



MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Career Technical Education Directors,
Independent School Headmasters, School Board Members, School Crisis
Planning Team Members

FROM: Thomas Anderson, Commissioner of Public Safety
Heather Bouchey, Acting Secretary of Education

SUBJECT: School Safety Infrastructure Grants

DATE: April 23, 2018

Throughout the month of March, Vermont law enforcement conducted statewide school safety site assessments of public, independent, and tutorial schools. The intent of these site assessments was to identify school emergency preparedness strengths, areas for improvement, and future school safety planning, training, exercise and resource needs.

On Thursday April 19, the Governor held a press conference where he announced his intention to provide 4 million dollars in capital funding for public, private and independent schools for school safety infrastructure. Pending the capital funding approval by the Legislature, the Department of Public Safety, in collaboration with the Agency of Education and the Vermont School Safety Center, has developed the following school safety grant timeline:

June 1, 2018: Requests for Proposals (RFPs) delivered to schools
July 1, 2018: Proposals due back to Department of Public Safety
August 1, 2018: Grants awarded to schools

This will be a competitive grant process and current legislation calls for a maximum grant award of \$25,000.00 per school. We strongly encourage superintendents, principals, and local school boards to collaborate with each other when developing these grant requests. We recommend that schools refer to the [school safety site assessment survey](#) tool that was utilized when conducting these site assessments to address any potential safety/security gaps identified. For your review and

consideration, please also see the statewide results noted in the [Governor's School Safety memo](#) and the [School Safety Summary Report](#).

The Department of Public Safety has formed a School Safety and Security Grant working group of stakeholders to advise the Secretary of Education and the Commissioner of Public Safety on the grant process.

Enhancing school safety infrastructure and security technology is an important part of developing a comprehensive school safety plan. While the approved equipment/infrastructure list for these grants has not been fully developed, schools should begin to consider possible equipment selections that include but are not limited to: access control systems, public address systems, door locks, visitor management systems, portable radios, security cameras, window shading, lights, panic/duress alarms and door prop alarms. Recognizing that each school has its own unique environment, schools are encouraged to work with their school crisis planning team and other school safety partners as they develop their own school safety approaches and initiatives.