



**Brad D. Schimel**  
**Wisconsin Attorney General**

**P.O. Box 7857**  
**Madison, WI 53707-7857**

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**NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AG Schimel Announces More Than \$1.3 Million in School Safety Grant  
Funding to 20 School Districts**

WISCONSIN DELLS, Wis. – Attorney General Brad Schimel today announced a list of 20 schools that have been awarded the next round of grants through the Wisconsin Department of Justice School Safety Grant program, administered by DOJ’s Office of School Safety. Combined, the 20 schools will receive \$1,382,045, which will be spent on building safety improvements, as well as training for faculty and staff. More grants will be awarded soon.

“Momentum to improve school safety, training, and law enforcement collaboration continues with today’s school safety grant awards,” said Attorney General Schimel. “In just over two months, the public safety professionals at DOJ, in conjunction with dozens of educational stakeholders, established a meaningful way to improve school safety, through physical improvements to school buildings, and a focus on mental health training for school faculty.”

Following is a list of schools that have been awarded school safety grants.

- Barneveld School District, \$38,949;
- Benton School District, \$57,975;
- Big Foot Unified High School District, \$13,975;
- Bristol #1 School District, \$22,925;
- Crivitz School District, \$20,000;
- Kettle Moraine School District, \$190,395;
- Kewaskum School District, \$106,347;
- La Farge School District, \$53,352;
- Luck School District, \$39,516;
- Mauston School District, \$188,275;

- Prentice School District, \$81,272;
- Randall J1 School District, \$21,935;
- River Ridge School District, \$55,000;
- Rock County Christian School, \$39,951;
- St. Joseph School; \$20,750;
- Stevens Point Area Public School District, \$279,827;
- Trinity Evangelical Lutheran School, \$18,334;
- Union Grove J1 School District, \$19,872;
- Wautoma Area School District, \$84,435;
- Williams Bay School District, \$28,960.

Grant dollars are divided into two categories: the Primary School Safety Grant and Advanced School Safety Grant. DOJ's Primary School Safety Grants focus on baseline improvements to schools, including door locks and hardening school entryways. The Advanced School Safety Grants, are prioritized to award grants on a competitive basis to schools that have met minimum security thresholds. In addition to making upgrades to school buildings, one of the School Safety Grant prerequisites is providing all full-time teachers, aides, counselors, and administrators with a minimum of three hours combined training in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and Trauma Informed Care/Trauma Sensitive Schools (TIC/TSS) before the end of the 2018-2019 school year; or demonstrate that staff has already received such training. Highlights from the school safety grant applications<sup>1</sup> include such improvements as:

- Securing school entry areas with shatter resistant film;
- Installing electronic security and surveillance systems, updated camera systems, and updated telephone/PA systems;
- Training of a new safety coordinator through the WSSCA School Safety Coordinators Certification Program, provide trauma care kits for each classroom, and the training of all staff on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and Trauma Informed Care/Trauma Sensitive Schools (TIC/TSS);
- Improving notification systems district wide, as well as creating public access to "stop the bleed" kits in locations near AED devices;
- Installing a telephone in each classroom where currently no telephone exists;
- Adding ADA/Fire code compliant locks and fencing with proper signage on doors; and
- Reconfiguring an entry way through securing the door system and having a more visible check-in area and direct communication with an individual wishing to enter the building.

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<sup>1</sup> Specific building improvement details are not being released at this time. If released publicly, such information could negatively impact school safety measures, enable individuals to evade school security, and endanger the safety of students, teachers, and other school employees.

“We believe that one of the most preventive safety actions that we can take in our schools is to know our students and families and to assist them with trauma, their social emotional development, and life’s difficulty. When this falls short and our schools are threatened we are charged with needing to invest in additional school infrastructure and other security protocols that will better ensure school safety,” said School District of Mauston Superintendent Dr. Christine M. Weymouth. “We wish to thank Governor Scott Walker, Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel and the Wisconsin Legislature for their swift and appropriate response to the need for school safety support. We are committed to having responsive and secure schools, now and in the future, and this grant will enable us to invest in the necessary safety improvements and continuous training that our students, educators and community deserve.”

Over the past two months, since [2017 Wisconsin Act 143](#) was signed into law, the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) has consulted with numerous stakeholders in the fields of education, security, law enforcement, and mental health. These specialists, listed at the end of this press release, worked with DOJ’s own security experts to develop how the School Safety Grant Initiative will create sustainable improvements in Wisconsin schools.

“We are working to make Wisconsin schools safer through our \$100 million School Safety Plan,” said Governor Walker. “We want to help ensure that our kids, teachers, and parents are safe. Thank you to our school districts and local law enforcement for coming together to enhance school safety across the state.”

Grant applicants are required to partner with law enforcement agencies to ensure that proposed expenditures, visitor protocols, and school safety plans will be effective and provide students with the safest learning environment possible.

“This collaborative grant is a vital step in keeping our children, faculty and staff safe while in school,” said Kewaskum Police Chief Thomas F. Bishop. “The Kewaskum School District and the Kewaskum Police Department have a great partnership that values safety and security in our schools and this grant funding will allow us to further that objective. I would like to thank Governor Scott Walker, DOJ, and the State Legislature for making school safety a priority in the State of Wisconsin.”

In addition to helping keep schools safe from violent attacks, DOJ will be closely monitoring for behavior that could affect a school’s ability to pay market rates for products like door locks and shatter-resistant film for glass. DOJ will review and investigate any instances of inappropriate pricing behavior so the benefits of the program are not reduced.

Following is a list of organizations who have met with DOJ staff, and consulted on the creation of the Office of School Safety and the grant process and criteria.

- Association of Wisconsin School Administrators
- Badger State Sheriffs Association
- CESA 4, 7, 10
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- NAMI-WI
- Wisconsin Association of School Boards
- Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials
- Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators
- Wisconsin Association of School Nurses
- Wisconsin Catholic Conference
- Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association
- Wisconsin Council of Administrators of Special Services
- Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools
- Wisconsin Department of Administration
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
- Wisconsin Education Association Council
- Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association
- Wisconsin Juvenile Officers Association
- Wisconsin Professional Police Association
- Wisconsin Retired Educators' Association
- Wisconsin Safe and Healthy Schools Training & Technical Assistance Center
- Wisconsin School Music Association/Wisconsin Music Educators Association
- Wisconsin School Psychologists Association
- Wisconsin School Public Relations Association
- Wisconsin School Safety Coordinators Association
- Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association

For more information on DOJ's Office of School Safety, please visit:  
<https://www.doj.state.wi.us/office-school-safety/office-school-safety>

