

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

May 13, 2025

SUBJECT:

Submission of the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) Grant Application – Aiken County Public School District – FY26

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) is designed to provide funding to improve security at schools and on school grounds in the recipient's jurisdiction through evidence-based school safety programs. Each award is three years (36 months) in duration for a maximum of \$500,000 per award. Aiken County Public School District will be applying for \$500,000 and providing 25% matching funds of \$125,000 per grant requirements. The allowable uses of SVPP funds include:

- 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 COPS Office Director, may provide a significant improvement in security

This grant proposal seeks funding to consolidate the current fragmented video surveillance infrastructure across our school district's 44 schools—each operating under one of four distinct camera systems—into a unified, secure, AI-enhanced platform. The project will enhance real-time threat detection, streamline system management, improve emergency response through law enforcement integration, and ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

The Division of Operations and Student Services has evaluated the goals and objectives and finds them to be consistent with district goals.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the submission of Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) Grant application and the receipt of funds, if awarded.

PREPARED BY:

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