

HUNTINGDON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Huntingdon Area School District

Safety and Security Meritorious & Competitive Grant Award

The Huntingdon Area School District (HASD) is pleased to announce that they have been awarded a total of \$405,539 in Safety and Security Grant dollars. This grant is split into two portions, meritorious and competitive. The meritorious grant award totaled \$35,000, which was determined by the size of the district. These dollars will go to two areas, Rachel's Challenge and an updated and enhanced security badging system for each building. Rachel's Challenge is an embedded program of spreading kindness, positive relationships and connectedness within the school. This programming will be a continuation of the initial implementation funded by the 2019 Safety and Security grant award. The updated and enhanced badging system will minimize security vulnerabilities by increasing the control of access times and record keeping of building entry.

In addition to the \$35,000 meritorious portion, HASD is pleased to announce the additional award of \$370,539 in the competitive portion of the grant. This portion of the grant proposal was designed in three parts: Personnel, Surveillance and Equipment. The personnel portion of the grant focused on continued social work support, an additional guidance counselor focusing on alternative programming, a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) coaching stipend, MTSS training costs and Student Assistance Program (SAP) training costs. After the 2019 Safety and Security Grant award, HASD contracted with the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit to have part time social worker support in each building. With the level of need in the district and the current utilization of the social workers, this funding will allow the district to maintain the same level of a social worker presence. During their time in the district social workers have reached 267 learners and their families and are continuing to meet the needs of families and connecting them with resources to help learners be successful. The addition of the guidance counselor will focus on supporting learners in non-traditional education settings. As the district continues to develop ways to increase intervention for struggling learners both academically and

emotionally, MTSS and SAP training and coaching will be critical in that advancement. These training sessions will be provided through the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit and PaTTAN state training center.

Equipment and Surveillance make up the remainder of the grant award. HASD recently underwent a physical risk and vulnerability assessment and areas of need were identified. This grant will allow us to provide surveillance cameras at Southside Elementary and enhance coverage at the middle school. Cameras assist with after incident investigations, real time monitoring, outdoor security and an increased sense of safety and security for learners, faculty and staff. The remaining equipment that will be purchased revolve around emergency preparedness. Items including classroom emergency kits, evacuation ladders for second floor classrooms, knox boxes for emergency management service access to buildings, threat assessment record keeping program, and vape sensors for secondary bathrooms. These items are largely designed to better equip classroom teachers and learners in the event of a shelter in place, evacuation and intruder emergencies. The HASD has experienced a great increase in tobacco violations in the last two years and these sensors in the bathroom will help detect use on campus. The Huntingdon Area School District values the safety of all learners, faculty and staff and continues to work to provide resources to increase physical safety, mental health and emotional safety for all. This Safety and Security plan helps them continue with those efforts.

In addition to the Safety and Security Grant award, Evolution Express counseling services from Blair County, Pennsylvania applied for a grant under the 2020 Community Violence Prevention/Reduction Grants to provide Huntingdon Area School District with an attendance counseling program, Team 360. They were awarded the funding to begin working with learners and families to increase regular attendance and reduce chronic truancy. The district is looking forward to beginning this partnership.