

## Department of Justice awards CCSD, CCSO with grant aimed at school safety

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Posted: Nov 14, 2018 02:27 PM EST

Updated: Nov 14, 2018 04:52 PM EST



CHARLESTON, SC (WCBD) – The Charleston County School District has been awarded a \$435,013 grant intended to improve school security.

District leaders made the announcement in a press release Wednesday, saying the funding is intended to improve school security by helping students and teachers reduce exposure to risks, prevent acts of violence, and quickly recognize and respond to violent attacks.

The grant will be used in Charleston County to upgrade the following equipment and technology in schools throughout the area beginning now through September 2020:

Electronic front door locks & intercoms; Keypad door-release devices for first responders; and Integration of CCSD data into Charleston County's Alastar situational awareness tool.

The Charleston County Sheriff's Office was also named in the special grant.

"The safety of our students should be a top priority for all law enforcement," stated Sheriff Al Cannon, Jr. "We make every effort to improve safety measures through training and equipment upgrades. We are doing all we can to make sure parents know their kids are safe."

Staff from both CCSD and CCSO reportedly worked together on submitting the grant to the Department of Justice, highlighting the importance of partnerships between local law enforcement agencies and school district when it comes to protecting students, teachers, staff members, and administrators.

"CCSD is truly thankful for the positive partnership that exists between the district and our law enforcement partners," added Michael Reidenbach, CCSD's Director of Security and Emergency Management. "Sheriff Cannon and his entire team went above and beyond to help secure this federal funding to improve the safety and security of students in Charleston County. The outcomes from this grant will result in more secure school buildings and enhanced systems that will reduce the time it takes for law enforcement officers to respond to a school emergency."

The school district and sheriff's office also recognized the following partners who supported the grant initiative: Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch Board, Safe Schools Project, Charleston Police Department, Mount Pleasant Police Department, North Charleston Police Department, and Sullivan's Island Police Department.

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