

USBE Grant Application Request

Board Memo and Backup Information

Title of program

School Safety Enhancement Grant

Description of grant program

The School Safety Enhancement (SSE) Grants program provides competitive grants to State educational agencies (SEAs) to develop, implement, and strengthen statewide school safety systems and the physical security of schools consistent with findings outlined in the U.S. Department of Justice January 18, 2024, report, “Critical Incident Review: Active Shooter at Robb Elementary School”. The program will support States in implementing evidence-based school safety measures, including improving school infrastructure security, strengthening emergency response planning and coordination, and enhancing training and preparedness exercises for school personnel and school resource officers (SROs).

Consistent with findings in the DOJ report concerning Robb Elementary School, this initiative prioritizes:

- Secured and monitored school entry points;
- Functional door-locking systems and perimeter controls;
- Coordinated incident command structures;
- Clear emergency response protocols;
- Enhanced training and preparedness exercises for school personnel and School Resource Officers; and
- Regular safety drills aligned with best practices.

ED recognizes that school safety requires systemic coordination among schools, law enforcement, and emergency responders. This program focuses on strengthening State-level leadership and oversight to ensure local implementation of evidence-informed safety practices. At the local level, incorporating school safety practices should be done systematically, ideally through adoption into a school emergency operations plan, a widely used planning framework that is updated annually

by over 80 percent of LEAs nationwide and provides an established mechanism for integrating and sustaining effective safety practices.

Link to public website where Board members can find additional information (if available)

[Department of Education grant website](#)

[School Safety Enhancement presentation slides](#)

[Grants.gov website information](#)

Description of intended use of funds, should they be awarded

Utah School Safety Enhancement Initiative (SSE) is a proposed statewide program through the Utah State Board of Education seeking \$5 million in federal funding to help schools address documented safety and security needs. Through a competitive subgrant process, funds will support physical security upgrades, emergency communication systems, emergency preparedness planning, training, and technical assistance, with priority given to schools demonstrating the greatest need, particularly those in rural and geographically isolated communities. The initiative builds on Utah's existing school safety framework to improve preparedness, strengthen emergency response capabilities, and create safer learning environments for students and staff statewide.

Will the funds be available to all LEAs? If not, which LEAs or grantees are able to apply?

USBE will create a competitive grant application for LEAs to apply for subgrants.

Timeline of period of performance

36 months after the grant is awarded. Awardees are expected to be announced in November 2026.

Amount of funding

Requested \$5,000,000

Application due date

July 28, 2026

Will any new FTE at USBE be needed as a result of this funding?

There is funding for administrative costs up to \$500,000; we may hire an employee to support during this grant cycle.

The terms and conditions of accepting the grant funding

If you are awarded a grant under this competition, you must ensure and may be required to demonstrate that federal funds will not be used under this project in any manner that violates the United States Constitution, Title VI or Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq. or 42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.), the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. 7905), section 117 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1011f), or other applicable federal law. To the extent that a grantee uses grant funds for such unallowable activities, ED may take appropriate enforcement action including the potential recovery of funds or may pursue termination or non-continuation. The Grant Award Notification document accompanying your award may contain further terms and conditions, as necessary, to ensure grantee compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and administrative priorities.

Please note the provisions of Executive Orders 14151, 14168, 14173, and 14190 as well as the U.S. Department of Justice's July 29, 2025, non-regulatory "Guidance for Recipients of Federal Funding Regarding Unlawful Discrimination," which clarifies the application of federal antidiscrimination laws to programs or initiatives that may involve discriminatory practices, including those labeled as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ("DEI") programs.

Such activities may risk violating federal civil rights laws and may jeopardize federal funding. This includes any discriminatory equity ideology in violation of a Federal anti-discrimination law. A definition of “discriminatory equity ideology” is contained in Section 2(b) of Executive Order 14190. To the extent that any entity receiving grant funds under this grant uses those grant funds for such unallowable activities, ED reserves the right to take appropriate enforcement actions, including the recovery of grant funds or may pursue termination or non-continuation.

What actions will USBE or LEAs be required to take if they receive the funding?

Program Requirements:

- (a) Administrative costs for applicants that receive an award under this program may not exceed 10 percent of the annual grant award.
- (b) Applicants that receive an award under this program must use grant funds to supplement, and not supplant, non-Federal funds that would otherwise be available for activities funded under this program.
- (c) Applicants that receive an award under this program must ensure that all school safety equipment and technology implementation is compliant with all applicable codes, including the building and life safety codes.
- (d) Applicants that receive an award under this program are prohibited from using program funds for: (1) gender ideology, (2) political activism, (3) racial stereotyping, or (4) hostile environments for students of particular races.

Note: Pursuant to section 8526 of the ESEA and 34 C.F.R. 75.533, no grant funds under this program may be used for construction, renovation, or repair of any school facility.

Specific reports and reporting deadlines

LEAs will be required to submit annual progress reports that capture data related to school safety and security enhancements, training participation, and implementation outcomes. USBE will use these reports to measure progress over time, evaluate program effectiveness, and provide supporting documentation for grant reporting requirements.

Federal or state awarding agency

The US Department of Education, through an interagency agreement with the US Department of Health and Human Services.

How much of the funding will flow-through to grantees?

90%

What is the administrative burden to USBE to administer the funds and how will they be covered?

There is funding for administrative costs up to \$500,000; we may hire an employee to support during this grant cycle.