

Section 97i Funding FAQ

What can this funding be used for?

This funding is specifically provided to districts and intermediate districts for a firearm detection software that integrates to existing security cameras to detect and alert school personnel and first responders to visible firearms on school property.

The software described in the immediately preceding sentence must be designated as qualified anti-terrorism technology under the SAFETY Act, 6 USC 441 to 444, and organically developed and proprietary to the company it is purchased from and should not include any third-party or open-source data.

How much funding is allocated to each district or intermediate school district (ISD)?

How much funding is allocated will depend on the required vendor quote or estimate that is attached to the application. The award will be based on that quote.

When will the application close?

At this time the application will remain open until funding is exhausted.

Can ISD's apply on behalf of their constituent districts?

This funding does not have a consortium option. All districts and ISDs must apply on their own.

Can this funding pay for staffing?

Staffing is not an allowable expense with this funding.

Can this funding pay for curriculum?

Curriculum is not an allowable expense with this funding.

Is there a recommended list of vendors?

MDE does not have a recommended list of vendors. It will be up to the district/ISD to decide if the vendor meets the requirements of the legislation, including data collection.

What is the timeframe for spending?

The grant cycle will be 10/1/2023 – 9/30/2024. If requested, applicants will be allowed one additional year of carry-over, extending the end date to 9/30/25. The funding cannot be used to 'pay ahead' or pre-pay for any services or subscriptions that occur after 9/30/25.

How will the district or ISD receive funding?

The grant payments will be sent from the State Aid Management System (SAMS) following the approval of the application.