



Consistency | Transparency | Integrity | Professionalism | Respect

2 April 2026

Dear Superintendents and School Leaders,

I am writing to provide clarity and reassurance regarding the administration of school safety funding as we approach the upcoming application cycle.

The North Carolina Center for Safer Schools (CFSS) remains fully committed to supporting our public-school units with critical resources for safety, including training, services for students in crisis, and safety equipment. While the administrative home of the School Safety Grant Program now resides with CFSS at the SBI, I want to be clear: **the process, expectations, and commitment to serving schools remain unchanged from prior years under NC DPI.**

As with any state-funded program, the availability of School Safety Grant funds is contingent upon the passage of the state budget. This is not a new circumstance, nor is it unique to CFSS. It has always been the case that, absent a ratified state budget, funding cannot be allocated. We continue to monitor this closely and will communicate any updates as they become available.

Importantly, **School Resource Officer (SRO) funding remains recurring**, and we are moving forward with that process as planned. Our goal is to have the SRO application available by the first part of June, consistent with prior timelines, so that districts can plan accordingly.

We are aware that there may be varying interpretations or statements regarding the administration of these funds. I want to emphasize that **all relevant state agencies are aware of the established process**, and any implication that there has been a substantive change in how funding is accessed or administered does not accurately reflect the reality of our continued operations.

CFSS will continue to operate with transparency, consistency, and a strong focus on ensuring that schools have access to the resources they need to maintain safer and supportive learning environments. We value your partnership and remain steadfast in our role in supporting you. If you have any questions or need additional clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to SchoolSafetyGrants@cfssnc.gov.

Respectfully,

Karen W. Fairley
Executive Director, North Carolina Center for Safer Schools

CENTER FOR SAFER SCHOOLS

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