



# School Safety Grants

Department of Public Safety

## Overview

In 2019, Governor Noem and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) started the School Safety Center. Governor Noem's recommended budget includes funding to provide grants through the School Safety Center to assist with identified security upgrades at K-12 schools. This funding will support schools' ability to protect their students and staff from potential dangers, ensuring that schools provide a safe learning environment for our kids.

## School Safety Center

The Department of Public Safety's School Safety Center was created in 2019 and has worked with school districts across the state to complete over 150 school security assessments. Each of those assessments includes recommendations to improve the physical security of the buildings, as well as recommendations to improve staff and student safety. Unfortunately, many school districts don't have funding to pay for the proposed security upgrades.

In addition to the physical security upgrades, the School Safety Center provides schools with resources for Threat Assessment Teams and trainings on mental health for teachers and students. The School Safety Center also operates the Safe2Say tipline, which allows community members to anonymously report student safety concerns in a safe and secure fashion. These services will strengthen the investments in security infrastructure to improve the safety of all South Dakota students.

## Funding

The Governor's recommended budget includes a 5-year special appropriation of \$10,000,000 in general funds to provide grants to school districts to make security upgrades. With this funding, South Dakota school districts will be able to upgrade a variety of physical security measures, recommended by the school security assessments.



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