



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TO: District Superintendents
District Safety Coordinators

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

DATE: August 1, 2023

RE: School Safety Grant Funds

Proviso 1.81 of the FY 2024 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
- window film/covers or bulletproof glass or bulletproof film for windows
- secure school entry points and access control
- electronic or other technology

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, 2023. Districts should schedule a site visit from the Office of Safe schools to review proposed safety upgrades. Criteria for prioritizing the awarding of grants shall include, but not be limited to, percentage of students enrolled from low-income families, 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. 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 grant awards to the State Board of Education no later than **November 30, 2023**.

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

ELLEN E. WEAVER · STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION
RUTLEDGE BUILDING · 1429 SENATE STREET · COLUMBIA, SC 29201
PHONE: 803-734-8500 · FAX: 803-734-3389 · ED.SC.GOV