# Virginia Department of Education Guidelines for *FY 2024 School Safety and Security Grants* (One-time Grant)

**Legislative Appropriations**

$20 million in FY 2024 state and federal funding is appropriated for a one-time school safety and security grant program for public schools (see Item 136, Paragraph DDD., Chapter 1, 2024 Special Session I), as follows:

*“DDD. Out of this appropriation, $12,000,000 the second year from the general fund is designated to support school safety and security grants. The Department of Education shall administer the program and develop guidelines. Funds may be used to support equipment and planning to improve safety and security, including purposes not authorized for the existing VPSA-funded Security Equipment grant program. In determining grant awards, prioritization shall be placed on the severity of identified deficiencies and the school division's local ability to pay as identified by its local composite index. In addition to this amount, $8,000,000 in federal State and Local Recovery Funds are provided for this purpose pursuant to Item 486. Of this amount, $1,500,000 is provided to Newport News Public schools to support safety and security improvements at Richneck Elementary School.”*

From these appropriations, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will award $18.5 million in grant funds to school divisions statewide, $10.5 million from the general fund and $8 million from federal pandemic State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

**Allowable Uses, Time Availability, and Monitoring of Grant Funds**

These grant funds may be used for equipment and technology purchases and installations, software purchases, planning, and on-site security awareness training for division/school personnel to improve the safety and security of public school buildings and facilities, including for purposes not authorized under the existing VPSA-funded School Security Equipment Grants program. Further detail on allowable uses of the funds is provided in the listing below.

These grant funds are awarded for allowable expenditures incurred beginning on June 13, 2024. School divisions are permitted to carryover and spend their state general fund grant allocation during FY 2025 and should complete expenditures of their general fund grant allocation by June 30, 2025. The state general fund allocations will be paid to school divisions by June 30, 2024. To ensure appropriate use of the state fund allocation, school division superintendents will submit a periodic [Expenditure Certification Form](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/programs-services/school-operations-support-services/school-facility-construction-maintenance/new-school-safety-and-security-grant-fy24) to the VDOE Office of Support Services during FY 2025. School divisions’ federal fund grant allocation must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and should be fully expended by December 31, 2025. The federal fund grant allocations will be made available on a reimbursement basis using the VDOE’s OMEGA grants management application located in the [Single Sign-on Web Systems](https://p1pe.doe.virginia.gov/ssws/login_page.do) (SSWS) portal.

While federal Davis-Bacon Act (DBA) prevailing wage requirements should not apply to the federal grant allocations funded from the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) due to the higher dollar DBA threshold for those funds, school divisions should be aware that DBA requirements would be applicable if ESSER pandemic funds are co-mingled with the SLFRF to pay labor costs related to equipment installations or minor building alterations needed for equipment installations. In such cases, school divisions should ensure DBA requirements are met in using their SLFRF allocation and that necessary back-up payroll documents are collected and submitted to the VDOE Office of Support Services. School divisions should submit any DBA-related back-up documentation to VDOE using the [Expenditure Certification Form](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/programs-services/school-operations-support-services/school-facility-construction-maintenance/new-school-safety-and-security-grant-fy24) referenced above.

**Grant Allocation Process**

All school divisions are first awarded a base funding amount of $50,000. The remainder of grant funds are allocated to divisions in proportion to their total points on five allocation criteria. Point values are assigned to each criterion based on divisions’ criteria values and the associated point value for the data range the division value falls within. The five allocation criteria are:

1. Local composite index (LCI)
2. School division’s PK-12 enrollment as of September 30, 2023
3. Number of school buses in the division from VDOE records
4. Number of public school buildings and facilities reported by divisions on the May 2024 school security survey
5. Average percentage of school buildings/facilities in the division with nine safety/security components present in the building/facility as reported by divisions on the May 2024 school security survey

School division grant allocations are available at [FY 2024 School Safety and Security Grants](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/programs-services/school-operations-support-services/school-facility-construction-maintenance/new-school-safety-and-security-grant-fy24).

**Public School Building or Facility Eligibility Requirements**

These grant funds may not be co-mingled with other funds used for any type of school construction or renovations work or to cover construction-related professional costs (such as architectural and engineering fees). Fees for security planning and development of security plans and procedures, on-site staff security awareness training, and school building security assessments are eligible uses of the funds.

School divisions should ensure that public schools or facilities where these grant funds are spent meet the following criteria:

1. Grant funds may be used to increase the safety and security of public school buildings or facilities owned by the local school board or locality and in which instruction of students in grades PK through 12 regularly occurs.
2. There can be no planned renovations/additions scheduled to the school building for the next five years which would cause the security equipment or technology being requested through the grant to become obsolete.
3. The school building must be scheduled to remain open for at least five more years.
4. School site security means mounting of security cameras or lighting only on existing light poles located at entry roads, parking areas, ball fields, and field houses on the school site.

**Detailed Listing of Eligible Equipment, Technology, or Services**

The following equipment, technology, or professional services are eligible for purchase and installation using these grant funds:

* Stand-alone software (developed or commercial off-the-shelf) to support safety and security systems
* Cell phone-based safety and security notification applications
* School building safety signage (interior/exterior)
* On-site security awareness training for division/school personnel
* Professional school safety and security assessments of buildings and procedures
* Development of school safety/security plans and procedures
* 180° and 360° hallway mirrors
* Voice and video internal mass communication systems
* Technology hardware equipment to support mass notifications systems
* Hurricane or intruder security window film
* Motion detection systems
* Technology equipment and software to support security systems
* Classroom security door hardware
* Security door hardware, or electronic card access control reader systems for ID verification at main entrances and other points of entry into the school building
* Visitor I.D. badging system
* Surveillance cameras mounted on interior/exterior walls
* Hand-held two-way radios for staff
* Push to talk wireless communications systems
* Security alarm systems
* Security panic systems
* Security lighting systems (mounted on interior/exterior walls and existing site structures)
* Security lighting and cameras on ball fields or other play areas on existing structures or poles
* Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) to support the security equipment
* Metal or firearm detection systems at public building entrances
* Gunshot detection systems
* Vaping detectors
* Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in school buildings
* **Security-related devices installed on school or student activity buses:**
  + Interior security cameras
  + Two-way talk radios that serve bus routes for the school allocated funding
  + GPS tablets to facilitate school bus routing, communications with school buses, and school bus and passenger tracking
  + Passenger ID card readers on buses
  + Stop arm camera systems for buses
  + Backup cameras for buses

***Terms of Grant Award***

* **Authorized by**: Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)
* **Recipient and Grant Award Amount:** The recipients and grant award amounts for the *FY 2024 School Safety and Security Grants* from state general funds and federal ARPA Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds are as specified in the *#2024-24 Virginia Education Update June 13, 2024,* and referenced website attachments within.
* **Grant Authority**: The federal funds are authorized under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. The state and federal funds are appropriated for this grant program in Chapter 1, Item 136, Paragraph DDD, 2024 Special Session I General Assembly.
* **Fund Sources:** State General Funds (Fund 01000); Federal (Fund 12110)
* **Federal Grant Award Number:** SLFRP1026
* **Project Codes:** State Funds: APE60120; Federal Funds: APE45290
* **Grant Award Year:** 2024
* **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA**) **Number/Revenue Source Code (State):** 21.027 (Federal); 240946 (State)

## **Award Period**

These grant funds are awarded for allowable expenditures incurred beginning on June 13, 2024. State general fund grant allocations may be carried over by school divisions for use during FY 2025 but should be fully expended by June 30, 2025. Federal grant allocations from the ARP Act Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds must be obligated by school divisions for allowable expenditures by December 31, 2024, and all funds expended by December 31, 2025. All federal grant reimbursements requests must be submitted to VDOE via the OMEGA grants management application by January 31, 2026.

## **Terms and Conditions**

Grant recipients are responsible for: 1) adhering to the guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury for the American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds; 2) adhering to the state Appropriation Act provisions in Chapter 1, Item 136, Paragraph DDD., 2024 Special Session I General Assembly; 3) adhering to the regulations in 2 CFR 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (refer to the [CFR](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=&SID=373b165efef2ea0f01ef6ec0899385f4&mc=true&n=pt2.1.200&r=PART&ty=HTML) documents for additional information); 4) periodically submit the Expenditure Certification Form to the VDOE Office of Support Services during FY 2025 to report on state fund allocations; and 5) adhering to applicable federal Davis Bacon Act prevailing wage requirements.

## **Additional Information**

Reimbursements of the federal SLFRF may be processed once funds are distributed from Object Code 0000 to the other object codes in OMEGA. To distribute amounts from Object Code 0000, the OMEGA budget originator needs to submit a budget transfer request by selecting “Change my object code budget:” from the “I want to…” list. Funds will be available for reimbursement when the budget transfer has been approved by all required reviewer levels and the transfer has the status “Transfer Completed.” For assistance with OMEGA, please contact OMEGA Support at (804) 371-0993 or [OMEGA.support@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:OMEGA.support@doe.virginia.gov).

***Additional Required Special Terms and Conditions***

***for Federal Grant Awards or Cooperative Agreements***

**A. Intellectual Property**

(i.e. papers, reports, forms, materials, creations, or inventions (intangible property))

**Special Terms and Conditions for Intellectual Property apply for all grants or cooperative agreements, regardless of funding source (General, Special, Federal).**

Additionally, Federally funded grants or cooperative agreements must meet the requirements of the specific federal grant, such as making any work (e.g., materials, tools, processes, systems) developed freely available to the public, ensuring any websites developed meet government or industry recognized standards for accessibility, and the requirements of **2 CFR §200.315 Intangible Property**, are met.

SECTION I. Grants or Cooperative Agreements under which no Intellectual Property will be created

If grant or cooperative agreement deliverables DO NOT include creation/development of Intellectual Property, the following special terms are applicable to the grant or cooperative agreement:

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: The parties agree that no Intellectual Property will be created in performance of this grant or cooperative agreement.**

**B. Suspension and Debarment Compliance – Non-Procurement Covered Transactions**

According to 2 CFR §200.213, non-federal entities are subject to the non-procurement debarment and suspension regulations implementing Executive Orders 12549 and 12689, 2 CFR part 180. These regulations restrict awards, subawards, and contracts with certain parties that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal assistance programs or activities.

All recipients of federal funds through this transaction must comply with 2 CFR 180, Subpart C as a condition of participation in this transaction and must include similar terms or conditions in lower tier covered transactions.

**C. Federal Funding in Public Announcements**

When issuing statements, press releases, requests for proposals, bid solicitations and other documents describing projects or programs funded in whole or in part with Federal funding, U.S. Department of Education sub-grantees shall clearly state:

1. the percentage of the total costs of the program or project which will be financed with Federal funding;
2. the dollar amount of Federal funds for the project or program; and
3. the percentage and dollar amount of the total costs of the project or program that will be financed by non-governmental sources.

Recipients must comply with these conditions under Division H, Title V, Section 505 of Public Law 113-76. Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014.

**D. Prohibition of Text Messaging and Emailing While Driving During Official Federal Grant Business**

Federal grant recipients, sub-recipients and their grant personnel are prohibited from text messaging while driving a government owned vehicle, or while driving their own privately owned vehicle during official grant business, or from using government supplied electronic equipment to text message or email while driving.

Recipients must comply with these conditions under Executive Order 13513, “Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging While Driving,” October 1, 2009.

**E. Monitoring and Reporting**

1. VDOE and auditors shall have access to sub-recipient records and financial statements as necessary to meet monitoring requirements.
2. Project reimbursement and amendment requests must be made utilizing VDOE’s automated system Online Management of Education Grant Awards (OMEGA). Exceptions may be granted by VDOE grants managers via notice on the Notification of Grant Award if project reimbursement submissions are expected to be minimal during the award period.
3. Reimbursement may be requested prior to an activity, after the expenditure of funds, where payment in advance of an activity is required.  This includes but is not limited to airfare, deposits, and registrations.  The LEA is responsible for reconciling expenses after the activity has occurred. Reimbursement may be requested for the difference of expenses higher than the previously requested amount.  Expenses lower than the previously requested amount must be repaid via a credit on a reimbursement request within 30 days of the completed activity.