

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Safety Coordinators

FROM: James B. Rawl
Director, Office of Safe Schools

DATE: August 4, 2026

RE: Application for School Safety Funds

Proviso 1.74 of the pending FY 2026-2027 Appropriations Act authorizes the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) to distribute up to \$20,000,000 to public school districts and charter school districts to make upgrades aligned with school safety priorities.

- Eligible school facility upgrades shall include:
- classroom/internal door locks
- secure school entry points and access control
- window covers
- bulletproof glass or bulletproof film for windows or doors
- electronic or other technology
- ballistic proof doors
- the purchase of AEDs, AED maintenance, AED pads, AED battery replacements, CPR training kits or CPR training for faculty or staff, basic first aid training, and educational materials.

School facilities eligible for safety upgrades are locations with daily student attendance and shall not include unimproved real property, centralized district administration facilities, or other facilities, including those normally identified with interscholastic sports activities.

Districts must [complete and submit applications](#) for the funds to the SCDE by **September 1, 2025**. Districts should schedule a review with the Office of Safe Schools to discuss proposed safety upgrades. Criteria for prioritizing the allocation of funds shall include, but not be limited to, percentage of students enrolled from low-income families,

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the age and condition of the existing school facilities to be upgraded, as well as the ability to commence construction in a timely matter, and the quality of the application. Prior to new project considerations, districts must demonstrate that all classroom/internal door locks are functional and in good order. Proposed projects may not create new recurring annual expenses and comply with local, state, and federal building codes. SCDE shall submit a list of recommended allocations to the State Board of Education at its November or December meeting.

These funds will be allocated to districts once the 2026-2027 Appropriations Act is finalized.

For more information, please contact James Rawl at 803-734-1698 or jbrawl@ed.sc.gov.

