

Bost Announces Local School Safety Grants

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CARBONDALE — U.S. Representative Mike Bost (IL-12) today announced over \$830,000 in federal grants for East St. Louis, Jefferson County, and Franklin County schools to strengthen security in the classroom. Over 160 jurisdictions nationwide applied and received grants through a Department of Justice School Violence Prevention Program initiative that Bost introduced and had signed into law in 2018.

“When our children and grandchildren are in school, they must have a secure learning environment,” said Bost. “As a father, a grandfather, and a former first responder, school safety is an issue that is very important to me; and I couldn’t be happier to see local school districts utilizing these grants to make their classrooms safer. Getting this legislation signed into law is one of my proudest accomplishments in Congress, and I will continue to champion efforts to keep children and teachers safe at school.”

East St. Louis School District #189 will use their \$239,892 grant for metal detectors and locks, as well as staff training and communications planning. Both the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department (\$499,829) and Sesser-Valler Community Unit School District #196 (\$90,285) will use their grants to make safety enhancements in the classroom.

Background:

The [School Violence Prevention Program](#) provides funding directly to states, units of local government, and Indian tribes to be used to improve security at schools and on school grounds in the grantees’ jurisdictions through evidence-based school safety programs that may include one or more of the following:

- Coordination with local law enforcement
- Training for local law enforcement officers to prevent school violence against others and self
- Placement and use of metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures
- Acquisition and installation of technology for expedited notification of local law enforcement during an emergency
- Any other measure that, in the determination of the director of the COPS Office, may provide a significant improvement in security