



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

REPORT

School Security Equipment Grant Program 2014-2015

SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

**DIVISION OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS
OFFICE OF SUPPORT SERVICES**

2014-2015 School Security Equipment Grant Program

Legislation enacted by the 2013 General Assembly, HB 2343 and Item 139 C.13. of the 2013 Appropriation Act, created a school security equipment grant program for school divisions and regional programs. The legislation and appropriation act provision authorized \$6.0 million per year in grant funding through five-year equipment notes issued by the Virginia Public School Authority, with the debt service paid from the Literary Fund. \$6.0 million in funding was continued by the General Assembly for the 2014-2015 school year, the second year of the program.

2014-2015 grant requirements were as follows:

- Grants were awarded on a competitive basis using various criteria
- School divisions, including regional programs, were eligible to apply for and receive grant awards up to \$100,000
- Applications had to be submitted to the Department of Education by August 1, 2014
- School divisions were notified on September 25, 2014 of their grant award
- School divisions had to commit to purchase the funded security equipment within six months of being notified of their grant award
- Eligible schools had to be scheduled to remain open for at least five more years
- No planned renovations/additions could be scheduled for the next five years which would cause the security equipment being requested to become obsolete
- A local match of 25 percent of the state grant amount was required – the Superintendent of Public Instruction was authorized to reduce the local match for school divisions with a composite index of less than .2000. The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind was exempt from the local match requirement.

2014–2015 competitive criteria used to rank the applications were as follows:

- 15 points – allocated for new security equipment installed in schools without any security equipment currently
- 10 points – allocated if a previous school security audit recommended the requested school security equipment be installed in the school
- 5 points – allocated for schools built prior to 1980
- 10 points – allocated if the school did not receive funding in 2013-2014
- 15 points – allocated if the school did not have Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS)
- 25 points – allocated based on the school division composite index:
 - .0000 - .2999 – 25 points
 - .3000 - .5999 – 20 points
 - .6000 - .8000 – 15 points

- 15 or 20 points – allocated if the number of school-level incidents per 100 students for the following offense categories as reported in the School Safety section of the 2012-2013 School Report Card was at or above certain percentiles for all schools statewide: “weapons offenses,” “offenses against students, staff, and persons,” and “property offenses”:
 - At or above the 75th percentile – 20 points
 - At or above the 50th percentile, but below the 75th percentile – 15 points

2014-2015 applications received and awarded:

- 727 applications for funding were received totaling \$13,471,726.37 in equipment requests
- Funds were awarded based on a rank ordering of applications’ point total on the competitive application criteria
- Funding awards were made to 367 schools in 100 school divisions, and six regional educational programs (Bridging Communities Regional CTE Center, Enterprise Academy/Newport News, Middle Peninsula Regional Alternative Program, Pittsylvania Regional Alternative Center, Jackson River Technical Center, and New Horizons Regional Technical Center), totaling \$6.0 million

The majority of the school security equipment purchased in 2014-2015 included:

- Surveillance equipment and camera systems
- Electronic access control systems
- Mass notification and intercom systems
- Visitor badging systems
- Two-way radios
- Classroom locks

Attached is a report showing the school divisions and regional programs that received funding for the 2014-2015 year.

For 2015-2016, an additional \$6.0 million in funding is available. Applications were received by August 1, 2015, and are being reviewed for awarding grants for 2015-2016.