



2021 GUIDE TO SCHOOL SECURITY FUNDING

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

Updated September 2021



TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 Introduction

5 Funding Sources

6 Federal Grants

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

U.S. Department of Homeland Security - Homeland Security Grants

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

Federal Communications Commission – E-Rate Program

9 State Grants

Individual State Summaries

Indiana

Maryland

New Jersey

New York

Ohio

Tennessee

Virginia

18 Key Supporting Documents and Resources for Grant Applications

SchoolSafety.gov

Partner Alliance for Safer Schools

National School Boards Association Center for Safe Schools

Resources from other organizations

19 Cooperative Purchasing Mechanisms

General Services Administration Cooperative Purchasing

Other cooperatives

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: 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 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%.

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](#) page as well as additional analysis [on SIAs 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.

U.S. Department of Education – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress has passed several spending measures that include funding to help K-12 schools to reopen, respond and recover, including related infrastructure investments that support these goals. These grants are provided to state and local governments through the [ESSER Fund](#). Since three different measures were passed that support the fund, there are [different timelines and conditions](#) that apply to each, beginning with the CARES Act in April 2020 and ending with American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funding that can be spent through September 2024.

Districts are provided with a tremendous amount of flexibility in utilizing these funds to support local priorities, tailored to specific needs. For example, under ARP, while funds can be used for “Any activity authorized by the Elementary and

Secondary Education Act of 1965," emphasized are "school facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs," including "other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies." Many districts are leveraging these resources to improve safety and security in related ways, such as enhancing touchless access control, door and window replacement as part of air quality initiatives, additional camera systems and analytics capabilities that enable social distancing protocols, people counting, occupancy detection, exposure reporting, temperature screening and thermal imaging, as well as visitor vetting systems and emergency communications tools. For more information on ESSER funding, please see SIA's [Vertical Insights Symposium on K-12 Security](#).

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.

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.

Indiana

Grant Program	Indiana Secured School Safety Grant Fund
Funding Available in 2021	\$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 2020)
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



STATE GRANTS

Indiana (continued)

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](#)
- [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.

- Contractual services (e.g., contractual services or personnel, project partners, subject matter experts)
- Materials and supplies (e.g., outreach materials, learning kits, training supplies)
- Equipment and associated delivery and installation costs (e.g., radios, security cameras, visitor management systems)
- Training (e.g., registration, materials)
- Security-related software
- Other charges*

**Other charges must have direct correlation to the overall project or task being performed and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.*

Point of Contact

Gifty Quarshie, fiscal and grants analyst, Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS)
(MCSS.MCSS@maryland.gov)

Links

- [Maryland Center for School Safety Website](#)
- [Overview of Program](#)

Maryland

Grant Program	Safe Schools Fund Grant
Funding Available in 2021 – 22	\$600,000 for FY22
Statewide Requirements	Radios, security cameras and visitor management systems
Statewide Guidance	The Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018
School Safety Center	Maryland Center for School Safety

Grant Program: Safe Schools Fund Grant (SSFG)

The SSFG is a non-competitive, state-funded grant program designed for local school systems located within the state of Maryland. The main purpose of the SSFG is to provide funding for school safety and security related matters. The grant funds are to be applied towards the cost of school safety-related projects and services. The maximum award per local school system is \$25,000, spread out evenly among the 24 local school districts.

Eligibility Requirements

The Safe Schools Fund Grant is open to all 24 local school systems within the state of Maryland.

Eligible Expenses

Local school systems are encouraged to use the guidance provided under the “purpose of the grant” when coming up with project ideas for this grant. Below is a list of allowable expenses under this grant. Please note that this list is not all-inclusive.



Maryland (continued)

Grant Program: Nonpublic School Safety Grant (NPSI)

Grant Program	Nonpublic School Safety Grant (NPSI)
Funding Available in 2021 – 22	\$3.5 million for FY22
Statewide Requirements	Safety improvements
Statewide Guidance	The Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018
School Safety Center	Maryland Center for School Safety

The Maryland General Assembly is providing \$3.5 million in fiscal year 2022 in grants for safety improvements to existing nonpublic school buildings. Nonpublic schools, including preschools, eligible in fiscal year 2022 (FY22) for the Aid to Nonpublic Schools Program for the purchase of textbooks or computer hardware and software for loan to students, commonly known as the “Textbook and Technology Program”, are eligible to

apply for the FY22 MCSS NPSI. Nonpublic schools that serve students with disabilities through the Nonpublic Placement Program are also eligible for funding allocations for FY22.

Links

[Overview of NPSI Program](#) (more information coming soon)

New Jersey

Grant Program	Alyssa’s Law Compliance and School Security Grants
Funding Available in 2021	\$75 million (2021)
Statewide Requirements	Panic alarms (Alyssa’s Law)
Statewide Guidance	N/A
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) [Homerom 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 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 Homerom system of NJSDA’s

certification of compliance, requests for further supporting information or denial of certification.

The application deadline for the The Securing Our Children’s Future Bond Act is Feb. 14, 2022.

School Security Grant Eligibility

To be eligible for a school security grant under the Bond Act, a district 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.

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	Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention Program Competitive Grant
Funding Available in 2021	\$24.3 million for 2021
Statewide Requirements	Video surveillance cameras and communication and monitoring devices (e.g., hand-held radios and other communications devices)
Statewide Guidance	N/A
School Safety Center	New York State Center for School Safety

Grant Program: Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention Program Competitive Grant

Pursuant to New York State Education Law [§2814](#): Omnibus school violence prevention grant program, the primary purpose of the Extended School Day/School Violence Prevention Program is to award competitive grants to provide support to students through extended school day activities and/or school safety programs which promote violence prevention. Programs must demonstrate consistency with the school safety plans required by [§2801-a](#) of New York State Education Law and should not displace existing school district after-school funding.

Eligibility

Public school districts and not-for-profit organizations working in collaboration with public school districts are eligible to apply.

New York has implemented a new [statewide prequalification process](#) designed to facilitate prompt contracting for not-for-profit vendors. All such vendors are required to prequalify prior to grant application. This includes all currently funded not-for-profit institutions that have already received awards and are in the middle of the program cycle. An institution must complete the prequalification prior to applying in order to receive an award.

Amount of Funding

Approximately \$24.3 million is expected to be available annually statewide contingent upon annual legislative appropriation, and it is anticipated that funding will continue at this appropriation level.

Each application may include a request for an annual grant award of a maximum of \$350,000. Agencies applying for multiple grants will be limited to a maximum annual award of \$1,200,000. This includes agency membership as a partnering agency or as a partner in consortia projects.

Funds will be allocated to each geographic area as follows: 40% to New York City; 10% to the big four cities of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers; and 50% to the rest of the state, including at least 15% guaranteed to high needs rural applicants. If there are not enough high needs rural applications meeting the scoring threshold outlined in the request for proposal, the portion of the guaranteed 15% not used would revert to the overall rest of the state.

Points of Contact

Program: Raffaele Iorio **Fiscal:** Thomas McBride
Email: esdsvprfp@nysed.gov

Links

- [P-12 Grants Administered by the New York State Education Department](#)
- [FAQs About Program](#)
- [New York State Center for School Safety](#)

Ohio

Grant Program	Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation School Safety and Security Grants
Funding Available in 2021	\$40,000 per employer (2021)
Statewide Requirements	Exterior access controls; classroom locks
Statewide Guidance	N/A
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
 - Schoolwide 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% 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

Tennessee

Grant Program	Safe Schools Grant
Funding Available in 2021	\$20 million (FY 22)
Statewide Requirements	Facility security; Violence prevention
Statewide Guidance	Guide for Developing High Quality School Emergency Operations Plans
School Safety Center	Tennessee School Safety Center

Grant Program: Safe Schools Grant

Before adjourning, the General Assembly appropriated \$20 million in recurring funds for FY22 school safety grants. As in prior years, the final funding and match amounts for Safe Schools grants will not be available until the Basic Education program is finalized; however, districts may use their FY21 grant amounts as an estimate.

Allowable Uses

In many cases, these funds have allowed districts to make both minor and major improvements, such as enhanced door locks, improved visitor screening procedures and shatter-resistant glass that will provide long-term benefits to the school.

The intent of these funds is to decrease the likelihood of violence or disruptive behavior occurring and to protect students and staff from harm when violence may occur.

Point of Contact

Kimberly.Daubenspeck@tn.gov
Mike.Herrmann@tn.gov
Brenna.Morse@tn.gov

Links

- [Tennessee Department of Education](#)
- [Schools Against Violence in Education Act](#)
- [ePlan website](#) (online platform for applications)

Virginia

Grant Program	School Security Equipment Grants
Funding Available in 2021	\$12 million (2021)
Statewide Requirements	Exterior access controls and classroom locks
Statewide Guidance	N/A
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% 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:

- Name 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 U.S. Department of Homeland Security 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 [cooperative purchasing page](#) and [FAQs page](#). Additionally, note that:

- An approved contractor will have a  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:

Omnia Partners, Public Sector (formerly 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](#)
- [Purchasing Cooperative of America](#)
- [Southeast Florida Governmental Purchasing Cooperative](#)
- [Texas Department of Information Resources](#)
- [Unified Purchasing Cooperative of the Ohio River Valley](#)
- [Washington School Information Processing Cooperative](#)

