

Subject School Safety Capital Grants to School Districts

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Overview

The 2018 Legislature authorized \$25 million of school safety capital grants as part of the 2018 Capital Investment bill. The grant program, when introduced, was reliant on state bond proceeds, but the version of the bill that was enacted converted the funding source for these school facility improvements from state bond proceeds to general fund money.

The grant process, administered by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), awarded funding to 90 school districts and charter schools for security and violence prevention improvements at 123 building sites across the state. The funds may be used to predesign, design, construct, furnish, and equip school facilities, including renovating and expanding existing school buildings. MDE received a total of 1,187 grant applications, requesting \$255.5 million. The grants were awarded on a lottery basis.

H.F. 521 appropriates an unspecified amount of state bond proceeds to fund another round of school safety grants of up to \$500,000 per facility. The grants must be awarded in the same manner as the 2018 grants, except that priority is given to districts that did not receive a grant in 2018.

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>School safety grants.</p> <p>Appropriates an unspecified amount of money from state bond proceeds to the commissioner of education for grants to school districts of up to \$500,000 per school building for facility safety enhancements.</p>