School Safety Grant Information

The SFY2023 Ohio Security Grant (OSG) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is expected to be released on or prior to September 1, 2022. At that time, additional guidance and application forms will be posted to this website. Prior to the release of the FY2023 OSG, there are steps you can take now to prepare for the next grant cycle:

1. **Conduct a Vulnerability Assessment (VA) or update an existing one.** Eligible applicants must submit a VA for the site (or sites) where security enhancements are proposed. If the organization already has a VA for the site, it cannot be older than three years prior to date of application. The VA must be conducted by experienced security, law enforcement, or military personnel. There is no required format for the VA.

2. **Determine eligible projects and begin researching cost estimates.** Security enhancements and activities are restricted to specific categories. Download the list of OSG eligible cost categories. Research approximate costs of the security measures and activities the organization intends to propose in its application to address vulnerabilities identified in its VA.

3. **Draft answers to the prior round’s Investment Justification (IJ).** The IJ is essentially the grant application form. While it cannot be guaranteed the IJ questions will remain exactly the same for the next application opportunity, it is anticipated they will be similar. Download the IJ for the prior round of funding.

Please send questions regarding this grant program to OSG@dps.ohio.gov

House Bill 99

House Bill 99, which permits school staff to carry a firearm on school premises, recently became law. Several school districts across the state have approved policies stating that they will not arm staff. District and community schools that opt to arm staff must comply with training and other requirements, a summary of which is available here. Any community school considering arming staff is strongly encouraged to contact the school’s insurance carrier to ensure that coverage is sufficient. We also recommend discussing a decision to allow armed staff with the school’s legal counsel.

Welcome

We are happy to welcome our newest sponsored schools, IDEA Greater Cincinnati, Price Hill and Valley View!

Completion of make-up days

Per ORC 3313.482, prior to the first day of August of each school year, the Governing Authority of any community school that is not internet- or computer-based, may adopt a plan to require students to access and complete classroom lessons posted on the school’s web portal or web site in order to make up hours in that school year on which it is necessary to close the school for any of the reasons specified in division (H)(4) of section 3314.08 of the Revised Code, up to the equivalent of 3 school days.

The plans must be approved by August 1. This simply means while you could give out assignments using the web, a web portal, or hard copies, you could not count them towards days/hours of instruction unless you already have an approved plan in place to do so. Additional information is here.
Medical Waivers

For students for whom a medical waiver was requested, a Student Assessment (FA) Record should still be reported for the relevant assessment(s). Report the most appropriate Score Not Reported Option. If the waiver is approved, the Score Not Reported Option will be updated to an “M” at the Department. If the waiver is not approved, the Score Not Reported Option reported will remain.

Approved Assessments

ODE’s list of approved assessments for the 2022-23 school year is available for download here.

Trainings and Events

- **Epicenter New Administrators Training** – July 27, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (virtually)
  All NEW and ongoing Epicenter coordinators are invited to a training regarding Epicenter use and updates. It will be conducted by Epicenter and Fordham staff with overviews on Epicenter collections for specific grade bands along with Board Center access. Board Center is a web-based system used to document, share, and organize board details and meeting information in place of emailing out board documents (for no cost to schools sponsored by Fordham). Join the Microsoft Teams meeting using the information below:
  
  **Join on your computer or mobile app**
  Click here to join the meeting
  Or join by entering a meeting ID
  Meeting ID: 228 856 821 159
  Passcode: hSCP5i

- **IDEA Monitoring Professional Learning Community** – August 3, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (virtually)
  Districts and community schools who have recently completed an IDEA monitoring visit will share their experiences, including anticipated next steps, concerns, and any documents that have been developed through the review process. It is highly recommended for schools who will be going through an IDEA Monitoring Review or any school interested in learning more about the special education monitoring process and what other districts are doing to improve their special education programs. Please register no later than July 22. If you have any questions regarding this meeting, please contact Joe Kujkowski at 614-623-2986 or joseph.kujkowski@education.ohio.gov.

EMIS:

- **New EMIS Coordinator Training** for FY23
- **EMIS Focused Training** for FY23
- **FY23 Draft Data Collection Calendar**
Compliance and Epicenter Requirements

- Federal Tax Form 990 – 7/28/2022
- Health and Benefit Policies – 7/28/2022
- Joint Education Programs – 7/28/2022
- Lease Agreement or Property Deed – 7/28/2022
- Liability Insurance – 7/28/2022
- Monthly Enrollment Verification – 7/28/2022
- Peterson and Autism Scholarship Notification – 7/28/2022
- Providing Report Card to Parent – 7/28/2022
- Reading and Writing Skills Assessment – 7/28/2022
- Special Education and Related Services Plan – 7/28/2022
- Test Administration and Materials Security Policy – 7/28/2022
- Final Approved Board Minutes – 7/28/2022
- Academic Calendar – 7/28/2022
- Board Minutes (Health and Safety Review) – 7/31/2022
- Disclosure of Related Parties – 8/4/2022
- Governing Authority Meeting Calendar – 8/4/2022
- Certificate of Authority of Non-Profit Status – 8/10/2022
- Certificate of Occupancy – 8/10/2022
- School Improvement Plan – 8/10/2022

Compliance refresher:
The Sovereign Immunity Law for public employees, Chapter 2744

An Ohio political subdivision (including community schools) facing a personal-injury or negligence claim will avail itself of the board grant of immunity from liability for damages related to any injury, death, or other loss resulting from its acts or omissions, or those of its employees.

Immunity: The statute starts with a broad grant of immunity “for injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly caused by any act or omission of the political subdivision or an employee of the political subdivision in connection with a governmental or proprietary function.” ORC 2744.02(A)

Exceptions: Notwithstanding the general grant of immunity, 2744.02(B) imposes liability for negligent conduct resulting in injury, death, or loss to a person or property in specified situations. Civil liability is otherwise expressly imposed by law.

How we verify compliance:
1. Contract language, Articles III and XIII.
2. Requirements for liability insurance coverage, per the contract, submitted and reviewed in Epicenter.