



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 26, 2023

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Nonpublic School Administrators

FROM: Dr. Diane L. Golzynski, Deputy Superintendent
Finance and Operations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Golzynski".

SUBJECT: School Mental Health and School Safety Funding Opportunities

Pursuant to [Public Act 103 of 2023](#), the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) announces the availability of funding for school mental health and school safety initiatives.

Section 31aa ([MCL 388.1631aa](#)) provides per pupil funding for local school districts, both traditional public school districts and public school academies; intermediate districts; nonpublic schools; and Michigan School for the Deaf for activities to improve student mental health and improve student safety. It is the intent of the legislature that recipients will use at least 50% of the funds on activities related to improving student mental health. To obtain your *estimated budget*, multiply your current student count by \$220/student.

The allowable expenditures of funds written by the state legislature under this section include, but are not limited to, the following:

For Mental Health Initiatives:

- Hiring or contracting for support staff for student mental health needs including, but not limited to, school psychologists, social workers, counselors, and school nurses.
- Purchasing and implementing mental health screening tools.
- Providing school-based mental health personnel access to consultation with behavioral health clinicians to respond to complex student mental health needs.
- Any other mental health service or product necessary to improve or maintain the mental health of students and staff.

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For School Safety Initiatives:

- Coordination with local law enforcement.
- Training for school staff on threat assessment.
- Training for school staff and students on threat response.
- Training for school staff on crisis communication.
- Safety infrastructure including, but not limited to, cameras, door blocks, hardened vestibules, window screening, and technology necessary to operate buzzer systems. This may also include 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 organically developed and proprietary to the company from which it is purchased and should not include any third-party or open-source data.
- Age-appropriate training for students and families on responsible gun ownership.
- School resource officers.
- Any other school safety service or product necessary to improve or maintain security in buildings.
- Student safety management system, the information technology platform, and related services to improve student safety by mitigating cyberbullying, school violence, human trafficking, and self-harm that supports students in grades K to 12.
- A secure platform, administered by the Michigan Department of State Police, for school officials, emergency responders, and emergency management coordinators to house all school safety-related items including, but not limited to, emergency operations plan (EOP) templates, EOP guidance, reference documents, and security assessments. The platform should use existing password-protected access control methods that schools currently utilize and, to the extent possible, be capable of integrating with existing platforms or technologies used by districts for school safety. Through permissions-based access control, the platform should be able to relay information clearly and in real time to each person or entity necessary to provide a unified response to a safety incident, or to take appropriate action in response to an anticipated disruption to the normal functions of the surrounding community.

The application for section 31aa funds is now open in NexSys and can be found under "My Opportunities" on your NexSys Dashboard. The application will remain open until 11:59 pm December 10, 2023.

For questions about 31aa funding, please email mde-31aa@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments