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A GUIDE TO
GRANT\$
FUNDING AND
TECHNOLOGY



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FROM THE EDITOR

School safety has been a top concern for law enforcement, educators, parents and citizens. A wealth of resources is being poured into mitigating the possibility of a school shooting or other critical emergency and restoring schools to safe environments where students can focus on learning.

But curbing still-rising school violence will require a multifaceted approach ranging from physical deterrents to security cameras to collaborative training between schools and law enforcement, and additional technology and tools – all which cost money.

Two acts of federal legislation — The Students, Teachers and Officers Preventing School Violence (STOP School Violence) Act of 2018 and the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) –

have created funding opportunities for states and local communities to identify their safety needs and implement initiatives to reduce gun violence and promote safer, positive school environments for students and staff.

We hope this eBook provides your school helpful information about tactics, tools and technologies that can strengthen security at your schools and how to access funding resources to pay for them so schools can ultimately get back to the important business of educating students in a safe learning environment.

Stay safe,

Sarah Wilson, vice president of the Grant Division at Lexipol & EducationGrantsHelp

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**TODAY'S SCHOOLS NEED AN
INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY
ECOSYSTEM TO FACILITATE
INFORMATION SHARING**



TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP ADDRESS COMMON SECURITY CHALLENGES AND ENSURE A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO SCHOOL SAFETY

WRITTEN BY
Laura Neitzel

The sad reality is that elementary, middle school and high school students today have much more to worry about than grades, extracurricular activities and first crushes. Granted, teachers and administrators still find their hands full with infractions like vaping in the bathroom, skipping class and fighting in the hallway, but schools today have added challenges that are exponentially more difficult than those of my generation.

Today's teachers and staff must not only respond to everyday incidents, they must also train and prepare for critical emergencies, like an active shooter.

School shootings reached unprecedented levels in 2021 and 2022, according to the [K-12 School Shooting Database](#). Last year was the most tragic year to date, with 332 people shot or wounded on K-12 school properties. These harrowing and heartbreaking events

justly command the news cycle, and the possibility of an active shooter hangs like the sword of Damocles over every school.

Justifiably, a wealth of resources is being poured into mitigating the possibility of a school shooting or other critical emergency and restoring schools to safe environments where students can focus on learning. But there is no one solution.

“Today’s school safety and security challenges are multifaceted and complex. There is no single action that will, by itself, make our schools safe. Protecting students and staff is a tremendous moral and legal responsibility that requires a comprehensive approach to these challenges.”

– Partner Alliance for Safer Schools





The [Partner Alliance for Safer Schools](#) recommends a multifaceted approach that builds layers of protection starting from the district level down to the individual classroom.

While people, policies and processes are essential components of a security strategy, technology can bring these components together to help school staff address everyday concerns as well as emerging situations at each level.

Four pillars of a school security ecosystem

“Large crisis events are a concern, but in talking with schools, safety is very much [about] the day-to-day operations,” said Michael Huzinec, senior director of of Safety Reimagined Sales. Detecting an open door or unauthorized visitor and getting immediate notifications to the right personnel for response allows schools to be proactive about their security rather than reactive, he says.

School safety has always been a priority for Motorola Solutions, and the company has built a unified and connected technology ecosystem to help schools meet security challenges from initial detection to final response. Their [Safe Schools technology ecosystem](#) integrates critical communications, video security, and data and analytics on one common operating platform, giving schools the systems they need to detect, analyze, communicate, and respond to unfolding incidents or threats.

“We break it down into four pillars: detect, analyze, communicate and respond,” said Huzinec. “How can you detect something you need to be aware of more quickly? How can you analyze it more quickly? What communication protocols are in place for a given situation? And where are resources located so you can have a more efficient response?”

Unifying voice, data, video and analytics into one integrated platform allows schools to create a net of safety across the campuses and properties, including school buses. The Safe Schools ecosystem offers schools a variety of tools that enable them to:

- Control entry access.
- Monitor suspicious activity with cameras.
- Analyze video.
- Set automatic notifications to activate upon certain events.
- Send alert messages to key personnel or all staff.
- Identify and dispatch response resources.
- Broadcast mass notifications to personnel, parents and guardians.
- Communicate seamlessly among security staff, key personnel and law enforcement.
- Optimize response times to emergency situations.
- Provide critical incident insights to maximize safety.
- Gain situational awareness and proactively enable the right level of response before a situation escalates.

Here are some examples of how the four pillars work together to address common security challenges in a school environment.

Detect: *Detecting potential security threats before they happen.*

School grounds can be expansive and a challenge to manage. Detection technology like a door access control system plays a critical role in improving situational awareness and minimizing potential threats. A role-based system can instantly detect who is at a particular access point or in a restricted area and send instant text or text-to-voice alerts to security staff

or other designated personnel in the event of an access point breach.

No matter how watchful, school personnel cannot always be everywhere. A video camera system consisting of specialized, wide-view cameras mounted in classrooms, hallways, common areas and parking lots can enhance situational awareness by offering a holistic view of activity across one or more campuses.

Coupling cameras with video analytics technology further enhances situational awareness. License plate recognition analytics enable authorized school personnel to set up watch lists so they are notified and can respond appropriately when a person of interest, such as a suspended student or irate parent, drives into the parking lot or enters the property.

Analyze: *Analyzing video, location and other data for insights and quicker response.*

Video analytics can be programmed to automatically detect unusual or suspicious behavior that warrants closer inspection and send an alert to security personnel or administrators. Tools like appearance searches (where permitted) allow those personnel to quickly comb through video in real-time and easily identify persons of interest by their clothes, shoes or other identifying characteristics, and use the camera system to track their movements, preventing potential escalations.

In addition to identifying and tracking persons of interest, analytics tools in the [Safe Schools ecosystem](#) also enable school personnel to actively monitor the location of response resources based on the GPS position of a school resource officer's radio or an administrator's smartphone or LTE device. Whether a medical emergency, a food fight in the cafeteria or a banned individual approaching the playground, security personnel can identify and deploy the closest, most appropriate resources to an incident for a faster, more informed response.



Communicate: *Communicating one-to-one or one-to-many for a coordinated response.*

Clear and timely communication is key to building a safe, connected school environment. Security personnel, administrators, teachers, bus drivers and other staff must be able to instantly communicate in an emergency so an informed and appropriate response can be coordinated.

Communication among school personnel also needs to happen wherever they are. Sharing information – including an image or video – of a missing student, a suspicious vehicle or a disruptive individual can happen with the press of a button whether in the classroom, on the athletic field or on a school bus.

Communication tools in the Safe Schools ecosystem also enable instant mass notifications via text, email or voice message when parents and guardians need to be informed about school lockdowns, early release or other events.

Respond: *Mounting an effective, efficient, appropriate response.*

Different situations require different responses and different response teams. A medical emergency or a student brandishing a weapon requires a different priority of response and personnel than a student vaping in the bathroom. An integrated ecosystem provides several methods for personnel to submit alarms at different severity levels so the closest, correct response teams can be dispatched.

For critical situations that require additional resources, [Critical Connect](#) facilitates immediate, interoperable communications among school security, administrators and local first responders for a collaborative response.

Today's challenges require a multipronged, integrated approach to school security

All the capabilities discussed – and far more – are made possible when various technologies like cameras, access control systems, radios and



LTE devices, data and analytics are all integrated into one holistic safety ecosystem.

But as urgent as hardening schools against today's threats is, few schools have the resources to acquire everything they need at once. They need the flexibility and budget to add new solutions as they become available.

Huzinec and his colleagues at [Motorola Solutions](#) understand this, and that's why they work with schools to help them prioritize security needs and create an achievable, long-term plan to fulfill those needs with various technologies and tools that fall under the [Safe Schools ecosystem](#).

["Safety Reimagined"](#) is our vision of bringing different security technologies together for schools in a way that maximizes the benefits," said Huzinec. "We can tailor how we roll out Safety Reimagined in the unified Safe Schools ecosystem based on what the customers' priorities are, and then help them get the most out of the technology."

There are many advantages to an integrated system like Motorola Solutions' Safe Schools ecosystem. Top among them is proactive situational awareness. "You're not totally dependent on people to notice something," said Huzinec. "The camera never sleeps, the access control system is always on and the automated alerts and notifications happen when they need to happen."

This allows schools to immediately recognize and respond to threats in an appropriate and proactive manner and ensure a school environment where students feel secure, supported and ready to learn.

"When you have the right mix of technology and the right mix of people with the right processes, you're going to have the most efficient safety environment," said Huzinec. "The Safe Schools integrated ecosystem brings all these elements together." 🍏



THE BIPARTISAN SAFER COMMUNITIES ACT IS A CHANCE TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

\$750 MILLION WILL BE AVAILABLE TO HELP STATES KEEP DEADLY WEAPONS OUT OF THE HANDS OF INDIVIDUALS DETERMINED TO BE A SIGNIFICANT DANGER TO THEMSELVES OR OTHERS

In June 2022, President Joe Biden signed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) into law, providing historic levels of funding to support education agencies and improve the safety of schools. Overall, this legislation expands mental health services and provides much-needed additional support for states and districts to identify their safety needs and implement initiatives to promote safer, positive school environments for students and staff. This law was created in response to the upsurge

in mass shootings over recent years and the BSCA is intended to keep guns out of the hands of high-risk individuals by providing critical support to states and local communities working to intervene in the crisis. It addresses various forms of gun violence, including mass shootings, domestic violence, gun suicides and community gun violence.

Below is a review of the purpose and scope of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act within the context of school safety measures.

Safer, inclusive and positive schools

Regarding school safety, this act provides funding for a wide range of initiatives, including the installation of security cameras, door locks and other physical security measures, as well as training for teachers and staff to respond to violent incidents. Additionally, BSCA provides funding for school resource officers, who are trained law enforcement officers assigned to work in schools.

One core element of this funding is for districts to leverage dollars to ensure schools have clear emergency plans and the necessary resources to prevent violence on campuses. The funding is designed to help schools improve safety infrastructure and provide a safer environment for students, teachers and staff.

In addition, grant funding can be leveraged to deliver high-quality, professional development to foster safe and inclusive learning environments, resolve conflicts and connect students with the appropriate support services they need. The Department of Education recommends districts and associated staff use this funding to implement professional development strategies that are sustained, intensive, collaborative, data-driven and classroom-focused.

It is clear this effort provides a much-needed boost to school safety efforts – schools have been struggling to fund these types of initiatives in recent years, mainly due to budget constraints. With the funding provided by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, schools will be able to implement effective safety measures that help protect students, staff and families from harm.

Stronger connections grant program

BSCA includes \$1 billion through Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Act for state education agencies to competitively award subgrants to local education agencies (LEA) with the highest need. This funding can be accessed through the Stronger Connections Grant Program (SCG). State education agencies are ultimately responsible for administering these funds. Stronger Connections funds are available for obligation through September 30, 2026.

Each state has the flexibility to determine how best to leverage the funding to improve school and community safety, and each allocation is determined by state funding formulas established by the act. These formulas consider various factors such as the number of schools within the state, size of the student population and state's overall need for school safety funding. The

BSCA funding formula was designed this way to ensure dollars are distributed in fair and equitable manners across states regardless of their size or political leanings.

States are encouraged to commit to the priorities below when distributing BSCA funds to maximize school safety impacts ([Stronger Connections FAQ](#)):

1. “Implementing comprehensive, evidence-based strategies that meet each student’s social, emotional, physical and mental well-being needs; create positive, inclusive and supportive school environments; and increase access to place-based interventions and services.”
2. “Engaging students, families, educators, staff and community organizations in the selection and implementation of strategies and interventions to create safe, inclusive and supportive learning environments.”
3. “Designing and implementing policies and practices that advance equity and are responsive to underserved students, protect student rights and demonstrate respect for student dignity and potential.”

As a result, local education agencies should focus on these priorities while exploring new and creative approaches to improving school safety.

Awards for Stronger Connections funds must be made on a competitive basis. With this, state education agencies (SEA) are charged to develop policies and procedures for administering these funds. For LEAs it is important to be familiar with the state’s administering authority, the SEA, and follow it for updates.

School safety technology

One component for creating safe, healthy and supportive schools is for school leaders to establish interventions that focus on each student’s emotional and physical safety. With a sense of emotional and physical safety, students are “less likely to engage in risky behaviors,



be absent from school, experience emotional distress and are more likely to earn higher grades.” ([Stronger Connections FAQ](#))

In establishing comprehensive school safety programs, SEAs are seeking technology that can ensure the physical safety of their students. One example of how states are using these funds is Florida. Florida is leveraging funds to support the installation of security cameras, door locks and other school-based physical security measures. Florida is also using the funding to provide training for teachers and staff on how to respond to violent incidents as well as increasing school-based mental health services across all sites.

When purchasing equipment, LEA applicants must be sure to review the state’s Stronger Connections Grant guidelines. In addition, LEAs must ensure:

1. Any installation involves minor remodeling and does not require any construction, renovation or repair.
2. If using a video system, the LEA “should have a clearly established policy on the use of video systems on school property.”
3. The LEA will not “discriminate on the basis of race, color, nation origin, sex, disability, age or other protected classes when conducting video security and other security or safety activities.”
4. They incorporate stakeholders when developing physical safety measures. This includes students, their families and educators to address any privacy concerns.
5. Review information for [school resource officers and law enforcement units](#) on the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
6. Review FAQs about [photos and videos under FERPA](#).

Getting started

Some states, like Oklahoma, have released Stronger Connections Grant guidance and notified LEAs of awards. Some states have yet to release guidance. It is important to remember that funding through SCG will continue through 2026, so LEAs can actively take steps now to prepare to apply.

- LEAs can prepare by viewing their SEA's grant allocations. This will help LEAs plan for their requests. Find states' grant allocations here: [Stronger Connections Grant Program Allocations](#).
- Once they're released, be sure to review the state's guidelines, including any goals, objectives and deliverables included, as well as allowable and unallowable costs and the state's definition of a "high-need LEA."
- LEAs should aim to build a comprehensive and evidence-based school safety program based on their state's priorities. However, the LEA's plan should be focused on needs unique to their school community.
- LEAs should seek stakeholder input as a part of developing the school safety interventions. This includes guardians, community organizations, educators and school staff.
- Stronger Connections is a competitive grant, and awards are based on greatest need. SCG considers these factors to be high-need:
 - "Need for additional mental health staff, which may be demonstrated by a high student-to-mental health professional ratio."
 - "High rates of chronic absenteeism, exclusionary discipline, referrals to the juvenile justice system, bullying/harassment, community and school violence, students experiencing homelessness, students in foster care or substance use."

- "Where students recently experienced a natural or manmade disaster or a traumatic event."
- "High numbers of students living in poverty" is also considered.
- LEAs should be prepared to present their needs. This can be done by gathering data based on the SEA's high-need definition. In addition, LEAs should complete a risk assessment and review their school climate plan.
- Finally, along with becoming familiar with their state's SGC guidance, LEAs should review the [Stronger Connections Grant FAQs](#).

Overall, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act is an important step in violence reduction across the country. BSCA provides a significant amount of funding for school safety initiatives, including physical security, mental health supports and court system alignment. States are awarded funding based on a variety of factors and can distribute dollars to align with their overall goals. This funding is essential in establishing safety measures and programs and helping create safer and more secure learning environments for all. 🍎

Resources:

[Stronger Connections Grant Program Dear Colleague Letter](#)

[Stronger Connections Grant FAQ](#)

[Bipartisan Safer Communities Act – Office of Elementary and Secondary Education](#)



TIPS FOR GRANT SUCCESS UNDER THE SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

SUCCESSFUL GRANTS UNDER THE SVPP INCLUDE PLANS FOR BRINGING IN STAKEHOLDERS, FROM SCHOOLS TO PARENTS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER FIRST RESPONDERS

The Students, Teachers and Officers Preventing School Violence (STOP School Violence) Act of 2018 gave the U.S. Justice Department’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) authority to provide awards directly to states, units of local government and Indian tribes to improve security at schools and on school grounds in grantees’ jurisdictions.

School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) funding will provide up to 75% funding for the

following school safety measures in and around K–12 (primary and secondary) schools and school grounds:

- Coordination with law enforcement
- Training for local law enforcement officers to prevent student violence against themselves and others
- Metal detectors, locks, lighting and other deterrent measures
- Technology for expedited notification of local law enforcement during an emergency
- Any other measure the COPS Office determines may provide a significant improvement in security

Award ceiling: \$500,000 (25% cash match).

Each award has a three-year (36-month) project period.

The following entities are ineligible to apply as primary applicants:

- Individual schools
- Nonprofit schools and nonprofit organizations that operate schools
- Private schools, including private charter schools

The goal of the SVPP is to improve security at schools and on school grounds through the implementation of evidence-based school safety programs and technology. SVPP awards will contribute to this goal by fueling projects which include funding of civilian personnel to serve as coordinators with local law enforcement, training for local law enforcement officers, purchase and installation of certain allowable equipment and technology, and other measures to significantly improve school security.

There are five key application elements in the COPS SVPP grant:

1. School safety planning efforts.
2. Funding request and integration.
3. Management and implementation plan.
4. Sustainability plan.
5. Budget summary.

Successful applicants have taken the following things into consideration when completing the narrative portion of the grant application:

- Does the school have an emergency response plan (ERP) or school safety plan?
- When was it completed? Who was involved in drafting the plan (list by qualification or title, not necessarily by name)?
- Does the plan detail response policies and procedures to a broad variety of emergency incidents?

“Communicating your school safety plans is important, because clear, accessible and specific information shared in a timely manner will help build and maintain trust with your community.”

– School Safety Communications Planning Guide

The National Center for School Safety (NCSS) is a Bureau of Justice Assistance-funded training and technical assistance center at the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

Note: If a threat assessment was conducted by an outside agency prior to submission of the grant proposal, this information should be added to the narratives.

As a condition of funding, if awarded, recipients must conduct comprehensive school safety assessments during the grant award period for all schools involved in the project. These assessments must inform the measures necessary to improve school safety and ensure a safe and positive learning environment for students. Advance completion may open additional funding streams for implementation of defined safety measures.

Communities should approach completion of the required comprehensive school safety assessment by first determining who should help formulate school safety goals, outcomes, activities and outputs. A core group of stakeholders may include (but is not limited to) school administrators, school district safety directors, local law enforcement officers, mental health professionals, teachers and parent organization representatives.

The work of these individuals should serve as the blueprint for a successful SVPP application. Whether you are relying on in-house resources or using a grant professional, the application



reviewer will need to know what type of incidents have taken place in the school and surrounding community over the past three years. The reviewer will look for a description of the measures currently in place to address these issues and seek to easily determine what type of enhancements are needed to address existing issues and potential threats.

The funding request must align with the identified problem(s) listed in the safety plan or threat assessment. There may be both a narrative component and a **budget summary** form in the application. Departments are encouraged to obtain cost estimates for proposed solutions to serve as the basis for their funding request.

Management and implementation planning

The Management and Implementation Plan section often requires applicants to identify who will be responsible for addressing the day-to-day efforts of the proposed solution. This could include the assigned project manager, a fiscal manager and a safety and security professional. Their roles must be defined in the application. Some applications will allow attachments to be uploaded. In this scenario, résumés or an individual's curriculum vitae (CV) will satisfy this requirement.

The implementation component should identify the steps that will be taken throughout the program period and the responsible party.

As you craft your proposal, don't overlook the importance of a sustainability plan. Basically, this plan discusses how you will ensure the continuity of the safety enhancements after the grant ends. Discuss sustainability with the key stakeholders before deciding to apply for grant funding. 🍎

Resources:

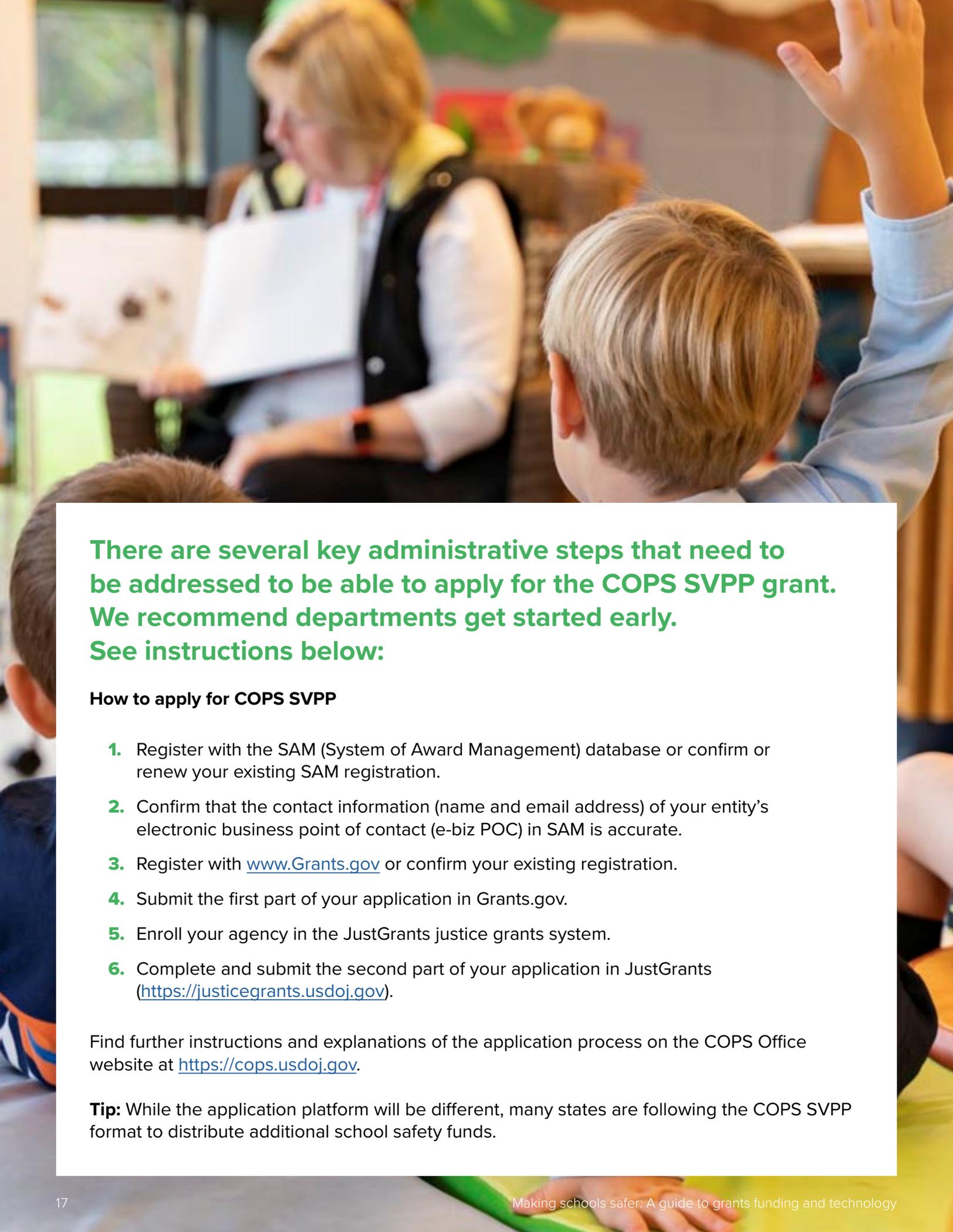
[School and Law Enforcement Partnerships](#)

This self-paced training from the National Center for School Safety is designed to help schools and law enforcement agencies discuss what form they want their partnerships to take and consider important issues related to these partnerships.

Learning Objectives

- Identify the types of school and law enforcement partnerships that exist.
- Determine roles and responsibilities in schools and law enforcement partnerships.
- Describe ethical information sharing between school and law enforcement agencies.

[School Safety Communications Planning Guide](#)



There are several key administrative steps that need to be addressed to be able to apply for the COPS SVPP grant. We recommend departments get started early. See instructions below:

How to apply for COPS SVPP

- 1.** Register with the SAM (System of Award Management) database or confirm or renew your existing SAM registration.
- 2.** Confirm that the contact information (name and email address) of your entity's electronic business point of contact (e-biz POC) in SAM is accurate.
- 3.** Register with www.Grants.gov or confirm your existing registration.
- 4.** Submit the first part of your application in Grants.gov.
- 5.** Enroll your agency in the JustGrants justice grants system.
- 6.** Complete and submit the second part of your application in JustGrants (<https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov>).

Find further instructions and explanations of the application process on the COPS Office website at <https://cops.usdoj.gov>.

Tip: While the application platform will be different, many states are following the COPS SVPP format to distribute additional school safety funds.

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Motorola Solutions provides mission-critical communications products and services to public safety, local government and commercial customers around the world. Our innovations, products and services play essential roles in people's lives. We help firefighters see around buildings, police officers see around street corners and school personnel communicate without boundaries. We provide the situational awareness first responders need when a moment brings catastrophe. We do this by connecting them to seamless communication networks, applications and services, by providing them with real-time information and by arming them with intuitive, nearly indestructible handheld devices. Visit Motorola Solutions for more information on education communications solutions.

RESOURCES



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MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS GRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



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