



**Brad D. Schimel**  
**Wisconsin Attorney General**

**P.O. Box 7857**  
**Madison, WI 53707-7857**

---

**NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 20, 2018

**AG Schimel Announces More Than \$1.9 Million in School Safety Grant  
Funding to 19 School Districts**

MCFARLAND, Wis. – Attorney General Brad Schimel today announced a list of 19 schools and school districts that have been awarded the next round of grants through the Wisconsin Department of Justice School Safety Grant program, administered by DOJ’s Office of School Safety. Combined, the 19 schools and school districts will receive \$1,943,417 which will be spent on building safety improvements, as well as training for faculty and staff. More grants will be awarded soon. A list of all 735 schools and school districts that have requested grant funds is available on the [DOJ website](#).

“School officials and law enforcement share the responsibility in keeping our kids safe when they leave their homes every day,” said Attorney General Schimel. “These grant funds will establish a meaningful way to improve school safety through physical improvements to school buildings, and a focus on mental health training for school faculty.”

Following is a list of schools and school districts that have been awarded school safety grants.

- Baraboo School District, \$145,038;
- Birchwood School District, \$75,878;
- Blair-Taylor School District, \$43,047;
- Boyceville Community School District, \$60,000;
- Brodhead School District, \$53,789;
- Cambridge School District, \$81,704
- Lake Country School District, \$10,475;
- Madison Metropolitan School District, \$993,033;

- Markesan School District, \$22,625;
- McFarland School District, \$79,925;
- Nature's Classroom Institute Montessori School, \$20,000;
- New Lisbon School District, \$62,354;
- Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton School District, \$40,000;
- Pecatonica Area Schools, \$40,000;
- Portage Community Schools, \$79,474;
- Rock Prairie Montessori, \$19,943;
- Saint Mary of the Assumption Catholic School, \$12,295;
- St. Dennis School, \$21,423;
- Tomorrow River School District, \$82,414.

Grant dollars are divided into two categories: the Primary School Safety Grant and Advanced School Safety Grant. DOJ's Primary School Safety Grants focus on baseline improvements to schools, including door locks and hardening school entryways. The Advanced School Safety Grants are awarded to schools that have met minimum security thresholds. In addition to making upgrades to school buildings, one of the School Safety Grant prerequisites is providing all full-time teachers, aides, counselors, and administrators with a minimum of three hours combined training in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and Trauma Informed Care/Trauma Sensitive Schools (TIC/TSS) before the end of the 2018-2019 school year; or demonstrate that staff has already received such training. Highlights from the school safety grant applications<sup>1</sup> include such improvements as:

- Securing school entry areas with shatter resistant film;
- Adding and improving internal and external security cameras and system software;
- Improving visitor screening through additional key card access, entrance buzzer system, electronic system that completes background checks and prints visitor badges, and an interactive video/intercom system with door release;
- Updating internal classroom locks, including adding quick action locking devices;
- Increasing two-way communications, such as radios, telephone systems, and new PA systems, throughout a school building, including on playgrounds and in lunchrooms;
- Training for all staff in active threat assessment and active shooter response; and
- Enhancing security software to include door prop recognition that alerts staff.

---

<sup>1</sup> Specific building improvement details are not being released at this time. If released publicly, such information could negatively impact school safety measures, enable individuals to evade school security, and endanger the safety of students, teachers, and other school employees.

“This grant will fund projects that will enhance the physical security of our buildings and, through staff training, improve our ability to identify, assess, and respond to potential threats to the safety students and educators,” said Dr. Andrew Briddell, Superintendent of McFarland School District. “This grant award is also about strengthening the partnership between schools and local law enforcement, and in doing so, strengthening the team that keeps our schools - our kids and teachers - safe.”

Over the past two months, since [2017 Wisconsin Act 143](#) was signed into law, the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) has consulted with numerous stakeholders in the fields of education, security, law enforcement, and mental health. These specialists, listed at the end of this press release, worked with DOJ’s own security experts to develop how the School Safety Grant Initiative will create sustainable improvements in Wisconsin schools.

“Our \$100 million School Safety Plan is bringing together local law enforcement and school districts in order to make our schools safer,” said Governor Walker. “We want to make sure that every Wisconsin student, parent, teacher, and administrator feels safe in the classroom.”

Grant applicants are required to partner with law enforcement agencies to ensure that proposed expenditures, visitor protocols, and school safety plans will be effective and provide students with the safest learning environment possible.

“As law enforcement leaders this collaborative grant will allow our communities to carry-out our most critical role of keeping our school children safe,” said Dane County Sheriff Dave Mahoney.

In addition to helping keep schools safe from violent attacks, DOJ will be closely monitoring for behavior that could affect a school’s ability to pay market rates for products like door locks and shatter-resistant film for glass. DOJ will review and investigate any instances of inappropriate pricing behavior so the benefits of the program are not reduced.

Following is a list of organizations who have met with DOJ staff, and consulted on the creation of the Office of School Safety and the grant process and criteria.

- Association of Wisconsin School Administrators
- Badger State Sheriffs Association
- CESA 4, 7, 10
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- NAMI-WI

- Wisconsin Association of School Boards
- Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials
- Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators
- Wisconsin Association of School Nurses
- Wisconsin Catholic Conference
- Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association
- Wisconsin Council of Administrators of Special Services
- Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools
- Wisconsin Department of Administration
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
- Wisconsin Education Association Council
- Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association
- Wisconsin Juvenile Officers Association
- Wisconsin Professional Police Association
- Wisconsin Retired Educators' Association
- Wisconsin Safe and Healthy Schools Training & Technical Assistance Center
- Wisconsin School Music Association/Wisconsin Music Educators Association
- Wisconsin School Psychologists Association
- Wisconsin School Public Relations Association
- Wisconsin School Safety Coordinators Association
- Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association

For more information on DOJ's Office of School Safety, please visit:  
<https://www.doj.state.wi.us/office-school-safety/office-school-safety>

