

School Violence Prevention Program

\$73 Million Federal Grant to Improve K–12 School Security

June 9, 2026

Overview

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services launched the [FY 2026 School Violence Prevention Program](#) to help state, local, and Tribal governments improve security at K–12 schools and on school grounds. The competitive grant program provides up to **\$73 million** for evidence-based school-safety programs, security equipment, emergency communications, coordination with law enforcement, and other measures that significantly improve school security. Approximately 200 awards are expected, with a maximum federal share of **\$500,000** per award and a project period of 36 months beginning October 1, 2026.

Approximately **\$1 million** is reserved for microgrants of up to **\$100,000** for school districts, including rural, Tribal, and low-resourced districts. The program creates significant opportunities for school districts and public agencies to modernize security systems while expanding demand for integrated safety technology, installation, training, and ongoing system support.

Grant Framework

Eligible applicants include state, local, and Tribal governments, school districts, public charter school districts, school boards, law-enforcement agencies, and other public entities. Private and independent schools may not apply directly.

Funding may support:

- School Security cameras, locks, access controls, and visitor-management systems
- Emergency communications, alarms, radios, lighting, fencing, and metal detectors
- Safety assessments, installation, training, maintenance, and consulting

Applicants must identify participating schools, explain their security needs, and submit a project plan, budget, implementation schedule, and required documentation. The federal government may cover up to 75 percent of project costs, with applicants generally providing a 25 percent cash match. Selected microgrant recipients and approved waiver applicants may be exempt from the match.

What Does This Mean for Government?

Eligible school districts and public agencies will need to:

- Conduct or plan comprehensive school-safety assessments.
- Identify schools with the greatest security and emergency-response needs.
- Coordinate with law enforcement, school administrators, facilities teams, emergency managers, IT departments, parents, students, and other stakeholders.
- Develop detailed project scopes, budgets, implementation schedules, and measurable outcomes.
- Explain how proposed investments will reduce notification times, improve emergency response, and strengthen coordination.
- Confirm that proposed technology is compatible with existing infrastructure and compliant with applicable federal requirements.
- Determine how the required 25 percent cash match will be funded or whether a waiver should be requested.
- Complete the two-step application process through [Grants.gov](#) and [JustGrants](#).

Private and independent schools cannot apply directly. However, an eligible government agency or school district may potentially include qualifying schools or activities within a broader approved project, subject to program rules.

What Does This Mean for Industry?

The program creates a significant opportunity for security manufacturers, technology vendors, integrators, resellers, contractors, and professional-services providers supporting K–12 education and public safety.

Key opportunities include:

- Access-control systems, electronic locks, and entry-control equipment
- Video-surveillance systems and security-camera platforms
- Video-management and incident-investigation software
- Visitor-management and identification technologies
- Emergency communications and mass-notification systems
- Panic alarms, emergency call boxes, and public-address systems
- Two-way radios and interoperable communications
- Perimeter security, fencing, lighting, and motion detection
- Metal detectors and other physical deterrent measures
- School and bus-route mapping technology
- Security assessments and needs analysis
- System design, installation, integration, testing, and maintenance
- Staff and law-enforcement training
- Project management and implementation support

Vendors cannot apply directly, but they may support eligible applicants by identifying security gaps, developing project scopes, preparing cost estimates, confirming system compatibility, and providing implementation timelines and technical specifications.

Competitive offerings should emphasize interoperability, student privacy, compliance, integration with existing school infrastructure, measurable improvements in emergency response, and long-term system sustainability.

Vendors should engage school districts, local governments, law-enforcement agencies, and Tribal organizations before the application deadlines. Successful grant awards may create follow-on procurement opportunities after award announcements and project approvals.

Timeline

Policy	Focus & Key Provisions
Applications Opened (June 9, 2026)	The COPS Office released the FY 2026 competition, making up to \$73 million available for K–12 school-safety improvements.
Grants.gov Deadline (August 4, 2026)	Applicants must submit the initial SF-424 and required Grants.gov information by 4:59 p.m. Eastern Time.
JustGrants Deadline (August 11, 2026)	Applicants must submit the complete application, budget, narrative, assurances, and supporting documentation by 4:59 p.m. Eastern Time.
Anticipated Award Notification (On or after October 1, 2026)	The COPS Office expects to begin notifying selected applicants.
Expected Project Start (October 1, 2026)	Funded projects are expected to begin and may operate for up to 36 months.