Grant Funding for K-12 School Security Improvements

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David started his career as a forensic scientist at the Northern Illinois Police Crime Laboratory and earned a B.S. in criminalistics from the University of Illinois at Chicago and an M.S. in forensic science from the University of Illinois College of Pharmacy.

David has presented professionally to the National Institute of Justice, American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Forensic Science Society (UK), International Association for Identification (IAI), ISC West, International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), INTERPOL in Lyon, France, and various defense and homeland security groups. He was also a contributing member of the Department of Defense Gatekeeper On The Move – Biometrics (GOTM-B) team for contactless, multi-modal biometrics and threat detection.

Today, David is responsible for state and local government and education strategic business development for Convergint Technologies' eastern U.S. regions and leads Convergint's Grants & Funding Team. Convergint is the world's largest private security systems integrator.
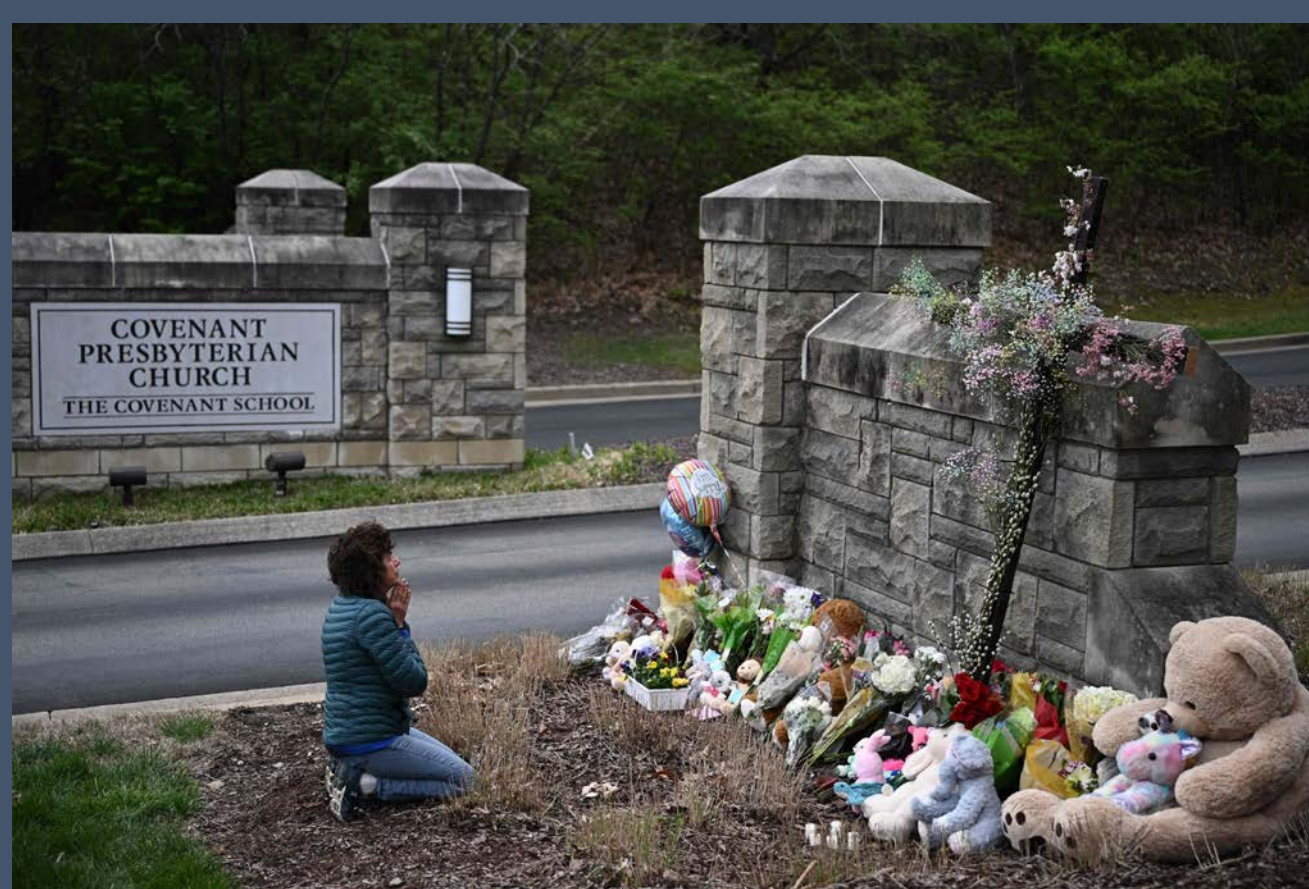
School Safety Matters.

Photo illustration

<u>Agenda</u>

There are three primary sources of funding for school security improvements: funds from regular operating budgets, local school infrastructure bonds, and state/federal grants. We will be focusing on the third of these funding sources today:

- ❑ Federal Funding
    - ❑ Title I and Title IV Funding
    - ❑ ED, DOJ & DHS Grant Funding
- ❑ State Funding or State-Administered Federal Funding
- ❑ SIA Guide to School Security Funding

Federal Funding

HHS Secretary Alex Azar
ED Secretary Betsy DeVos
DHS Secretary Kristen Nielson
Attorney General Jeff Sessions

Commitments to Action by the Federal Government

1. Increase school safety funding through direct legislative action

2. Increase school safety funding through grants and other aid programs by ED, DHS, DOJ & HHS

3. Consolidate federal school safety resources (financial and technical assistance) through a one-stop shopping portal

1. Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)

2. Title IV, Part A authorized at $1.6 billion through fiscal year 2021 and has been renewed – "Supporting safe and healthy students (e.g., comprehensive school mental health, drug and violence prevention, training on trauma-informed practices, health and physical education)"

3. *Memo to Kent Talbert, Options for the Allowable Use of Funds for School Safety Measures Under Title IV, Part A* (July 16, 2018)

The Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence Act of 2018 will make Department of Justice grants available to states to fund proven programs and technologies that STOP school violence before it happens. The STOP School Violence Act will:

- **REAUTHORIZE THE BIPARTISAN SECURE OUR SCHOOLS PROGRAM:** Authorizes the Department of Justice, which administered the Secure Our Schools program from 2002 through 2011, to make grants to states for training, technology and equipment, and technical assistance to stop school violence.

- **OFFER STATE-BASED GRANTS:** Permits grants to fund evidence-based programs and practices to:
  1. Train everyone in the school ecosystem-- students, school personnel, and local law enforcement-- to identify and intervene to stop school violence;
  2. Make improvements to school security infrastructure to deter and respond to threats of school violence, including the development and implementation of anonymous reporting systems for threats of school violence;
  3. Develop and operate school threat assessment and crisis intervention teams to preemptively triage threats before tragedy hits; and
  4. Facilitate coordination between schools and local law enforcement.

- **ENHANCE GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY:** Requires training programs, technology and equipment, and threat assessment and crisis intervention strategies funded by these grants to be evidence-based to ensure that money is used for proven, effective improvements to school safety and security.

- $1 billion in grant funding over a ten-year period ($100 million per year) through Fiscal Year 2028 and is administered by the Department of Justice ("DOJ") through its Office of Justice Programs ("OJP) and its Bureau of Justice Assistance ("BJA").
- Two thirds of the funding appropriated under the STOP act supports violence prevention training and anonymous reporting technology through BJA, while one third is prioritized specifically for school security equipment and technology and related uses under the School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) administered by DOJ's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services ("COPS").

FY 2023 Preventing School Violence: BJA's STOP School Violence Program

- Funding available through the FY2023 BJA STOP School Violence Grant Program is 10 awards of up to $2,000,000 each in Category 1 and 75 awards of up to $1,000,000 each in Category 2. Each award is three years (36 months) in duration.

- Grants.gov Deadline: May 8, 2023, 8:59 PM ET

- Application JustGrants Deadline: May 15, 2023, 8:59 PM ET

1. Training that will improve school climate using school-based behavioral threat assessments and/or intervention teams to identify school violence risks among students;

2. Technological solutions such as anonymous reporting technology that can be implemented as a mobile phone-based app, a hotline, or a website in the applicant's geographic area to enable students, teachers, staff, and community members to anonymously identify threats of school violence;

3. Training for school personnel and education for students on preventing school violence, including strategies to improve a school climate;

4. Specialized training or specialized non-training policies for law enforcement who work in schools.

DOJ COPS Office 2023 STOP Solicitation

- The anticipated funding available through the FY2023 COPS STOP School Violence Grant Program is 235 awards of up to $500,000. Each award is three years (36 months) in duration.
- Grants.gov Deadline: May 10, 2023, 4:59 PM ET
- Application JustGrants Deadline: May 17, 2023, 8:59 PM ET
  - Coordination with law enforcement;
  - Training for local law enforcement officers;
  - Purchase and installation of certain allowable equipment and technology
  - Other measures to significantly improve school security.

Florida Department of Education, Safe Schools Alyssa's Alert Funding

In accordance with Section (s.) 1006.07(4), Florida Statutes (F.S.), all Florida public schools, including charters, must implement a mobile panic alert system capable of connecting diverse emergency services technologies to ensure real-time coordination between multiple first responder agencies beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. Such system, known as "Alyssa's Alert," must integrate with local public safety answering point infrastructure to transmit 911 calls and mobile activations.

Florida Department of Education Office of Safe Schools

The Office of Safe Schools serves as a central repository for best practices, training standards and compliance oversight in all matters regarding school safety and security. Our mission is to support districts in providing a safe learning environment for students and educators.

Primary goals of the office: Prevention, Intervention, and Emergency Preparedness Planning

Find Resources to Create a Safer School

SchoolSafety.gov was created by the federal government to provide schools and districts with actionable recommendations to create a safe and supportive learning environment where students can thrive and grow.

Learn more

Latest News

MARCH 2, 2023

FBI and CISA Release Cybersecurity Advisory on #StopRansomware: Royal Ransomware

SchoolSafety.gov

About   Topics   Tools and Resources

Home > Tools > Grants Finder Tool

Grants Finder Tool

SchoolSafety.gov's Grants Finder Tool helps you find applicable funding opportunities to help keep your school community safe. The tool features a variety of Federally available school safety-specific grants that you can navigate based on school safety topic, award amount, application level of effort, and more. As Federal agencies release school safety funding opportunities and grants throughout the year, the tool will be updated on an ongoing basis to reflect these opportunities.

To get started, take the Grants Finder Tool Quiz to view a list of applicable grants based on your quiz selections. Available grant results will appear as you answer each question. Your results will narrow down as you proceed throughout the quiz to give you the most relevant grant opportunities for your school.

You can also explore all available grant opportunities in the Grants Library. Filter grants based on your needs or use the quick filter links to view grants in frequently searched for categories.

Higher Education Funding

Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) – Provides funding support for target hardening and other physical security enhancements to nonprofit organizations, including nonprofit institutes of higher education and private schools.

Targeted Violence and Terrorism and Prevention Program (TVTP) – Provides funding for state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, nonprofits, and institutions of higher education with funds to establish or enhance capabilities to prevent targeted violence and terrorism.

School Safety: Uvalde, Texas

Initial Questions about Communications & Alert Systems

"The emergency alert system, called Raptor, was implemented by Uvalde's school district in February 2022 to disseminate information about on-campus or nearby police activity. But on May 24, the alert system failed to sufficiently warn staff as a gunman approached the school and killed 21 people, the report found, even after the school's principal triggered it. 'If the alert had reached more teachers sooner, it is likely that more could have been done to protect them and their students,' concluded the report, which was prepared by a special committee of the Texas state legislature."

https://abcnews.go.com/US/uvalde-schools-alert-system-hampered-poor-wi-fi/story?id=87079558

Raptor Responds: Alert Issues

The House Report makes the assertion that Principal Mandy Gutierrez "attempted" to initiate the Lockdown alert, implying that Principal Gutierrez did not successfully initiate the lockdown. This assertion is inaccurate. Raptor has log data confirming that Principal Gutierrez successfully initiated the lockdown for Robb Elementary at 11:32 A.M. and confirming that, within seconds, the Raptor system successfully generated 91 critical notifications (like an Amber Alert), 68 text messages, and 136 emails to all configured user devices associated with the Robb campus or the district office.

Raptor Responds: Wi-Fi Issues

The report concludes that Wi-Fi connectivity issues impacted the activation and the distribution of the Robb Elementary Lockdown generated by Raptor Alert. Raptor Alert operates as both a mobile application and a web application which can be used by virtually any device with a browser, and which transmits data using any form of internet connection, including wired, cellular and Wi-Fi.

Uvalde Schools used funding to upgrade its notification technology

SVPP – Provides funding for "[t]echnological solutions such as anonymous reporting technology that can be implemented as a mobile phone-based app, a hotline, or a website in the applicant's geographic area to enable students, teachers, staff, and community members to anonymously identify threats of school violence."

STOP - Purchase and installation of certain allowable equipment and technology.

Aging door hardware *& ad hoc* work arounds

- The west exterior door that the individual used to enter Robb Elementary was unlocked, allowing entry. Texas House, Interim Rep., p. 46.
- According to testimony before both the Texas House and Senate Committees investigating the shooting, the doors to Classrooms 111 and 112 were "unlocked" or "did not secure properly" allowing the shooter entrance.
- **The irony is that "this report casts doubt on the suggestion the door was unlocked." Id., p. 46-47, ftnt. 133 .**

FINDING: "Teachers at Robb Elementary commonly … used magnets and other methods to circumvent locks."

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act:

1. **Provides** funding for crisis intervention, including red flag laws

2. **Requires** young people under 21 to undergo enhanced background checks

3. **Closes** the "boyfriend loophole" for dating violence misdemeanors

4. **Makes** gun-trafficking and straw-purchasing clear federal crimes

5. **Clarifies** who needs to register as a gun dealer and run background checks before selling a weapon

6. **Invests** in anti-violence programs for communities most at risk of gun crimes

7. **Provides** funding to address the youth mental health crisis exacerbated by the trauma of gun violence

WHITEHOUSE.GOV

With respect to school safety funding, Congress authorized an additional $1 billion in formula funding under Title IV, Part A to SEAs to provide students with "safer and healthier learning environments."

Under the BSCA, States must award these funds competitively to high-need local schools to fund activities allowable under section 4108 of the ESEA discussed above.

U.S. Secretary of Education on the recent passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act

"At the U.S. Department of Education, we will work diligently to invest **more than $2 billion** provided under this law to improve mental health supports for students and expand access to school-based health services."

-Miguel Cardona on 7/11/2022

Secretary Cardona's letter specifically expressed concerns with states permitting schools to use this money for physical security: "There is some research that shows that visible security measures alone — and without efforts to promote student learning, growth and positive learning environments — may have detrimental effects, and some of these measures are unlikely to reduce or eliminate serious incidents."

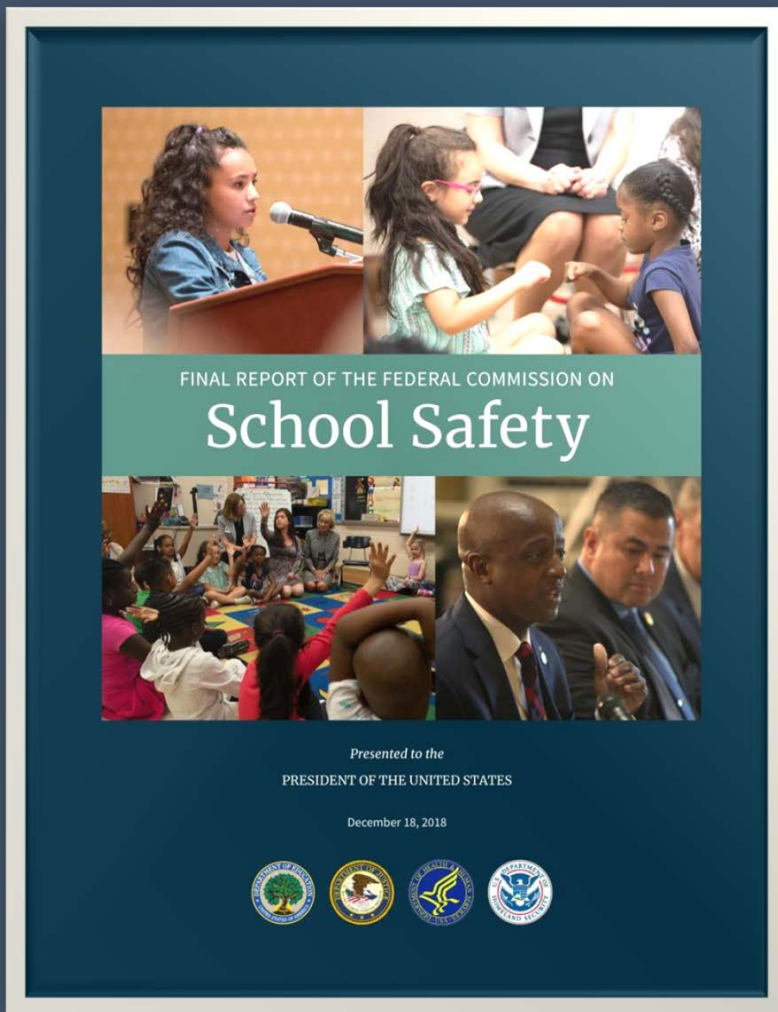# Enhancing physical security: A bipartisan goal

Following the Sandy Hook school shooting President Obama noted that "We need to make our schools safer, not only by enhancing their physical security and making sure they are prepared to respond to emergencies like a mass shooting." He also proposed the creation of Comprehensive School Safety Grants for the purchase of, among other things, school safety equipment.

Echoing President Obama's remarks and efforts, the Trump Administration's (post Parkland & Santa Fe shootings) Federal Commission on School Safety also noted the importance of funding physical security efforts:

"**Classroom Doors, Locks, and Window Panels:** Depending on their construction and configuration, classroom doors can significantly delay or prevent an attacker from reaching individuals within a classroom, thereby providing a safe area for students and staff during a lockdown. * * * When deciding on a locking device school officials must be aware of, and comply with, fire codes, life safety codes, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

BSCA Funding for Physical Security

- First, it is important to remember that letters like this are non-binding general guidelines, just suggestions to the states as to how they ought to structure the competitive process for the school-by-school distribution of these funds.

- Second, allowable costs under ED grants from OMB can be found at https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-E/subject-group-ECFRed1f39f9b3d4e72?toc=1 and includes physical security under the ESEA.

- Third, Secretary Cardona did acknowledge in his letter, as he was required to do, despite discouraging it, that this money could be used for some physical security features such as "limited infrastructure improvements (e.g., the repair of locks and building entry improvement) [that] are permissible under ESEA section 4108 … ."

Few states are using school mental health money, Cardona says

POLITICO

Education Secretary Miguel Cardona bemoaned an "unacceptable" early spending rate on federally-funded student mental health initiatives on Monday as he urged school leaders to accelerate their work nearly a year after a deadly shooting in Uvalde, Texas. "I want that drawn down quicker," Cardona told a room of education leaders. "Only 15 percent of our states have already started a competition. That's unacceptable. Only one state has distributed those dollars. That's unacceptable," the secretary said. "We're in a mental health crisis, we need it to happen."

Nine states have started or completed grant competitions for nearly $125 million of the funds. Iowa, Nevada, Alaska, Kentucky, Maryland, Louisiana, North Dakota and Ohio have opened their grant competitions. Oklahoma is the only state to close its application window so far.

American Rescue Plan's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) - $122 billion

The September 30, 2024, deadline for obligation of ARP ESSER funds is based on statutory and regulatory requirements, which reflect the intent of both the Administration and Congress to ensure that funds are spent expeditiously to address the impact of COVID-19 on students, educators, and schools. The Department's FAQs on this topic provide additional information on when ARP ESSER funds must be obligated for specific purposes consistent with the regulations in 34 CFR § 76.707. Thus, grantees and subgrantees must obligate those funds by September 30, 2024, and, by regulation, must liquidate the funds within 120 calendar days after that date per 2 CFR § 200.344(b).

Frequently Asked Questions Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Programs

- The purpose of this document is to answer Frequently Asked Questions about how funding under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, including the American Rescue Plan ESSER (ARP ESSER) program, and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund may be used .

- The original deadline was Sept. 30, 2024, but now school districts have until spring 2026 or even longer if they're encountering "extraordinary circumstances," according to the department. The extension is to help school districts whose efforts to spend their grant money have been hampered by staffing shortages, inflation and other obstacles.

https://oese.ed.gov/files/2022/12/ESSER-and-GEER-Use-of-Funds-FAQs-December-7-2022-Update-1.pdf
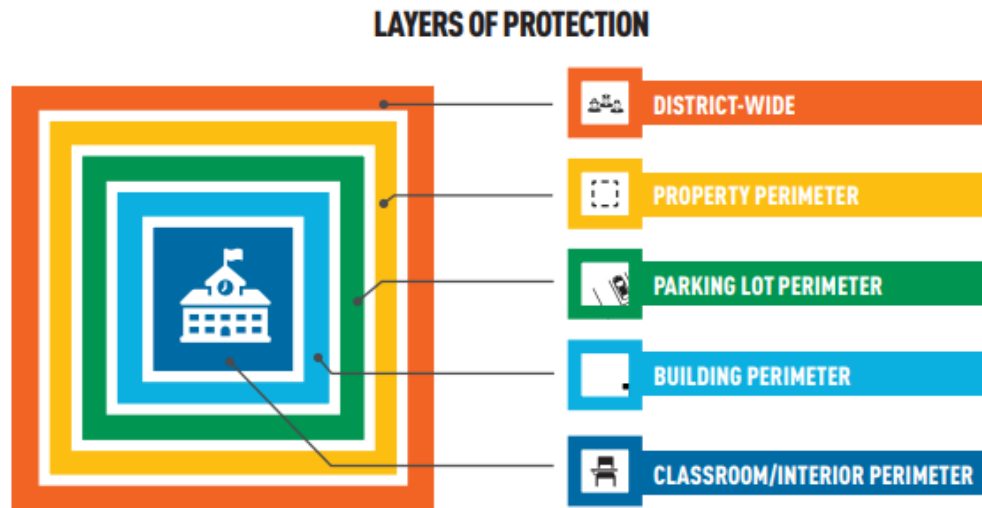
Furlow Charter School

- REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: Security Cameras and Door Entry System
- SCOPE OF WORK
  - Security Cameras - Supply and installation of 24 surveillance cameras in locations shown on the attached maps.
  - Security Door
    - Supply and install a 1200 lb security door at the main entrance.
    - Access control system installation and integration to manage entry and exit.
    - Keycard-based access for authorized personnel.
- FUND SOURCE - This project is being paid for with ESSER funds. Items, materials, or services purchased must meet all of the requirements and guidelines of the funding source. See the ESSER FAQ document.

K-12 Security Funding Considerations

Active Shooter/Mass Casualty

Bullying & Harassment • Cyber • Gang Activity

Workplace Violence • Homicide • Suicide

Trespassing • Parental Custodial Concerns • Unsupervised Visitors

Assault • Sexual Assault • Kidnappers & Sexual Predators

Theft • Burglary • Vandalism & Property Crimes

What can the money be used for?

- Safety & Security Guidelines developed by the Partner Alliance for Safer Schools (PASS)

LAYERS OF PROTECTION

- DISTRICT-WIDE
- PROPERTY PERIMETER
- PARKING LOT PERIMETER
- BUILDING PERIMETER
- CLASSROOM/INTERIOR PERIMETER

Actions in Brief

The 10 actions described in this publication represent measures that can be taken to ensure school communities' mental and emotional security as well as their physical safety, as shown in table 1.

Table 1. Ten essential actions for physical and emotional safety of schools

Physical safety	Emotional security
1. Comprehensive school safety assessment	2. School climate
3. Campus, building, and classroom security	4. Anonymous reporting systems
5. Coordination with first responders	6. Behavior threat assessment and management
7. School-based law enforcement	8. Mental health resources
9. Drills	10. Social media monitoring

Considerations for Violence Prevention & Incident Response

Virtual Fencing

Considerations for Violence Prevention & Incident Response

Virtual Fencing

License Plate Recognition

Considerations for Violence Prevention & Incident Response

Virtual Fencing

License Plate Recognition

Video/Enhanced Analytics

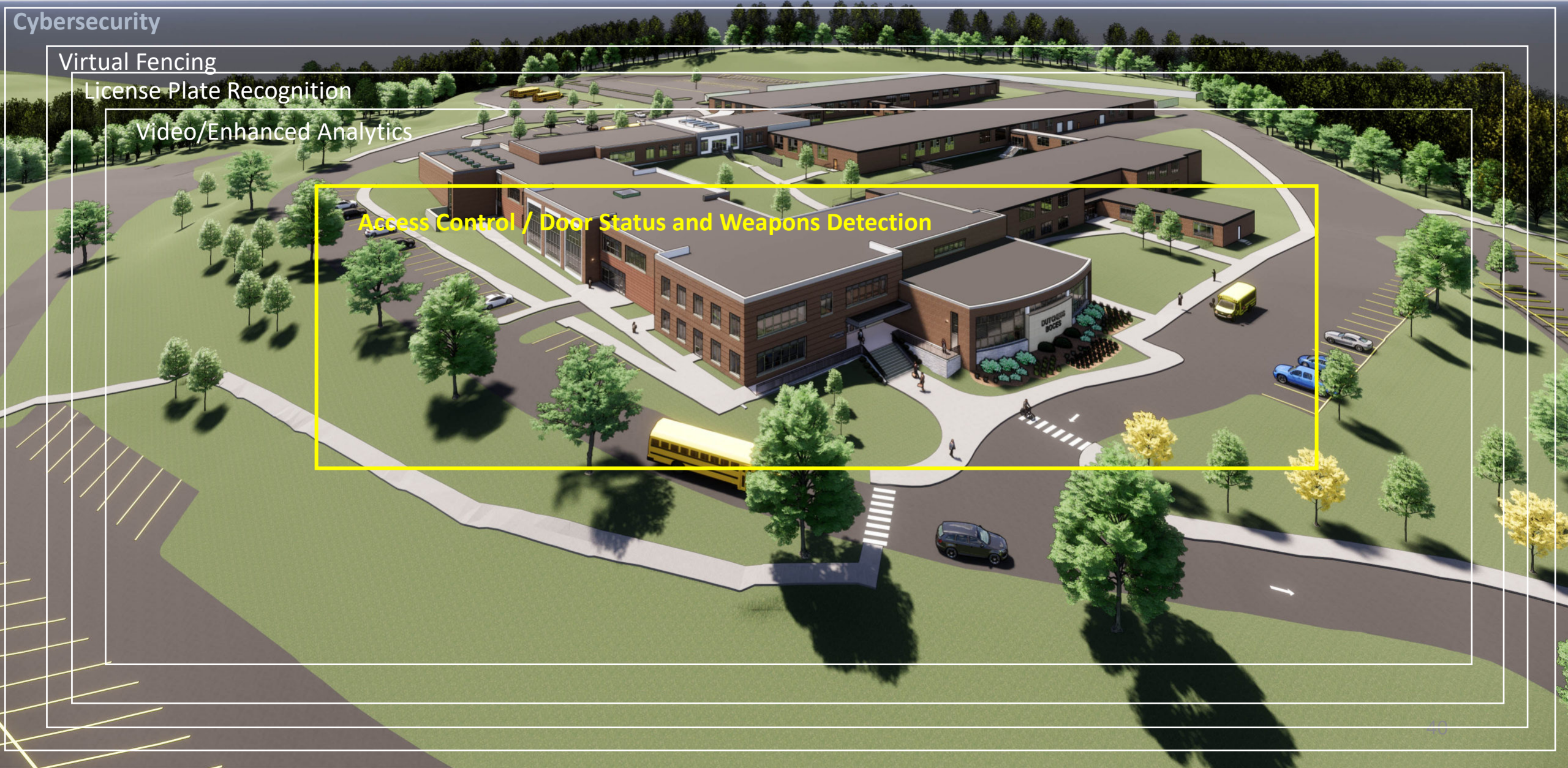# Considerations for Violence Prevention & Incident Response

Cybersecurity

Virtual Fencing

License Plate Recognition

Video/Enhanced Analytics

Access Control / Door Status and Weapons Detection

Considerations for Violence Prevention & Incident Response

Virtual Fencing

License Plate Recognition

Video/Enhanced Analytics

Access Control and Weapons Detection

Situational prevention, investigations, and incident management
Implementation of technology & workflow processes for improved monitoring, incident management and ultimately violence and crime prevention. By applying a combination of advanced video analytics, enhanced monitoring processes and workflow automation, schools can better direct security personnel, leadership and stakeholders, and funding to situations where they are needed most. This also frees up time for more engagement, deterrence, and investigations.

Cybersecurity

Grants & Funding Programs

Economic, Stimulus & Preparedness, Annual Recurring, Competitive, Formula & Discretionary Grants

Federal

- DOJ COPS School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)
- FCC E-Rate Schools & Library Program
- DHS FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)
- CARES/ARP Acts
- Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA)
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Implementation
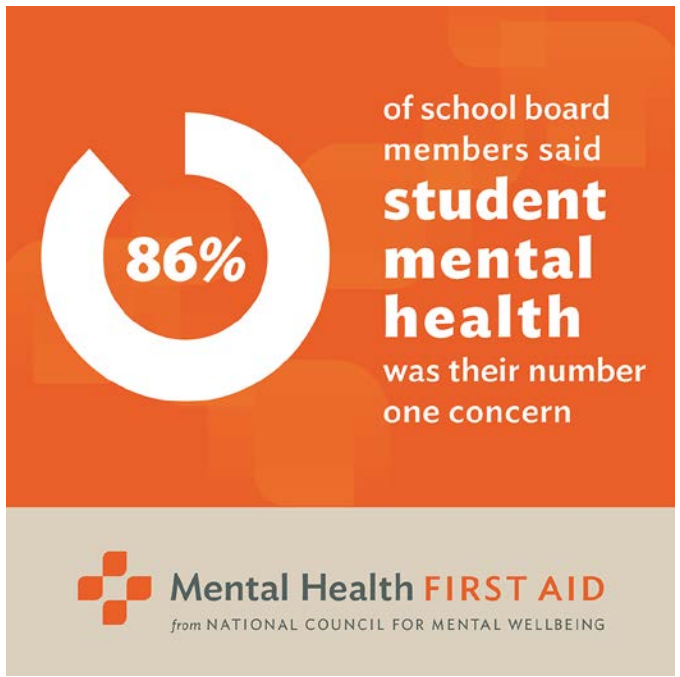- DHS-CISA State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)

Florida

- Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act
- Alyssa's Law

Grant Funding Assistance

Security systems integrators can assist you in securing federal funding through competitive, preparedness & emergency grant programs designed for K-12 education. These services improve security, establish and enhance safety equipment and services, and encourage the continuation and maintenance of security and safety efforts.

- Grant application support, validation of solutions, and assistance with proposal writing
- Comprehensive security assessments and threat analysis

✓ Education & Consultation

✓ Thought Leadership, Research, Collaboration

✓ Data Mining and Analysis

✓ Strategic Security Planning (including Funding)

✓ Grant Application/Response Support

✓ Cooperative Purchasing & State Contracts Admin

✓ Program Management, Digital Transformation

✓ Advanced Solutions

✓ Proposal Writing & Management

86% of school board members said **student mental health** was their number one concern

Mental Health FIRST AID from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION fldoe.org

School Hardening and Harm Mitigation Best Practices

Competing for Funding? Not Really …

Under the BSCA, policy activities to increase access to Medicaid reimbursement for school-based health services are required to be implemented by June 27, 2023.

- Cardona also hinted education leaders will soon learn more about federal efforts to let schools more easily bill Medicaid to pay for student health care. "The President looked at me and Xavier Becerra, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and said 'Let's get that Medicaid thing fixed.' We're working on that," Cardona said Monday.

- "I'm hopeful that soon you're going to be able to find out how you can use Medicaid to provide some of the behavioral health support that your students need, which translates into ongoing dollars to get the staff, the infrastructure that you need to make sure that the kids are well."

- The Biden administration in February said both the Department of Health and Human Services and Education Department plan to respectively issue guidance and propose a rule on Medicaid-funded school health care.

Leverage Vendors for Their Experience & Resources

- *Grants education: government & industry outreach*

- *Start prep early – months in advance*

- *Re-application (e.g., DOJ COPS SVPP)*

- *Engage industry to leverage their expertise & experience*

- *Security Industry Association – SIA - https://www.securityindustry.org/*

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

Federal Grants

DOJ - STOP School Violence Act Programs

DHS - Homeland Security Grants

ED – Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

FCC – E-Rate Program

State Grants

Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia

Resources

- [Federal Commission on School Safety Final Report](#)

- [FY 2023 Preventing School Violence: BJA's STOP School Violence Program](#)

- [SchoolSafety.gov](#)

- [NSBA's Center for Safe Schools](#)

- [National School Safety Center- University of Michigan](#)

- [Partner Alliance for Safer Schools](#)

- [Grants.gov](#)

- [OMB - General Guidelines for Allowable Costs (CFR)](#)

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thank you