DOJ School Safety Grants Overview

2018 AASA Legislative Advocacy Conference

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SIA Director of Government Relations
SIA School Safety Objectives

• Encourage nationwide use of best practices and sensible standards

• Promote adoption of successful state programs and initiatives

• Maintain and expand federal assistance
STOP School Violence Act

• Included in Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-141)

• Creates two new U.S. Department of Justice grants for school safety/security

  • Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Program
    • $50 million in FY18/$66 million FY19-28

  • Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program
    • $25 million in FY18/$33 million FY19-28
The School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)

- Resembles former Secure Our Schools (SOS) grants in scope and purpose

- Purpose: “to improve security at schools and on school grounds in the jurisdiction of the grantee through evidence-based school safety programs”

- Eligible grantees – states, local government and Indian tribes (can partner with or sub-award to LEAs, schools and other 3rd parties)

- 24-month award, max $500,000. Local match reduced to 25% (cash, not in-kind)

- [https://cops.usdoj.gov/grants](https://cops.usdoj.gov/grants) - application deadline: July 30, 2018
COPS Grant Example

FY2011: $465,000 - City of Virginia Beach, with VBCPS & VBPD

3 high schools identified with highest needs: 32-57 years old

- No CPTED design
- Unlocked, unmonitored doors during and before school hours
- Unsecured portable classrooms
- Many interior/exterior areas unmonitored by security cameras
- Assaults from intruders
- False intrusion alarms

Improvements

- Ability to lock all exterior doors
- Electronic locks with card readers on select doors
- Card access program for staff
- Replacement of outdated security cameras and related equipment
The School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) – Allowable Uses

• Acquisition and installation of technology for expedited notification of local law enforcement during an emergency (new emphasis)

• Coordination with local law enforcement

• Placement and use of metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures

• Training for local law enforcement officers to prevent student violence against others and self (new)

• Any other measure that, in the determination of the COPS Director, may provide a significant improvement in security
Allowable Costs – Highlights

• Coordination Personnel
  • Nonsworn, civilian

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

• Supplies

• Travel/Training

• Consultants

• Technology
  • Two-way radios
  • Duress alarm systems
  • Emergency alerts/comm. system
  • Identification/visitor management
  • School facility mapping
  • Bus tracking/route mapping
  • Video surveillance technology
Unallowable Costs – Highlights

• Sworn personnel
• Security guards
• Armored or weaponized vehicles
• Bulletproof vests
• Firearms/related training
• Radar guns
• Tasers
• Animals
Preferential Considerations

• Need for improved security

• Need for financial assistance

• Ability to make the improvements sought

• Project fits within broader school safety planning process, supported by:
  • Site assessment, risk assessment, emergency operations plans, routine training
    and drills, etc.

• Use of evidence-based strategies and programs
Special Note – “Evidence-Based” Definition

in the case of technology or equipment, demonstrates that use of the technology or equipment is:

• consistent with best practices for school security, including

  • applicable standards for school security established by a Federal or State government agency; and

  • findings and recommendations of public commissions and task forces established to make recommendations or set standards for school security; and

• compliant with all applicable codes, including building and life safety codes
Resources

• Safety And Security Guidelines for K-12 Schools
  www.passk12.org

• Sandy Hook Commission Recommendations

• Indiana School Safety Guidelines
  https://www.in.gov/dhs/4043.htm

• New Jersey School Safety Task Force

  https://www.dhs.gov/publication/k-12-school-security-guide
School Safety Challenges

• Inconsistent implementation

• Lack of standardization

• Focus on lowest-cost solutions

• Proliferation of unproven or non-compliant solutions

• Many districts too small to have full-time safety/security staff with relevant expertise
PASS Safety and Security Guidelines for K-12 Schools

- Layered security approach
- Scalable/tiered measures by risk/available budget
- Best practices for implementing tech solutions

Created by:
- School safety officials
- Law enforcement
- School designers and code experts
- Security industry professionals

Intended for:
- School superintendents, safety/security directors or other administrators responsible for school security
- School security integrators

www.passk12.org
# Checklist/Assessment – Components and Best Practices

## Components of Layers

1. Policies & Procedures
2. People (roles and training)
3. Architectural
4. Communication
5. Access Control
6. Video Surveillance
7. Alarms

## LAYER - Building Perimeter

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<th>Policies and Procedures</th>
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