdown from the inside.

Pull Station Alarms for Run, Hide, Fight

- Install pull stations around all schools for the purpose of emergency notification, active threat...

Aggressive Noise Sensors

- Noise decibel sensors that activate an alarm to school administrators/SRO of aggressive noise detection (screams, fights, damage, vape drug use, gunshots) systems.

Security Video Surveillance Systems

- Camera system provides smart building technologies that integrate with other systems

Analytic Intelligence (AI) Monitoring of Camera Systems

- AI that will monitor all current camera systems that identify persons of interest and their contact history, in real-time and historically, for forensic investigations...

Tier 3

These round out your school safety infrastructure.

Fences - Perimeter Security with lockability

- The installation of fences at schools provides protection barriers off property...

Mirrors - Ceiling and Corner, Supervisor and Run, Hide, Fight

- Mirrors will act as a force multiplier for staff supervision of students in hallways and provide view, around a corner or into an otherwise hidden line of sight area for run, hide fight, safer escape routes...

Metal Detectors

- Install pass through metal detectors, or handheld devices...

Bullet Resistant Window Film

- Install bullet resistant film to be installed at entrance points...

Motion Sensor Security Lights - Exterior Night Security

- Lighting on school grounds, exterior motion detector security lights to reduce vandalism, damage

Violence Prediction Technology

- Including data driven software

What you need to be competitive:

Start preparing now:

- Security vulnerability assessment with local police
- Partnership with emergency responders
- After action reports on school safety drills, exercises, or actual events
- Threat assessment procedures and forms
- Emergency operations plans shared with police and fire
- MOUs or IGAs
- School safety drill reports
- Information sharing agreements
- Data on mental health/wellbeing referrals
- What are your evidence based approaches to positive school environment

Grant writer assistance:



Our team will:

- Complete, verify, update all required Federal grant/contract application requirements and the COPS SVPP grant application/narratives/assurances
- Complete all submissions in the grant site portal, Grants.gov SF424 form, account management on behalf of the school district, assist with all letters of support, develop all narratives, and your security project integration with grant requirements
- All grant documents, narrative, login, and passwords will remain property of the client. In case this application is not funded, the client can use the materials for the next year or any other grant application needed.
- Flat fee
- Please contact john@grantspecialties.com