**Keeping Students, Schools Safe**

WELCOME TO AROUND THE HOUSE FOR YOUR LEGISLATIVE UPDATE WITH THE INDIANA HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF SECURED SCHOOL SAFETY GRANTS ARE NOW OPEN.

STATE FUNDING FROM THE GRANT PROGRAM IS USED BY SCHOOL CORPORATIONS TO EMPLOY SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS, CONDUCT THREAT ASSESSMENTS, PURCHASE EQUIPMENT, AND CREATE A STUDENT AND PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAM OR AN ACTIVE ALERT WARNING SYSTEM.

TO KEEP HOOSIER STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND SCHOOL STAFF SAFE, A NEW LAW AUTHORED BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE WENDY MCNAMARA OF EVANSVILLE, EXPANDS THE GRANT'S USES TO INCLUDE DIGITALLY MAPPING FLOOR PLANS THAT CAN BE SHARED WITH FIRST RESPONDERS, MULTI-DISCIPLINARY THREAT ASSESSMENTS, AND TECHNOLOGY TO DETECT FIRE, CHEMICAL, VISUAL AND AUDIBLE THREATS. SAFETY PLANS FOR PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS ALSO HAVE TO MEET CERTAIN STANDARDS.

**REP. MCNAMARA SOUNDBITE:** The safety of students, teachers and staff continues to be a top priority. By significantly expanding this successful grant program, more schools are expected to apply and receive help covering the costs of much-needed technology upgrades."

MCNAMARA, WHO SERVES AS A LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR, SAYS TO DATE, THE PROGRAM HAS AWARDED NEARLY 133 MILLION DOLLARS TO INDIANA SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ADDRESS POTENTIAL SAFETY THREATS.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE MICHELLE DAVIS OF WHITELAND, CO-AUTHOR OF HOUSE ENROLLED ACT 1492, SAYS THE NEXT STATE BUDGET WILL ALSO BOOST INVESTMENTS IN THIS PROGRAM AND CREATE A SCHOOL SAFETY TEAM IN EVERY SCHOOL CORPORATION IN INDIANA, COMPRISED OF SAFETY SPECIALISTS LIKE LAW ENFORCEMENT, SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS, COUNSELORS AND SOCIAL WORKERS.

**REP. DAVIS SOUNDBITE (1:40-1:58): "**School safety is critical, and these grants help schools take important steps to protect students and foster a positive learning environment. This increased funding and new level of coordination will help keep young Hoosiers and educators safe."

GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR THIS ROUND OF FUNDING ARE DUE BY FOUR-THIRTY PM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 26. TO APPLY AND CONNECT TO ADDITIONAL SAFETY RELATED RESOURCES, VISIT INDIANA'S ONLINE SCHOOL SAFETY HUB AT IN DOT GOV FORWARD SLASH SCHOOL SAFETY.

THIS HAS BEEN AROUND THE HOUSE WITH YOUR LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM THE INDIANA HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS.