



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** September 22, 2022

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors  
Non-Public School Administrators

**FROM:** Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent <sup>KG</sup>  
Finance and Operations

**SUBJECT:** School Mental Health and School Safety Funding Opportunities

Pursuant to [Public Act 144 of 2022](#) and [Public Act 93 of 2022](#), the Michigan Department of Education announces the availability of funding opportunities specific to school safety and student mental health in support of Goal 3 of [Michigan's Top Ten Strategic Education Plan](#). This funding seeks to reduce the impact of high risk factors on students while improving the health, safety, and wellness of all learners. The [application](#) can be found through the Grant Electronic Monitoring System and Michigan Administrative Review System (GEMS MARS). The application process will close at 7:00 am Monday, October 17, 2022.

There are four available opportunities:

1. Section [31aa](#) (MCL [388.1631aa](#)) provides per pupil funding to districts for activities to improve student mental health. Intermediate school districts (ISDs) may apply on behalf of their constituent districts.
  - a. The allowable expenditures of funds under this section include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - i. Hiring or contracting for support staff for student mental health needs, including, but not limited to, school psychologists, social workers, counselors, and school nurses
    - ii. Purchasing and implementing mental health screening tools
    - iii. Providing school-based mental health personnel access to consultation with behavioral health clinicians to respond to complex student mental health needs
    - iv. Any other mental health service or product necessary to improve or maintain the mental health of students and staff

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- b. Applicants will use community input to guide the expenditure of the funds and will pledge to host at least one (1) community conversation about student mental health and school safety.
2. [Section 97 \(MCL 388.1697\)](#) provides per pupil funding to districts and nonpublic schools for activities to improve student safety.
  - a. Allowable expenditures under section 97 include, but are not limited to:
    - i. Coordination with local law enforcement
    - ii. Training for school staff on threat assessment and crisis communication
    - iii. Training for school staff and students on threat response
    - iv. Safety infrastructure
    - v. Age-appropriate training for students and families on responsible gun ownership
    - vi. Professional development for school resource officers that includes training on the best practices for serving in a school setting
    - vii. Any other school safety service or product necessary to improve or maintain security in buildings
3. [Section 97c \(MCL 388.1697c\)](#) contains funding to contract with a vendor for the completion of comprehensive safety and security assessments in schools operated by the district, ISD, or nonpublic school. Grants are available in amounts not to exceed \$2,000 per building.
  - a. In contracting with a vendor as described, the district is encouraged to prioritize a vendor that meets all of the following:
    - i. Has a well-developed and documented process for assessing safety and security in schools. This process should include an assessment of physical security and policies and procedures related to school safety and security, and a method for assessment of the process;
    - ii. provides actionable recommendations that are documented and within best practices for K-12 environments;
    - iii. provides a description of the process, including costs associated with the process;
    - iv. has a history of assessing K-12 schools and can provide a list of references of prior public or nonpublic school assessments;
    - v. provides examples of reports of findings reports that include a comprehensive view of all elements of safety and security;
    - vi. is able to provide ongoing assistance to assist in the implementation of recommendations;
    - vii. is able to provide basic qualifications for any assessors, including education, work history, and experience in assessing K to 12 schools;
    - viii. ensures the subcontractors (if contracting with subcontractors) have familiarity with the department's school safety guidelines;

- ix. has experience in assessing safety and security in programs and facilities used outside the school day;
  - x. has experience assessing safety and security in facilities and programs with specialized needs;
  - xi. operates in the best interest of the district without any external vendor influence; and
  - xii. does not represent companies that sell safety and security products, does not accept referral fees for recommending products, and does not accept or solicit referral fees.
4. [Section 97d \(MCL 388.1697d\)](#) contains funding to implement critical incidence mapping in school buildings operated by the district, ISD, or nonpublic school.
- a. The recipient agrees to use the funding only to implement critical incidence mapping that meets all of the following:
    - i. Must be compatible with platforms and applications used by local, state, and federal public safety officials;
    - ii. must not require the purchase of additional software for use;
    - iii. must be provided in a printable format;
    - iv. must be verified for accuracy through a walk-through of a school building and school grounds;
    - v. must be oriented true north;
    - vi. must include accurate floor plans of, or current aerial imagery of, a school building or school plan;
    - vii. must include site-specific labeling that matches the structure of the school building;
    - viii. must include site-specific labeling that matches the school grounds;
    - ix. must include a gridded overlay with x/y coordinates; and
    - x. must include information that best assists first responders in an emergency.

Additional guidance on best practices and opportunities under each section will be provided in future correspondence. For questions, please contact Mary Teachout, [TeachoutM@michigan.gov](mailto:TeachoutM@michigan.gov), or Diane Golzynski at 517-241-5362 or [GolzynskiD@michigan.gov](mailto:GolzynskiD@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments