



Department of Education

# Fiscal Year 27 – School Safety Alert Grant Fund

Application Package | August 2026



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# General Information

## Overview/Purpose

During the 2024 Legislative Session, [Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-225](#), established the School Safety Alert Grant Pilot Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to award school safety grants to local education agencies (LEAs), public charter schools, non-public schools, and church-related schools for the purchase of mobile panic alert systems described in [Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-804\(a\)](#).

## Use of Funds

LEAs, public charter schools, non-public schools, and church-related schools in Tennessee are eligible to apply for these funds.

State Board of Education (SBE) Rule 0520-01-02.01 establishes that *"a public **school** is the basic administrative unit of a state, county, city, or special district school system, consisting of one (1) or more grade groups, one (1) or more teachers to give instruction, and one (1) principal, which school shall be subject to the statutes of the State of Tennessee and to the rules, regulations, and minimum standards of the State Board of Education (State Board)."*

This grant provides funding to Tennessee non-public schools that are recognized under SBE Rule [0520-07-02](#). Interested non-public schools must be designated within one of the policy's five non-public school categories and be recognized as doing so by the Tennessee Department of Education (department). Information on non-public school designations can be found [here](#). For questions regarding non-public school designations, please contact [Private.Schools@tn.gov](mailto:Private.Schools@tn.gov).

This \$48,000 grant will recur annually and will be awarded based on a first-come, first-served basis to the eligible schools that meet all criteria. These funds may be used to support LEA and school efforts in enhancing school safety for their students through the initial purchase of mobile panic alert devices.

The intent of Fund is provide districts/schools the opportunity to purchase mobile panic alert devices in order to allow school personnel to quickly notify emergency services in the event of a crisis. Items that fall outside the scope of the Fund, as

## FY27 Public School Security Grant Application Package

described in [Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-804\(a\)](#) are not eligible for funding. For items that fall outside the realm of eligibility, please consider utilizing other funding sources, such as the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement ([TISA](#)) [Base Fund](#), Public/Non-Public School Security Grant, or federal school safety grants.

### ***Funding/Match Requirements***

Funds are allocated to school districts based upon an even distribution across the state of \$8,000 per award (total of \$48,000) and are NOT **subject to a local match**.

### ***Eligibility and Grant Awards***

The grant will be awarded to LEAs, public charter schools, non-public schools, and church-related schools on a first-come, first-served basis. In order to be eligible for the funds, all required information in the grant application must be completed in full. Grant awards are limited to eight thousand (\$8,000) per school in a **fiscal year. Two (2) schools from each grand division of the state must receive the grant funding.**

#### **The grants must be awarded as follows:**

- The first grant must be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to the first LEA or school that applies;
- The second grant must be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to an LEA or school that is located in a different grand division of this state than the **first** grant recipient;
- The third grant must be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to an LEA or school located in a different grand division of this state than the **first** and **second** grant recipients;
- The fourth grant must be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to the next LEA or school that applies;
- The fifth grant must be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to an LEA or school located in a different grand division of this state than the **fourth** grant recipient; and

## FY27 Public School Security Grant Application Package

- The sixth grant must be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to an LEA or school located in a different grand division of this state than the **fourth** and **fifth** grant recipients.

### ***Grant Administration***

This grant is administered via [ePlan](#), the Tennessee Department of Education (department) online grant management system.

To complete the application in ePlan, each school will need to ensure that they have the following ePlan user access roles:

- LEA Safe Schools Director
- LEA Fiscal Representative
- LEA Authorized Representative

As a reminder, a single user cannot have both Fiscal Representative and Authorized Representative access. Schools that do not have all access roles will need to complete an ePlan user access form and email it to [ePlan.Help@tn.gov](mailto:ePlan.Help@tn.gov).

### **ePlan User Access Forms:**

- **LEA** ePlan user access [form](#)
- **Charter School** ePlan user access [form](#)
- **Non-Public** ePlan user access [form](#)

Grant funds are distributed by submitting a reimbursement request in ePlan. With this being a reimbursement grant, please make sure that you attach proper documentation (*invoices, receipts of purchase, etc.*) providing proof of payment of allowable expenditures that align with the school's approved budget.

The School Safety Alert Grant is subject to audit and monitoring. Each grant recipient should maintain appropriate documentation of expenditures.

## Timeline

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>August 24, 2026</b>    | <b>Grant Information &amp; Application Instructions Released</b> – The <i>School Safety Alert Grant</i> application package will be published.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>September 9, 2026</b>  | <b>LEAs and schools can begin submitting application requirements</b> – Completed applications that meet all established requirements will begin being reviewed and approved by the department starting September 9 at 9:00 a.m. CT.                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>September 14, 2026</b> | <b>The department will begin notifying districts and/or schools of grants award status</b> – The department will review all application and notify all districts and/or schools if they have received the grant funds based on a fully completed application in ePlan and a first-come, first-served basis. Districts and/or schools will also be notified if grant funds were not awarded. |
| <b>October 1, 2027</b>    | <b>Final Expenditure Reports (FER) Due</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

## Application Instructions

All LEAs, public charter schools, non-public schools, and church-related schools who are interested in applying for this grant **must submit an application in ePlan beginning September 9, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. CT.** Only the first two applications from each grand division of the state will receive the grant funding.

A complete grant application package includes the following items:

1. **Cover Page:** The cover page shall include the grand division (West, Middle, East) of the district/charter/school. Additionally, the cover page also requires the address of the school to be specified. Finally, please include the name, email, and

## FY27 Public School Security Grant Application Package

phone number of the points of contact that the department should reach out to with questions about the grant application must be included.

2. **Program Details:** The following items should be provided in the program details area of the ePlan funding application:
  1. A narrative on how your district/charter/school plans to utilize this grant.
  2. An estimate of how many mobile panic alert devices will be provided at the chosen school(s).
  3. Assurances:
    1. Each district/charter/school must acknowledge in the assurances that they plan to comply with all requirements established in [Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-225](#) and [Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-804\(a\)](#).
3. **Budget:** The following items should be provided in the budget area of the ePlan funding application:
  1. A budget narrative description that explains what the grant funds will be used for.
  2. The submitted budget must not exceed \$8,000.

Once the cover page, program details, assurances, and budget are filled out, the application must be fully submitted in ePlan to be considered complete. The application must move through the following statuses in order to be considered fully submitted:

1. Draft Started
2. Draft Completed
3. Fiscal Representative Approved
4. Authorized Representative Approved.

## FY27 Public School Security Grant Application Package

*If you have questions concerning the grant, please contact one of the following individuals:*

- **Mark Bloodworth** – Safe Schools Resource Manager (Public School Inquiries)
  - Email: [Mark.Bloodworth@tn.gov](mailto:Mark.Bloodworth@tn.gov)
  - Phone: 615-806-0217
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