
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

2019–2021 School Safety and Security Grant

SAS# 467-20

Posted: November 22, 2019

A. Eligibility Questions

Question A-1: Who is eligible for funding?

Answer: Public schools, including independent school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, the School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the School for the Deaf, are eligible for funding.

A list of eligible applicants and funding amounts for this grant is posted at [TEA Grant Opportunities Page](#). This list includes all eligible applicants for the current grant. See E-1 for additional information.

Question A-2: As a new charter school opening in August 2020, are we eligible to apply for the grant? I did not see our name on the eligibility list.

Answer: Funding allocations were based on official enrollment as of October 2018. Only schools that had an official enrollment as of October 2018 are eligible.

Question A-3: We have a small district considering closing or consolidating after the 2019–2020 school year. Is that district still eligible to apply for funds in this grant?

Answer: They are still eligible to apply if they are included on the posted eligibility list for the grant.

B. Application-Related Questions

Question B-1: I received a notification about the 2019–2021 School Safety and Security Grant. I found some information about the grant, but I cannot find the grant application online.

Answer: The RFA and application materials can be found on the [TEA Grant Opportunities Page](#). In the Application Name dropdown menu, scroll to and select 2019-2021 School Safety and Security Grant. The information will auto-populate. The downloadable materials, including application, are in the Application and Support Information section.

C. Program-Related Questions

Question C-1: Page 5 of Application-Part 1 (PDF) requires the applicant to include the number of campuses for each activity and estimated expenditure. We have several school district facilities that are not home campuses for students, therefore they do not have a campus code. However, they are

satellite campuses where students come for classes or services on a daily basis. Will these be allowable sites for implementing this grant?

Answer: Yes, this is allowable as long as instruction or services are provided to students at those locations.

Question C-2: Can grant funds be used for a campus that is being built for the 2020–2021 school year?

Answer: Yes, because the grant ends on May 31, 2021, this is allowable.

Question C-3: Can an LEA who has just applied for the grant go ahead and purchase allowable equipment now before the grant is awarded?

Answer: Yes, provided that the funds are expended and drawn down as required by the grant. While the grant allows for pre-award costs going back to January 1, 2019, allowability cannot be confirmed before the grant is fully negotiated and a Notice of Grant Award (NOGA) is issued. Any costs negotiated out of the application will become the responsibility of the grantee and cannot be charged to the grant.

Question C-4: If a district purchased metal detectors for their secondary schools with local funds last year would it be supplanting to purchase for their elementary schools?

Answer: No, this is allowable and would not be supplanting under the grant. See Errata #1 dated November 20, 2019.

Question C-5: Similar to C-3, what if there is a delay in construction of a new building and no students are served on a new campus until 2021-2022?

Answer: The campus must be open serving students before the end of the grant period (before May 31, 2021) to be eligible for grant funds.

Question C-6: In the planning process for this grant, we want to make sure we have all the people needed on the planning committee. Can you tell us the required members?

Answer: There is no requirement for a planning committee or its membership. A committee is considered best practice.

Question C-7: Can grant funds be used for items that have already been purchased since January 1, 2019, as part of our safety improvement plan, if they are allowable?

Answer: Yes, allowable items (as described in the Program Guidelines) that were purchased on or after January 1, 2019, are allowable.

Question C-8: Our district has acquired most of the items on the list, but some of them were completed or installed after June 6, 2019. Would items completed after June 6, 2019, but with a purchase order opened before June 6, qualify?

Answer: Yes, allowable items (as described in the Program Guidelines) that were purchased on or after January 1, 2019, are allowable. See Errata #1 dated November 20, 2019.

D. Allowable Use of Funds Questions

Question D-1: We are installing safety film on windows, which is allowable. However, the application specifies "film for school entrances." Will windows low enough to be a potential point of entry be allowable?

Answer: Yes, if entry windows are included in addition to the other windows. School entrances are broader than just the front office of a campus. For example, most gyms and cafeterias have outside doors, which would also be considered entrances.

Question D-2: Our cafeteria is a hurricane-preparation facility. All cafeteria windows are targeted for film installation. Can grant funds be used for this purpose?

Answer: Yes, if entry windows are included in addition to the other windows. See D-1 for details.

Question D-3: The district has a gate that will not close. Its track system is non-functional. Can the grant be used to repair fencing and/or gates that are in existence but non-functional or not secure?

Answer: Repairs of non-functional items or equipment are not allowable.

Question D-4: The district would like to install recording devices to go with existing cameras. Can the grant be used for this purpose?

Answer: Yes, if it is adding the recording devices as part of a security system upgrade, it would be allowable.

Question D-5: If we purchased two-way radios out of the RESTART grant, could we finish out what is needed with the School Safety and Security Grant?

Answer: Yes, the School Safety and Security Grant is state funded, so it is not a problem to purchase additional two-way radios with the funds, even though you previously purchased some radios with federal funds.

Question D-6: Our ISD just completed installing security cameras cost of \$200,000 from 199 budget. Would this grant allow us to buy additional cameras for areas that have been identified as needing coverage?

Answer: Yes, additional cameras that are part of security systems that monitor and record school entrances, exits, and hallways can be purchased with grant funds.

Question D-7: We are considering the use of grant funds to install additional locking classroom doors and related locks and hardware on identified classrooms and learning spaces so that each grade-level pod has at least 2 classrooms with locking doors available during emergency lockdowns. Would this use qualify as an allowable use of funds?

Answer: Yes, door-locking systems are allowable.

Question D-8: Are the replacement of exterior doors, door frames, and hardware at campuses and the installation of security features at a school district administration building?

Answer: No. As described, this would not be allowable.

Question D-9: Is installation of a campus motorized security gate for staff parking areas at campus and/or district facilities an allowable expense?

Answer: This may be allowable if it is on a campus where instruction or services are provided to students and is part of perimeter security fencing.

Question D-10: Can funds be used for installing additional cameras around building exteriors, especially in places where there are hidden spots out of view from the inside?

Answer: Yes.

Question D-11: Can funds be used to install locking mechanisms with swipe card readers at all access doors at our high school?

Answer: Yes, door-locking systems are allowable.

Question D-12: Can funds be used to purchase two-way radios for each campus or department?

Answer: Yes.

Question D-13: Can the funds be used to add amplification to the current speaker system at an elementary school that will make paging system volume louder to be heard in all classrooms, hallways, out buildings, and on playgrounds?

Answer: This would have to be clearly tied to one of the specific allowable uses of funds in the Program Guidelines.

Question D-14: Can funds be utilized to purchase K-9's, initial officer training, and supplies such as dog kennels for the handler?

Answer: These items, as described, would not be allowable uses of funds under this grant.

Question D-15: Would this grant money be able to be put towards a radio tower?

Answer: A radio tower would not be an allowable use of grant funds.

Question D-16: We are currently building a new elementary school. Would this grant cover the fencing on the new campus?

Answer: Perimeter fencing would be an allowable use of grant funds. See C-3 and C-6 for more detail.

Question D-17: Can the grant funds be used to purchase vaping sensors?

Answer: No. Vaping sensors would not be an allowable use of grant funds.

E. Funding Questions

Question E-1: Who will receive any reallocated funds?

Answer: We anticipate reallocated funds may be available for new and/or current grantees in spring 2020.

Question E-2: While discussing the 2019–2021 School Safety and Security Grant with district administrators, I have been asked if the fund code that will be used for the grant is known. Could you please let me know what fund code will be used with this grant?

Answer: The fund code is 429; the Shared Services Arrangement (SSA) code is 459. For future reference, the fund code is always identified in Application Part 2 (Excel), in the Budget Summary tab.