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To: Religious and Independent School Administrators

From: David M. Frank 

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Office of Religious and Independent Schools (ORISS)
School Safety Equipment Grant Guidance

Application: Religious and Independent School – School Safety Equipment Funds

The Application and related information will be available on the Internet on the [Nonpublic Schools Grant Opportunities web page](#).

Purpose: Provide Religious and Independent schools with reimbursement for expenditures related to certain school safety and health expenses.

Eligibility: Religious and Independent Schools (non-profit or not-for-profit schools only) that have a NYSED issued BEDS code, have a valid OSC Vendor ID (or which will obtain one), have filed BEDS enrollment data for the 2021-22 school year that includes grades Kindergarten and higher, and are currently open. Eligibility has already been determined based on Department data.

General Information

Religious and Independent School Appropriation Funding Methodology: School projects will be funded according to the following methodology:

1. Schools will be reimbursed for approved expenses, up to the amount of their Total Available Funds (Year 9 Allocation + Remaining Funds, if any, from years 1-8 Allocations).
2. The Year 9 Allocation amounts were determined by a per-pupil allocation using the official pre-kindergarten through grade 12 enrollment submitted as part of

the BEDS data collection from the 2021-2022 school year for all eligible schools.

3. The Per-Pupil Amount for year 9 has been calculated by dividing the total State enrollment for eligible Religious and Independent schools (Pre-K-12) into the appropriation amount to obtain a per-pupil amount, which is then multiplied by your school's reported enrollment to arrive at your school's allocation. NYSED will post the Year 9 Allocation on the nonpublic school/ORISS website. If schools have any remaining Funds from Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6, Year 7, and Year 8; these will be posted at a later date.

Remaining Funds from Years 1-8 will carry over: Any funds from Years 1-8 that were not claimed by a school will be treated as carryover funds and be added to the school's Year 9 Allocation to yield a Total Available Funds amount.

Eligible Expenses: Funds will be available to schools with expenses that have occurred on or after April 1, 2013, through March 31, 2023, and submitted to NYSED by March 31, 2023. A school may use the Year 9 Allocations for Approved but Unreimbursed eligible expenditures from Years 1 through 8. Listed below are eligible project expenses for years 1-9, for years 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 only, and for Years 7, 8, and 9 only.

Payments: Due to the capabilities of our payment system, we can only process one application for reimbursement per eligible BEDS code for each year of the grant. Any remaining funds will be rolled over to the following year.

Claim Options include:

- A. My school wants to claim **only** the approved, unreimbursed expenditures. (Schools whose approved, unreimbursed expenditures are greater than or equal to the total available funds should check this box.)
 - Complete and submit pages 1 and 5. No further documentation is required.
- B. My school wants to claim funds and has **\$0 in approved unreimbursed expenditures.**
 - Complete pages 1-5, including the Summary of Expenditures* section.
 - Submit invoices listing items purchased.
 - Provide proof of payment such as cancelled checks.
- C. My school has approved, unreimbursed expenditures, and we have more total available funds that we would like to claim.
 - Complete pages 1-5, including the Summary of Expenditures* section.
 - Submit invoices listing items purchased.
 - Provide proof of payment such as cancelled checks.

***NOTE: Section IV Expenditures can be used beginning March 1, 2020, through March 31, 2023.**

Projects eligible for reimbursement for Year 9

Pursuant to Chapter 50 of the Laws of 2022, lawmakers expanded Nonpublic School Safety Equipment (NPSE) for Year 9 (which applies to expenses incurred after April 1, 2022) by increasing the funding level to \$45 million and expanding the list of eligible expenses to include:

- services and expenses for nonpublic schools of health and safety equipment
- security personnel
- related assessments and training needs
- remediation of hazardous conditions
- the repair and maintenance of buildings, facilities, appurtenances, equipment, and systems to maintain the health and safety of school building occupants.

****Projects eligible for reimbursement for Years 1-9 include the purchase and installation of:**

- External lighting to illuminate primary entry doors
- Access control systems. These may include:
 - An intercom to speak to visitors;
 - Remote electronic door unlatching system;
 - External cameras;
 - Interface with the building management system and
 - Central lockdown buttons, etc.
- Bollards and steel safety guards
- Acceptable door hardening items:
 - Door replacement;
 - Door hardware replacement;
 - Door frame replacement;
 - Sidelight removal;
 - Sidelight frame replacement;
 - Change the size of the door or window vision panels to limit opening size;
 - Change door or sidelight glass materials;
 - Bars, grills, or other protective measures over the existing glass to prevent access;
 - Security fences;
 - Glass films including security films or tinted films; and
 - Walkie-talkies and radios

****Projects eligible for reimbursement for Years 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 ONLY** include the purchase and installation of:

- Environmental /Health
 - Automatic External Defibrillator (AED);
 - Carbon Monoxide Detectors;
 - Eyewash Stations;
 - Lead Testing in School Drinking Water;
 - Radon Testing;
 - Contracted Security Personnel and/or School Employee Personnel;
 - School security and safety assessments to assist school officials in identifying potential vulnerabilities, as well as strengths relating to security and safety for students, staff, and visitors;
 - Training to assist Religious and Independent schools in their efforts to create/maintain a safe learning environment free of crime and violence; and
 - Asbestos Testing
- Fire Prevention
 - Smoke Detectors;
 - Annual Inspection of Fire Extinguishers;
 - Purchase of Fire Extinguishers

**** Projects eligible for reimbursement for Years 7, 8 & 9 ONLY** include the purchase and installation of:

- COVID-19-related items
 - Air Purifiers
 - COVID Testing
 - Temperature Scanners
- Child Abuse Prevention Training Including the Identification of Child Abuse in an Educational Setting; Please provide proof of attendance from 10-23-2019 through 3-31-2023.

**Additional items may be eligible, contact ORISS@nysed.gov with any questions.

Projects ineligible for reimbursement include, but are not limited to:

- The installation of bullet resistive glass in perimeter windows other than entrances.
- Systems to scan visitor IDs (such as driver's licenses) and compare those results with law enforcement databases are considered an operating expense and;
- Other construction expenses

When submitting your proof of payment and invoices, please consider using a table of contents, which could be in the below format or another format.

Table of Contents for Appendix or Attachments (add rows as needed - or attach another page)

Invoice Letter Code	Invoice #	Invoice Date	Vendor Name	Invoice Amount	Payment Method (i.e. check or credit card)	Check #/Credit Card Statement Date	Payment Date	Payment Amount
A								

Additional Assistance: If you have any questions, contact the Office of Religious and Independent Schools (ORISS), at ORISS@nysed.gov.