



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 3, 2024

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

FROM: Dr. Diane Golzynski, Deputy Superintendent
Division of Business, Health, and Library Services

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

SUBJECT: School Safety Funding Opportunities – Section 97c Grant Reopening

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to announce the reopening of a previous grant opportunity, Section 97c ([found in Public Act 93 of 2022](#)), due to funding remaining from previous rounds. Additional requests will be granted on a first-come, first served basis. School districts that received funding in the previous rounds are eligible for buildings **not** included in previous applications, including athletic fields and other gathering/event locations operated by the district. The application process will open on October 3, 2024.

Section 97c contains funding to contract with a vendor for the completion of comprehensive safety and security assessments in schools operated by the district, intermediate district, or public school academy. The grant application process will be managed on a reimbursement basis. Schools will be reimbursed up to \$2,000 per building.

To submit an application for this funding opportunity, the following steps are required:

Step 1

- Send an email to MDE-97c97d@michigan.gov indicating your intent to apply for reimbursement of a school safety assessment.
- Indicate if you were previously awarded funding, the amount of funding, and the number of new buildings in the application.
- If this is your first time applying, include the name of your district and district code and how many buildings are included.

Insert the correct information, copy, and paste the following into your email:
(Name of District and District Code) has XX number of buildings requiring school safety assessments. This district agrees to the following rules for Section 97c:

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As directed by state law, in contracting with a vendor as described below, the district agrees to prioritize contracting with a vendor that meets all the following:

- Has a well-developed and documented process for assessing safety and security in schools. This process should include the following:
 - An assessment of physical security and policies and procedures related to school safety and security.
 - A method for assessment of the process.
- Provides actionable recommendations that are documented and within best practices for K-12 environments.
- Provides a description of the process, including costs associated.
- Has a history of assessing K-12 schools and the ability to provide references of public or nonpublic schools that it has assessed.
- Can provide examples of findings reports that include a comprehensive review of all elements of safety and security.
- Can provide ongoing assistance including, but not limited to, board presentations, community presentations, and consulting, to any client to assist in implementing any recommendations made in a findings report and the fees associated with the assistance described.
- Can provide basic qualifications for any assessors that will complete assessments on behalf of the vendor, including, but not limited to, all the following qualifications:
 - Education.
 - Work history.
 - Experience in assessing K-12 schools.
- Has experience in assessing safety and security in programs and facilities used outside of the school day, including, but not limited to, athletic facilities and programs.
- Has experience in assessing safety and security in facilities and programs with specialized needs, including, but not limited to, early childhood-education facilities, special-needs facilities, community education programs, and adult-education programs.
- Operates in the best interest of the district without any external vendor influence.
- Does not do any of the following:
 - Represent companies that sell safety and security products.
 - Accept referral fees for recommending products.
 - Accept or solicit referral fees, or operate on behalf of any equipment or technology vendors.
- If contracting with subcontractors, ensures that the subcontractors have:
 - Experience in safety and security or law enforcement for the provision of services.
 - Familiarity with the MDE school safety guidelines.

Step 2

When the safety assessment is completed, please email the final invoice to MDE-97c97d@michigan.gov for reimbursement.

For additional questions, please contact Mary Teachout at 517-241-7092 or TeachoutM@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors