**Virginia Department of Education**

***Application Process for 2015-2016 School Security Equipment Grants Program***

**Due Date: August 1, 2015**

**Introduction**

The purpose of the *Public School Security Equipment Grant Act of 2013* is to help school divisions purchase and install security equipment in schools to improve and ensure the safety of students attending public schools in Virginia. As required, the Department of Education will award grants authorized under this legislation to school divisions on a competitive basis. School security grant funds are to be used solely for the purpose of the purchase and installation of security equipment (see listing below). These grant funds may not be comingled with any other type of school construction work (building renovations or alterations) or to cover any professional costs (such as A&E fees). The addition of any other architectural brick and mortar projects will result in the disqualification of a school division’s grant application.

For purposes of this grant program, “eligible school division” means a local school division or regional vocational center, special education center, alternative education center, or academic year Governor’s School serving public school students in grades K through 12. The term also includes the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind. “Eligible schools” include schools that are subject to state accreditation and reporting membership in grades K through 12 as of September 30, 2014, for the 2015-2016 grants, as well as regional vocational centers, special education centers, alternative education centers, regular school year Governor’s Schools, and the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind.

The amount of grants provided to each eligible school division may not exceed $100,000 for each fiscal year. Eligible school divisions must apply to the Department of Education by 5 p.m. on August 1, 2015. As a condition of receiving a grant, a local match of 25 percent of the grant amount is required. The Superintendent of Public Instruction is authorized to reduce the local match for school divisions with a composite index of local ability-to-pay less than 0.2000, including any school division participating in a regional vocational center, special education center, alternative education center, or academic year Governor’s School. The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind is exempt from the match requirement.

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis, using criteria described later in this application. School divisions applying for the grant must (1) identify with specificity the security equipment for which the grant is being requested, as well as the estimated costs to purchase and install the security equipment and (2) certify that it is the intent of the division to purchase the security equipment within six months of the grant award notification by the Department of Education, or no later than March 1st each year.

**Security equipment items eligible for funding, but not limited to, from this grant are listed below.**

Projects for school security equipment may not involve “bricks and mortar” construction. School security equipment may include, but is not limited to, the following equipment (and associated installation costs):

1. Intercom Systems
2. Security Film
3. Technology Equipment to Support Security Systems
4. Security Door Hardware
5. Electronic Access Control Systems
6. Visitor Badging System
7. Surveillance Equipment and Cameras
8. Security Scanning Equipment
9. Two-way Radios
10. Security Alarm Systems
11. Mass Notification Telephone Systems Equipment
12. Security Panic Systems
13. Security Lighting Systems
14. Classroom Door Locks
15. Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS)

**Instructions for Completing the School Security Equipment Grants Program Application**

**Contact Information**

For general questions on the School Security Equipment Grants Program or the application process, please contact Hunter Barnes or Vijay Ramnarain, architectural consultants, at (804) 225-2035 or June Eanes, director of support services, at (804) 225-2037. These individuals may be contacted by e-mail at Hunter.Barnes@doe.virginia.gov, Vijay.Ramnarain@doe.virginia.gov, or June.Eanes@doe.virginia.gov.

The grant application process should be completed in the Single Sign-on for Web-based Systems (SSWS) portal following the instructions contained in Attachment C.

**Competitive Criteria Points**

The school security equipment grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. The Department of Education and the Department of Criminal Justice Services have developed the following criteria to be used when reviewing and scoring the grant applications to determine the eligible schools that will be awarded grants and the amount of funds to be awarded.

1. **Maximum 15 points** allocated for new security equipment installed in schools without any security equipment currently, such as items 1 through 13 listed on pages 1 and 2. Partial points for existing security equipment.
* 15 points allocated for schools with “no” security equipment currently
* 5 points allocated for schools with existing security equipment
1. **Maximum 10 points** allocated if a previous school security audit has recommended the requested school security equipment be installed in the school.
* 10 points allocated if the requested school security equipment was recommended in a previous school security audit
* 0 points allocated if school was not recommended in a previous school security audit
1. **Maximum 5 points** allocated for year the school was built**.**
* 5 points allocated for school buildings built prior to 1980
* 0 points for school buildings built in 1980 or after
1. **Maximum 10 points** allocatedif this school did not receive funding in 2014**.**
* 10 points if the school did not receive funding in 2014
* 0 points if the school did receive funding in 2014
1. **Maximum of 15 points** allocatedif the school does not have Uninterrupted Power Supply (USP)
* 15 points if the school does not have an Uninterrupted Power Supply
* 0 points if the school does have an Uninterrupted Power Supply
1. **Maximum 25 points** allocatedfor the division composite index.
* 25 points allocated - Division composite index of .0000 - .2999
* 20 points allocated - Division composite index of .3000 - .5999
* 15 points allocated - Division composite index of .6000 - .8000
1. **Maximum 20 points** allocated if the number of school-level incidents per 100 students for the following offense categories as reported in the School Safety section of the 2013-2014 School Report Card is at or above certain percentiles for all schools statewide: “weapons offenses,” “offenses against student, staff, and persons,” and “property offenses.”
* 20 points allocated - At or above the 75th percentile
* 15 points allocated - At or above the 50th percentile but below the 75th percentile