Act 44 Update

School Safety and Security Grant Program

The School Safety and Security Committee announced the availability of **$52.5 million** in funding to make school entities within the Commonwealth safer places. Effective now, Act 44 of 2018 established the **School Safety and Security Grant Program**.

This funding announcement has two parts:

- Part A: Meritorious Application is ONLY for SCHOOL DISTRICTS making an application to receive a minimum grant allocation of $25,000; and
- **Part B: Competitive Application is for all eligible school entities** (including CHARTER SCHOOLS)

Applications are **due by October 12, 2018** and can be found in the PCCD e-grants system here.

In order to apply and access the Act 44 School Safety and Security Funds, applicants must FIRST register for PCCD's Egrants system. PCCD's Egrants system is SEPARATE and DISTINCT from the PA Department of Education's Egrants system and will require a separate registration. To register for PCCD's Egrants system please visit this page. Here is the number schools should call: Egrants Help desk (717) 787-5887 or (800) 692-7292, at the prompt select option 9 then option 6.

Once your agency gets approved, you need individual user access (two individuals per school). If you already have a login and password for the MyPDESuite application, use that to gain initial access. If you try to create an individual user and you are already a registered user in MyPDESuite, it will not allow you to proceed.

Once you log into PCCD e-Grants, the application will ask you to update your information and

select a role. Select the "manager role" and submit. Once you receive confirmation that you are approved, the second user will need to go through the same process, but they will then be bounced to you in PCCD e-Grants for you to approve.

The Committee expects to award **$25,000 to each school district** that makes a Part A: Meritorious Application. **$40 million in funding is being made available** as Part B: Competitive Application for all eligible school entities. Per the statute, each school entity may submit one application annually. No school entity may receive an award of more than $6 million as part of this grant program.

Please make sure you read [this document](#) outlining the funding announcement and requirements.

Questions may be sent by email to [RA-CD-SSSC©pa.gov](#). Answers to questions will be posted online for all potential applicants to review [here](#). Technical questions concerning the Egrants System should be made directly to the Egrants Help Desk at either (717) 787-5887, or you may call toll-free at (800) 692-7292 and select option 9 and then option 6 when prompted.

"Safe2Say Something" Program:

Ana attended the education stakeholder meeting led by the Government Relations staff at the Attorney General's office to learn about "Safe2Say Something" school safety anonymous tip program.

Pursuant to [Act 44 of 2018](#), the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General (OAG) is establishing the "Safe2Say Something" school safety anonymous tip program. This program will be live, accepting tips, and forwarding tips to the appropriate school entity on January 14, 2019.

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Safe2Say program be a one-stop shop

for students, teachers, and community members to report behavior perceived to be threatening to an individual or a school entity. Reports made through the anonymous reporting system will be referred to local schools, law enforcement and/or organizations. The Safe2Say program will supplement, not replace, 911 services and is intended to facilitate increased communication between law enforcement, school districts, and organizations. This program is not meant to be a tool for law enforcement. However, there may be instances where information obtained through the program may be shared with and used by law enforcement.

There will be a significant amount of information to share about the system, trainings, and policies in the coming weeks and months. **It is vital that every charter school submits its administrative contact to "Safe2Say Something" by September 14, 2018.**

This administrative contact is going to be used in the beginning phases of the program for the purposes of disseminating information and serving as the contact that will be responsible for uploading additional contacts (as deemed appropriate by the charter schools) as the program launch nears. When this time comes, there will be no limit to the number of individuals receiving tips and who receives what information will be customizable.

As we have shared with you in previous communications regarding Act 44 in the past few weeks, Act 44 also requires that school administrators appoint a School Safety and Security Coordinator no later than August 31, 2018. In case you missed my emails, here is the [online form](#) to submit the name and contact information for your school entity's School Safety and Security Coordinator to the Pennsylvania Commission for Crime and Delinquency. If you haven't already submitted this information, please do so asap.

As a reminder, in accordance with Section 1309-B of Act 44, the School Safety and Security Coordinator is tasked with the following duties:

- Reviewing the school entity's policies and procedures;
- Coordinating training and resources for students and staff;
- Coordinating school safety and security assessments;
- Making reports to school board directors on current safety and security practices of schools
- Serving as the liaison to the Pennsylvania Commission for Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) School Safety and Security Committee, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, law enforcement and other organizations of matters of school safety and security.

It is our recommendation and the recommendation of the OAG's office that this coordinator be the administrator for the "Safe2Say Something" system as well.

Please upload your administrative contact by September 14, 2018, by going here and filling in the required fields. This domain is to be used only for the purposes of uploading the administrative contacts, will not be the website for the program, and will not ever be the mechanism to submit tips to "Safe2Say Something."

Once again, here is the summary we created for our members back in June. PCPCS will continue to facilitate the sharing of information regarding this important program in the coming weeks and months.