



James M. Thomas  
Commissioner

# FACT SHEET

## Public Act 07-208

An Act Concerning Security Assessments and Assistance for Schools  
and Emergency Response Plans for Institutions of Higher Education



School Security  
Initiative

### DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY

- Effective 7/1/2007
- Competitive Grant Program for security at school entrances – Administered by the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS)
- Purpose – To reimburse towns for certain expenses for security improvements at schools under their jurisdiction.
- Eligible expenses include but are not limited to: improvements to school entrances to include surveillance cameras, entry buzzers, scan card systems, panic alarms, and portable screening devices. Training of school personnel in the maintenance of security at school entrances is also eligible.
- The Commissioner of DEMHS and Department of Public Safety (DPS) will determine which particular items will be eligible for reimbursement.
- For the purpose of this Grant each town will be ranked in descending order according to town wealth as defined by section 10-262f of the general statutes.
- The wealthiest town will be eligible for a 20% reimbursement rate and the poorest town will be eligible for an 80% rate. The remaining towns will fall between those two rates on a continuous scale.
- If there are insufficient funds to cover grants to all the towns, the Commissioners of DEMHS and DPS shall give priority to schools with the greatest need for security infrastructure improvements at school entrances based upon security assessments conducted under the supervision of the local law enforcement agency.
- Once the schools with the greatest need have been identified priority shall be given to schools that have no security infrastructure at entrances and succeeding priority shall be granted to schools identified as priority school districts according to section 10-266p of the general statutes.
- To be eligible, the proposed recipient must demonstrate that: a) They have an Emergency Plan in place at their schools which was developed in a uniform assessment of entrances at all schools under their jurisdiction, b) Conducted under the supervision of the local law enforcement agency using the National Clearinghouse for Education Facilities' Safe Schools Facilities Check List, and c) Complete a Competitive Grant Application.
- Funding level is \$5,000,000 for the first year.
- Copy of the Security Checklist is available at the DEMHS web site: [www.ct.gov/demhs](http://www.ct.gov/demhs)