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Contact: Press@michigan.gov

Gov. Whitmer Awards Funding to Keep Students Safe at School, Hire 195 School Resource Officers

LANSING, Mich. -- Today, Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced that 195 school districts, intermediate school districts, and public-school academies will receive nearly \$25 million to support the hiring of 195 school resource officers (SROs) for the next three years. The program will improve safety and security for more than 334,000 students in our state.

“Every parent wants their kids to be safe at school,” said **Governor Whitmer**. “These grants will help us hire almost 200 more School Resource Officers so we can make sure our children, teacher, and staff are safe at school. Let’s keep working together to make record investments in our students and improve their classroom experience, build up school infrastructure, hire excellent educators, and invest in their comprehensive well-being, from mental health to safety.”

A panel consisting of representatives from education and policing awarded the grants, giving priority to schools and school districts without a school resource officer currently in place, as well as schools from more communities with lower student enrollment and less total per pupil funding. These funds administered by the Michigan State Police (MSP), Grants and Community Services Division, may be used to support salaries, benefits and training for SROs, which are law enforcement officers responsible for keeping students safe in school. A 50 percent match is required to be provided by the applicant jurisdiction.

“These grant awards will not only help to provide better safety in our school buildings by increasing the number of schools throughout the state with at least one SRO, but very importantly, by prioritizing smaller schools in more remote areas, we will reduce the time it takes for a police response in the event of an emergency,” said **MSP Director Col. Joe Gasper**.

In June, [Governor Whitmer signed legislation](#) that fully funds risk assessments and critical incidence mapping at every school in the state to help protect students and create safety plans in the event of an emergency.

HB 6012 also delivered \$10 million to [Oxford Community Schools](#) to help them recover from the November 2021 shooting. The funds will be used for personnel and additional student supports, including psychologists, family liaisons, mental health staff, school security, additional learning time, legal fees, and the physical restoration of a school building.

In July, Governor Whitmer signed a balanced, [bipartisan education budget](#) making the highest state per-student investment in Michigan history to improve every kid's in-class experience. The budget sent \$210 million to make schools safer and an additional \$250 million to respond to student mental health needs, with every school receiving dedicated per-student funding—\$214 for every kid in every district—specifically for campus safety and mental health.

These dedicated school safety and mental health dollars can be used by schools to hire more mental health professionals, harden buildings, and create an intervention system for students who are at-risk. The education budget also allocated an additional \$25 million specifically for schools to hire more on-campus school resource officers.

A complete list of awards can be found at [Office of School Safety \(michigan.gov\)](#).