

**Capital Budget Adjustment FY 19  
School Safety Language**

Sec. 26. 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Secs. 36a-36c are added to read:

Sec. 36a. SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY CAPITAL GRANT

PROGRAM

(a) Creation. There is created the School Safety and Security Capital Grant Program to be administered by the Department of Public Safety to enhance safety and security in Vermont schools, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 3447. The amount appropriated in Sec. 10 of this act, adding 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 84, Sec. 13(c)(1), shall be used to fund this Program.

(b) Use of funds. Capital grants authorized in subsection (a) of this section shall be used for the planning, delivery, and installation of equipment for upgrades to existing school security equipment and for new school security equipment identified through threat assessment planning and surveys designed to enhance building security.

(c) Guidelines. The following guidelines shall apply to capital grants for school safety measures:

(1) Grants shall be awarded competitively to schools for capital-eligible expenses to implement safety and security measures identified in a security assessment. Capital-eligible expenses may include video monitoring and surveillance equipment, intercom systems, window coverings, exterior and interior doors, locks, and perimeter security measures.

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January 18, 2019

(2) Grants shall only be awarded after a security assessment has been completed by the Agency of Education and Department of Public Safety.

(3) The Program is authorized to award capital grants of up to \$25,000.00 per school. Each school shall be required to provide a 25 percent match to the grant amount. The required match shall be met through dollars raised and not in-kind services.

(d) Administration. The Department of Public Safety, in coordination with the Agency of Education, shall administer and coordinate capital grants made pursuant to this section. Grant funds shall not be used to administer the Program.

(e) Reporting. The Department of Public Safety shall provide notice of any capital grants awarded under this section to the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Institutions and the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions.

\* \* \* Sunset of School Security Grant Program \* \* \*

Sec. 36b. REPEAL OF SCHOOL SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

The School Safety and Security Grant Program established in Sec. 26 of this act shall be repealed on July 1, 2019.

**§ 3447. School building construction; State bonds; city as school district**

The State Treasurer may issue bonds under 32 V.S.A. chapter 13 in such amount as may from time to time be appropriated to assist incorporated school districts, joint contract schools, town school districts, union school districts, regional career technical center school districts, and independent schools meeting education quality standards that serve as the public high school for one or more towns or cities, or combination thereof, and that both receive their principal support from public funds and are conducted within the State under the authority and supervision of a board of trustees, not less than two-thirds of whose membership is appointed by the selectboard of a town or by the city council of a city or in part by such selectboard and the remaining part by such council under the conditions and for the purpose set forth in sections 3447-3456 of this title. A city shall be deemed to be an incorporated school district within the meaning of sections 3447-3456 of this title.

\* \* \* School Safety Advisory Group \* \* \*

Sec. 36c. SCHOOL SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP; REPORT

(a) Creation. There is created the School Safety Advisory Group to develop statewide guidelines and best practices concerning school safety and the prevention of school shootings.

(b) Membership. The Advisory Group shall be composed of the following six members:

- (1) the Secretary of Administration or designee;
- (2) the Secretary of Education or designee;
- (3) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;
- (4) the Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association or designee;
- (5) the President of the Vermont-National Education Association or designee; and
- (6) a representative of the Vermont Principals' Association.

(c) Powers and duties. The Advisory Group shall study the following issues and develop specific guidelines and best practices for Vermont schools concerning them:

- (1) improving security in and around school buildings and property;
- (2) ensuring staff and students know what they should do in the event of a school shooting or other incident;
- (3) training for staff and students, including the type and frequency of the training;
- (4) sharing information with parents and community if an event occurs; and
- (5) gathering information on security measures implemented in schools from corresponding state education and public safety departments in states where school shootings have occurred.

(d) Assistance. The Advisory Group shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Education and the Department of Public Safety.

(e) Report. On or before July 1, 2018, the Advisory Group shall submit a written report to the General Assembly with its findings, including specific guidelines and best practices, and any recommendations for legislative action necessary to ensure that all schools in Vermont begin implementing those guidelines and best practices and have a plan for compliance before the beginning of the next school year.

(f) Meetings.

(1) The Secretary of Education shall call the first meeting of the Advisory Group.

(2) The Commissioner of Public Safety or designee shall be the Chair.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Advisory Group shall cease to exist on July 1, 2019.

(g) Compensation and reimbursement. Members of the Advisory Group who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 for meetings. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to the General Assembly.

Rebecca Wasserman  
Office of Legislative Council  
January 18, 2019

**School Safety Advisory Group  
Report on School Safety Best Practices**

**[Report on School Safety Best Practices](#)**