## **Virginia Department of Education** **2024-2025 School Security Equipment Grants Program Application**

**Application Due Date: August 1, 2024**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has developed the following guidelines for school divisions applying for grant funds authorized under the Public School Security Equipment Grant Act of 2013 and the Appropriation Act. The Virginia Public School Authority (VPSA) will issue equipment notes (repaid from the Literary Fund) for the purpose of providing grant payments to eligible school divisions. These grants are to be used exclusively for purchasing school security equipment, which includes building modifications and fixtures such as security vestibules, for the school site and school buses as per the 2019 amendment to the Public School Security Equipment Grant Act of 2013, including any related equipment installation costs.

Beginning in grant award year 2020-2021, the total funding available is $12.0 million. The amount of grants provided to each eligible school division may not exceed $250,000 for each fiscal year. Eligible school divisions may submit applications for this competitive grant to the VDOE between **July 1, 2024**, and **August 1, 2024**, **by 5 p.m.** The Virginia Public School Authority closed on the issuance of $12.0 million in Notes to fund the School Security Equipment Grants program for the 2024-2025 school year on **May 16, 2024.**

**Local Match Requirement**

For a school division to receive 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 such 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.

**Application process**

The 2024-2025 school year grants will be awarded on a competitive basis and school divisions are eligible to receive grant awards up to $250,000. To apply for these funds, grant applications must be submitted to the VDOE between July 1, 2024, and August 1, 2024, by 5:00p.m. using the [Security Grant Management (SEGM)](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/programs-services/school-operations-support-services/facility-construction-maintenance/security-equipment-grants) application in the Single Sign-on Web Systems (SSWS) portal. Applications will be evaluated, and funding awards made based on competitive criteria developed by the VDOE in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). School divisions will be notified of the 2024-2025 grant awards as soon as they are determined. Awarded school divisions must purchase the funded security equipment, including equipment for school buses, building modifications and fixtures such as security vestibules, within six months of the notification of the grant award or by March 1, 2025. Grant funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis only.

To support the installation of school security equipment during the summer months and to expedite the spend-down of these Notes funds, school divisions and regional programs may apply for grants to reimburse allowable school security equipment expenditures beginning on or after **May 16, 2024**. Such projects must otherwise meet all existing program guidelines and application criteria.

**Eligibility Requirements**

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 PK 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 PK through 12 as of

September 30, 2023, for the 2024-2025 grants, as well as regional vocational centers, special education centers, alternative education centers, academic year Governor’s Schools, and the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind.

These grant funds may not be comingled with any other type of school construction work (i.e., building renovations or alterations)*,* or used to cover any professional services costs (such as A&E or other fees), the cost of extended equipment warranties or service contract agreements, or software licenses or subscriptions.

**Eligibility criteria for a school to be eligible for funding from this grant:**

1. Eligible schools include schools that are subject to state accreditation and reporting membership in grades PK through 12 as of September 30, 2023, for the fiscal year 2024 issuance and 2024-2025 grant awards, as well as regional vocational centers, special education centers, alternative education centers, academic year Governor’s Schools, and the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind.
2. If two or more school divisions become one school division, whether by consolidation of only the school divisions or by consolidation of the local governments, such resulting division will be provided funding through this program based on having the same number of school divisions as existed prior to September 30, 2000.

Local school divisions must maximize the use of available federal funds including E-Rate funds, and to the extent possible, use such funds to supplement this program and to meet the goals of this program.

1. There can be no planned renovations/additions scheduled to the school building for the next five years which would cause the security equipment being requested through the grant to become obsolete.
2. The school building must be scheduled to remain open for at least five more years.
3. The school site security means mounting of security cameras on existing light poles in parking areas, ball fields and field houses. The grant now also includes school perimeter security fencing and AEDs for school buildings, and security equipment such as passenger ID systems, GPS tablets, cameras, and two-way radios installation inside school buses.
4. The grant funds may only be used to pay for the purchase and installation of security equipment items eligible for funding included in the List of Allowable Equipment.
5. School divisions must identify the security equipment for which grant funds are being requested from the List of Allowable Equipment as well as the estimated costs to purchase and install the security equipment.
6. To support the installation of school security equipment during the summer months and to expedite the spend-down of these Notes funds, school divisions and regional programs may apply for grants to reimburse school security equipment expenditures beginning on or after **May 16, 2024**. Such projects must otherwise meet all existing program guidelines and application criteria.

J. School divisions applying for a grant must certify their intent to purchase the security equipment within six months of the date of the grant award notification from the Virginia Department of Education, or by March 1, 2025.

**Reimbursement Process**

1. A 2024-2025 Security Equipment Grant Reimbursement form located at [Security Equipment Grants Virginia Department of Education](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/programs-services/school-operations-support-services/facility-construction-maintenance/security-equipment-grants) must be completed and submitted by email or US Mail to the VDOE Office of Support Services with documentation showing the school name and total cost of the qualifying equipment purchased, including installation costs, for which reimbursement is being requested. Awarded grant funds will be maintained and disbursed from accounts administered by the State Non-Arbitrage Program (SNAP) under the Virginia Public School Authority.
2. After VDOE approves a reimbursement request submitted by an eligible school division, it will submit the approved request to the VPSA, or the VPSA’s designated account manager, directing it to make a grant payment for the approved amount to the eligible school division. The VPSA, or its designated account manager, will make such grant payments within 30 days of receipt of the approved request.
3. Approved grant funds must be spent at each approved school to be eligible for reimbursement of the total school division’s awarded grant funds.
4. If a school division purchases all the equipment approved for a school, and has funds remaining, a revision to their application may be submitted requesting that the remaining funds be used at another approved eligible school building.

For more information or questions, see the table below with VDOE staff contact information.

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Attachment A**:** Competitive Application Criteria Points

Attachment B: List of Allowable Equipment