

H.B. 59 was signed by Governor John R. Kasich on June 30, 2013. One of the provisions in the bill establishes the School Security Grant Program, to be administered by the Ohio School Facilities Commission.

Program Overview

H.B. 59 authorizes the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) to reimburse public schools, including community schools, for an emergency communication system or Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS) and costs incurred with a purchase of a security entrance system. Specifically:

- Up to \$2,000 for one emergency communication system or MARCS In-School Communications System unit per eligible school building; and
- Up to \$5,000 for costs incurred with a purchase of a security entrance system consisting of a security camera, an intercom, and remote access equipment for one entrance per eligible school building.

The program and associated funds are not designed to be a complete solution for school security, but a way to address the most crucial needs of first responder communications and secure building access.

What is an Eligible District?

The eligible district list will be downloaded directly from the Ohio Department of Education's website database. An eligible district includes any of the following:

- City
- Exempted Village
- Local
- Joint Vocational
- STEM (operating under ORC 3326.07)
- Community School
- Educational Service Center
- Developmental Disabilities

Additional information and criteria will be provided in the School Security Grant Guidelines that are available on the OSFC website, <http://osfc.ohio.gov>.



Types of Grants

Emergency Communication Systems

A school district is eligible for either a MARCS In-School Communication System or another type of emergency communication system.

The law states that if law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction over all or a portion of the geographical area of a public school do not use MARCS, a public school may purchase one emergency communications system compatible with the system or systems in use by law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction over the school building.



MARCS In-School

MARCS In-School

When a school district selects the MARCS In-School Program in the online application process, OSFC will first review the information submitted. When the application is approved, Motorola will be notified. The school district should expect to receive contact from Motorola for arrangement of delivery, installation and set-up the MARCS In-Schools unit. According to MARCS the order-delivery timeline may be as long as three months.

In preparation to receive your MARCS In-School unit, and in order to get the benefit of any radio system, the district should work with their first responder(s) on guidelines and protocol for emergency communications. It is recommended that this preparation be completed prior to the district receiving the In-School unit, as the protocol you develop jointly with first responder(s) will enable the district to activate the In-School unit upon delivery and set-up.

The financial arrangement is strictly between OSFC and Motorola. The District is not responsible for ordering or paying for this unit.

School Security Grant Program - Round 1

Types of Grants (cont'd)

Other Emergency Communication Systems

As indicated on the first page, a school district may select another type of emergency communication system. Once approved by OSFC, and the system is installed, tested, and certified by the district, OSFC will reimburse the district for its purchase.

In preparation to receive your emergency communications system, and in order to get the benefit of this radio system, the district should work with their first responder(s) on guidelines and protocol for emergency communications. It is recommended that this preparation be completed prior to the district receiving the unit, as the protocol you develop jointly with first responder(s) will enable the district to activate the new system upon delivery and set-up.

Security Entrance Grant

H.B.59 also allows for a security door system, consisting of a security camera, an intercom, and remote access, at one entrance per school building.

Eligibility - Must Meet All of the Following:

- The building must be used primarily for PK-12 instruction.
- A physical building or physically-connected group of buildings with a student body headed by an administrator dedicated to that group of students, and identified by an Information Retrieval Number (IRN) assigned by the Ohio Department of Education.
- The building is publicly owned.
- The entrance has not been constructed or renovated to design standards contained in the Ohio School Design Manual version 2009 or later.
- Entrance security system under consideration will be/ has been installed on or after January 1, 2013.
- Proposed system includes improvements in one or more of the following areas:
 - Doors
 - Security camera
 - Intercom
 - Remote access
- Improvements meet all applicable building codes.



Eligible Districts - How to Apply

The Commission will email eligible school districts (superintendents and treasurers) an invitation to apply for the security grant program. In the email, each district will receive an application link specific to its district and should be used by school district staff only. Distribution of this link should be limited to those who can make decisions on the district's behalf.

Because this program will be administered at the district level, no invitations have been sent directly to individual schools. It is the district's responsibility to apply on behalf of all the schools in its district.



Grant Contact Information

For more information about the school security grant program, contact grants.info@ofcc.ohio.gov.

Ohio School Facilities Commission

30 West Spring Street, 4th floor, Columbus, OH 43215
<http://osfc.ohio.gov/Home/SchoolSecurityGrantProgram.aspx>