

School Safety Enhancement Program

A \$93 Million Federal Grant to Strengthen Physical School Security

May 27, 2026

Overview

The [U.S. Department of Education](#) launched the FY 2026 School Safety Enhancement Program to help states improve statewide school safety systems and the physical security of public schools. The Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is soliciting applications on behalf of the Department of Education.

The competitive grant program provides an estimated **\$93 million** to state educational agencies for school-security improvements, including secure entry systems, door locks, perimeter protection, emergency communications, response planning, and preparedness training. Approximately **30 awards** are expected, ranging from **\$500,000** to **\$5 million** for project periods of up to 36 months. The program creates significant opportunities for states and school districts to modernize physical security while expanding demand for integrated safety technology, implementation services, training, and long-term system support.

Grant Framework

Only each state educational agencies may apply directly, and each state may submit one application. States receiving awards may distribute funds to local educational agencies through competitive or noncompetitive subgrants or administer the program directly.

Funded proposals must address both required priorities:

- Projects must be led by state educational agencies.
- Funds must improve statewide school safety systems or the physical security of schools.

Applications must:

- Strengthen statewide school-safety systems or the physical security of schools.
- Identify schools and districts with the greatest security needs.
- Include a project plan, budget, implementation schedule, performance measures, required federal forms, and certifications.
- Be submitted through Grants.gov by **July 28, 2026**, with active SAM.gov and Grants.gov registrations.

Eligible activities include secure entry systems, interior door locks, cameras, metal detectors, perimeter and access controls, visitor management, emergency communications, response planning, and preparedness training. Projects serving qualifying rural communities may receive three additional review points.

The program does not require cost sharing or matching. Administrative expenses may not exceed 10 percent of the annual award, and funds must supplement rather than replace existing state or local funding. Equipment and technology must comply with applicable building, life-safety, accessibility, and federal requirements. Grant funds may not be used for construction, renovation, or repair of school facilities.

What Does This Mean for Government?

State educational agencies will need to:

- Develop coordinated statewide school-security proposals.
- Identify school districts and facilities with the greatest security needs.
- Decide whether to manage projects centrally or distribute funding through subgrants.
- Connect proposed investments to measurable safety outcomes and federal school-safety recommendations.

- Coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, emergency responders, facilities teams, procurement offices, and technology departments.
- Ensure proposed equipment and technologies meet applicable building, fire, life-safety, accessibility, and federal requirements.

School districts cannot apply directly, but they should work with their state educational agencies to document security gaps, prioritize projects, develop cost estimates, and identify improvements that may qualify for funding.

What Does This Mean for Industry?

The program creates a significant opportunity for security manufacturers, technology vendors, integrators, resellers, and professional-services providers supporting state and local education.

Key opportunities include:

- Access-control systems, electronic locks, and secure-entry technologies
- Video surveillance, monitoring, and security-camera platforms
- Visitor management and identity-screening solutions
- Emergency communications and mass-notification systems
- Perimeter detection and physical access controls
- Incident-management and emergency-coordination platforms
- Security assessments, system design, installation, integration, and maintenance
- Training, preparedness exercises, and program-evaluation services

Vendors should engage with state educational agencies and school districts early, as each state will determine whether to procure solutions centrally or distribute funding through subgrants.

Competitive offerings should emphasize interoperability, accessibility, regulatory compliance, and integration with existing school infrastructure. The program creates near-term opportunities for technology providers that can support grant planning, implementation, performance reporting, and long-term system sustainability.

Timeline

Policy	Focus & Key Provisions
Applications Opened (May 27, 2026)	The School Safety Enhancement competition opened, making approximately \$93 million available to state educational agencies.
Federal Register Notice (June 3, 2026)	The federal government formally published the competition's eligibility, priorities, and application requirements .
Application Deadline (July 28, 2026)	State educational agencies must submit complete applications electronically through Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.
Intergovernmental Review Deadline (September 25, 2026)	States subject to intergovernmental review procedures must complete the applicable review process.
Future Awards	The Department of Education expects to make approximately 30 awards. Award recipients and amounts have not yet been announced.