



School Safety Grant Frequently Asked Questions

Revision 01

November 2025



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School Safety Grant

Frequently Asked Questions

About the school safety grant

QIS BGA has developed the school safety grant to support schools in addressing critical safety needs through targeted capital works projects in the following areas:



School security



Climate change adaptation



Traffic and pedestrian safety

The objective of the school safety grant is to support schools in implementing capital works projects that address genuine and demonstrable opportunities in one or more of the above initiatives. Projects will need to align with existing school policies and demonstrate a clear benefit with outcomes that help to mitigate risks and enhance safety in school environments for students, staff, and the wider school community.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

These Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have been compiled to support schools making an application in the school safety round, and they are supplementary to the following resources that are available on the [QIS BGA website](#):

- Planning & Eligibility Notes
- Application Help Notes
- Safety Solution Statement

To assist in navigating this document, FAQs are organised into theme headings, accompanied by an interactive contents page that allows you to browse either an entire category or scan the list for specific questions.

If you have a query not addressed in the resource documents or these FAQs, please contact the grant's dedicated Project Officer as soon as possible.

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These FAQs are continually being updated and may be revised periodically to incorporate new queries. If printed, please verify on the QIS BGA website that you are using the most current version by referring to the version number and date on the cover page.

Intent of Funding

The School Safety Grant will support schools in delivering capital building projects that align with one or more of the following initiatives:

School safety initiative	 School security	 Climate change adaptation	 Traffic and pedestrian safety
	Intent of funding	Intent of funding	Intent of funding
	To enhance the safety and protection of school community members, property and resources.	To increase a school's resilience and ability to respond when faced with emergencies, natural disasters or public health incidents.	To increase the protection of pedestrians when interfacing with vehicular traffic inside schools.
Types of projects	- Fences, enclosures, automatic gates and other security hardware - Electronic security (e.g. card access control) and CCTV - Increasing/improving security lighting - Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) to server and security systems	- Fire services upgrades - Flood mitigation (e.g. levees) - Stormwater management - Bushfire protection	- Improvements to Drop-off/pick-up zones. - Traffic calming measures such as raised crosswalks and speed bumps. - Pedestrian refuge islands/widened footpaths. - Physical separation barriers such as fencing and bollards.

The types of projects listed above are provided as examples only. For a project to be eligible, it must:

- Categorise into one or more of the prescribed safety initiatives.
- Demonstrate alignment with the funding intent.
- Be located internally of a school sit.

A project providing only additional carparking, for example, would be ineligible because it does not meet the intent of the funding criteria outlined above.

Other examples of ineligible projects include:

- Sun and weather shelters (unless altering an existing shelter as part of an otherwise eligible project).
- Digital data and cyber security (software/operating systems etc.)
- Maintenance type activities.
- Installation of systems supporting maintenance (e.g. roof access systems)

Schools considering applying for a project not explicitly listed are encouraged to discuss eligibility with the grant's dedicated [Project Officer](#).

1. General information about the grant

1.1. What types of safety projects are eligible for funding under this round?

Eligible projects must align with one or more of the following initiatives:

- School security
- Climate change adaptation
- Traffic and pedestrian safety

Projects must demonstrate alignment with the funding intent and address a genuine safety concern. Refer to the Planning & Eligibility Notes to understand the prescribed intent of each initiative.

1.2. Why do we need to have a design ready before submitting an application?

The school safety grant targets lower-value projects that do not necessarily align with other available funding opportunities (e.g. capital).

The grant provides certainty of funding for projects that are shovel-ready and can be implemented immediately following ministerial approval.

1.3. Is there a specific level of documentation required to be submitted with an application?

The level of documentation to be produced will vary depending on the type of project being proposed. For example, a project involving CCTV might require a performance specification or briefing document, whereas drawings suitable for construction would be required for alterations to a drop-off/pick-up zone.

The level of documentation required for your proposed project should be considered in collaboration with your external project supervisor and specialist consultants.

1.4. Will there be another school safety round in the future?

Although a similar round may be offered in the future, it is not guaranteed. Schools that wish to apply for eligible safety initiatives are strongly encouraged to do so as part of the current round.

1.5. Is there a limit to the number of applications a school can make in this round?

No. Schools can submit multiple applications for separate projects (separate contracts of work) as long as:

- Each application independently meets the minimum project cost and;
- Each application relates solely to a single contract of work (once contract per application).

The maximum available funding cap will apply collectively across all applications made for a site(s) within an immediate vicinity. Refer to the Planning & Eligibility notes for further details regarding the level of funding available.

2. School eligibility and funding

2.1. Can a school apply if its lease is shorter than 20 years but includes an option to renew?

Yes. Schools with a lease shorter than 20 years may still be eligible if the lease includes an option to renew that extends the total potential term to 20 years or more.

2.2. My school has two campuses within the same suburb. Can each campus apply for the full funding cap?

No. Where schools are within the same suburb or an 'immediate vicinity', the funding cap will be shared (applied collectively) across campuses. Schools can apply for separate projects on each campus, up to the eligible funding cap.

Refer to the 'Available Funding & School Eligibility' section of the Planning & Eligibility Notes for further information.

2.3. Is there flexibility in the funding cap if a school demonstrates exceptional need or risk?

No. The funding cap is fixed and cannot be exceeded, even in cases of exceptional need or risk.

However, other QIS BGA funding grants may be more suitable for your school's individual needs and situation. Schools are encouraged to contact the QIS BGA office to discuss any unique circumstances and obtain further information about other funding grants that may be available.

3. Project Eligibility

3.1. Can I apply for safety initiatives associated with a 2026 capital grant project?

No. This grant does not apply to safety initiatives that are associated with projects in the 2026 Capital round.

3.2. My 2026 capital application includes CCTV. Can this be funded in line with the safety grant?

No. Safety initiatives included in a 2026 capital round application will be assessed and funded under the established framework of the capital program.

The level of funding available for initiatives under the school safety grant applies to applications made under this grant only.

3.3. Can I apply for a safety initiative relating to a capital project currently under construction?

Yes. However, the safety project must be:

- A separate portion of work (separate contract) to the capital project currently under construction, and;
- Completed in the timeframe associated with the school safety grant, irrespective of the program or staging of the concurrent capital project under construction.
- Competitively priced with market quotations and/or a QS estimate endorsing value for money.

Refer to the Timeline section in the Planning & Eligibility Notes for additional information.

3.4. Can a safety project include car parking?

Generally, car parking would not align with the intent of the school safety grant, though some elements/features around or near a car park could still be eligible.

Schools with queries regarding eligibility should contact the grant's dedicated project officer to discuss.

3.5. Can a proposed project consist of two separate contracts? E.g. One civil and one electrical contractor.

No. Each application for funding under this round must relate to a single 'project' that is a portion of work pertaining wholly to one contract.

If a school wishes to undertake multiple contracts of work (i.e. by multiple contractors), it can either:

- Engage a contractor who can deliver multiple aspects of the project under a single contract or;
- Submit multiple applications for each 'project'/contract of work, with each independently meeting the minimum value of \$50,000 ex. GST.

Note that the funding cap per school applies to the total combined cost of projects, as outlined in the Planning & Eligibility Notes.

3.6. My school has separately accredited sites within an immediate vicinity. Can I submit a combined application?

No. A separate and independent application must be submitted for each individually accredited site, and each application must meet the minimum project cost criteria. The available funding cap will also apply collectively across all applications.

When considering work across multiple sites, schools should refer to the 'available funding & school eligibility' section of the planning & eligibility notes.

If you are unsure whether your sites require a combined application or separate applications, please get in touch with QIS BGA for clarification.

3.7. Are safety projects that also support accessibility (e.g., ramps, tactile paving) eligible?

It depends. The school safety grant supports projects specifically aligned with school security, climate change adaptation, and traffic and pedestrian safety. Projects that include accessibility elements, such as ramps or tactile paving, may be eligible if they form part of an eligible safety project.

Refer to the planning and eligibility notes for the specific 'intent of funding' description for each type of initiative in this grant.

Projects that relate only to accessibility are not in line with the intent of this grant.

If you're unsure, please contact the grant's dedicated project officer to discuss your school's specific project scope.

3.8. Are temporary safety measures (e.g., portable fencing or lighting) eligible for funding?

Eligible projects will provide permanent infrastructure that aligns with the grant's prescribed intent. Costs attributable to temporary works required to deliver an eligible safety project can be included in an application only if incorporated into the market quotation.

However, projects that deliver only temporary safety measures, such as portable fencing or lighting, are generally not eligible for funding under the school safety grant.

3.9. Is rainwater harvesting and reuse an eligible project in the school safety grant?

Rainwater harvesting and reuse on its own is not eligible under the School Safety Grant. However, certain elements could be considered if they form part of a broader stormwater management project that directly aligns with the intent of the funding e.g. as a climate change adaptation initiative.

Refer to the [Intent of funding](#) section for further details

4. Project Cost

4.1. What types of expenses can be included in the total project cost?

The total project cost should include actual values (either from fee proposals or quotations) for all direct costs required to deliver the project. For example, costs could include, but are not limited to:

- Project construction costs
- Professional/consultant fees (e.g. External project supervisor)
- Local authority charges

If you are unsure whether a particular cost can be included, please get in touch with QIS BGA before submitting your application.

4.2. Can consultant fees associated with preparing this application be included in the total project cost?

Yes. Professional fees associated with preparing an application in this round can be included in the total project cost.

Eligible consultant fees would include the external project supervisor and any specialist consultants relevant to your application project. For example, an electrical engineer for a security/CCTV project or a civil engineer for a stormwater management project.

4.3. Can consultant agreements be entered into before a grant is approved by the minister's office?

Yes. Applicant schools will need to engage the services of an external project supervisor and relevant specialist consultants required to prepare supporting documentation for an application in this round.

However, schools must not enter into a contractual agreement with a contractor before:

- The minister announces any grant approval, and;
- A QIS BGA recipient school agreement is executed to indicate the approved authority's acceptance of the grant offer and its conditions.

Refer to the application help notes for further information.

4.4. What if the work cost increases before our grant is formalised with a recipient school agreement?

The level of funding offered under the school safety grant is a fixed dollar amount, calculated based on the project costs at the time of application.

Schools are encouraged to consider the anticipated timeline during discussions with market contractors and negotiate for validity periods that extend until the recipient school agreements are likely to be executed.

Refer to the timeline section in the planning & eligibility notes for further information.

4.5. Can I include a contingency amount when submitting my total project cost?

No. While contingency is a valuable tool for managing financial risk on projects, for this school safety grant, contingency values are not eligible to be included in the total project value.

Project costs should be entered as actual values, excluding GST.

Schools should consider including an appropriate contingency in their budget, outside of the eligible total project cost applied for.

4.6. Can I nominate a preferred project contractor if they do not offer the lowest cost?

Where a school proposes to engage a contractor that is not the lowest cost, schools are encouraged to contact QIS BGA before submitting their application.

Reasonable justification will be required, including evidence of due consideration and evaluation of non-price criteria.

4.7. What happens if a school cannot obtain three competitive market quotations?

Where only two quotes are available, QIS BGA requires a further representation of market value at the time of application. For example, a quantity surveyor or a relevant consultant can provide a professional opinion of cost.

If a school is unable to obtain two competitive quotations (for example, due to being regionally located), please contact QIS BGA as early as possible.

4.8. When obtaining competitive market quotations, do we need to publicly advertise as a tender or expression of interest (EOI)?

No. Due to the smaller scale and lower value of the projects proposed for the school safety grant, schools can directly invite contractors known to be able to deliver the project to provide a quotation.

5. Safety solution statement

5.1. What is the safety solution statement?

The safety solution statement is a two-part pro forma that will be a key part of your funding application.

It helps to establish that your proposed safety project is well-planned, addresses a real safety issue, and offers good value for money.

The form consists of two sections—one completed by the school and the other by a qualified external project supervisor. Together, they confirm that the project is aligned with school policies, based on fair market quotes, and ready for delivery.

5.2. Does the external project supervisor need to have any specific qualifications?

Yes. The external project supervisor must be either:

- A qualified architect who is registered with the board of architects of Queensland; or
- A qualified professional engineer (RPEQ); or
- A project manager/project management firm that holds a licence issued by the Queensland Building and Construction Commission.

They must also be independent of those carrying out the work (i.e. not affiliated with the contractor organisation).

5.3. What if our school has no recent incidents or complaints to report? Can we still apply?

Yes. While past incidents can help demonstrate a need, schools may also apply based on identified risks or proactive safety planning supported by relevant policies or assessments.

6. Application and timeline

6.1. Can I request an extension for the application submission deadline?

Key dates associated with this round have been established to provide schools with the most time possible to prepare and submit their applications.

Schools should contact the safety grant's dedicated Project Officer if they are unable to meet the application deadline for any reason.

6.2. When can I tell quoting contractors if they have been successful or not?

QIS BGA encourages schools to maintain proactive and open communication with quoting contractors both during and after the application process. This includes discussion about contractors either being 'preferred subject to funding' or 'not preferred'.

Schools are reminded that a contract for work which is the subject of a grant request may not be signed until:

- The minister announces any grant approval, and
- A QIS BGA recipient school agreement is executed to indicate the approved authority's acceptance of the grant offer and its conditions.

For clarity, schools can engage in discussion, but must not enter into a contractual agreement for the work associated with a grant or grant application.

6.3. What is the client portal?

The client portal is an applicant school's user interface (or home page) in the Enquire Grant Management System (GMS).

The Enquire GMS is an online system that ensures data integrity, transparency, and accessibility for stakeholders.

Refer to the application help notes for more information regarding the GMS.

6.4. Do I need to submit consultant documentation as part of an application?

Yes. Consultant documentation is required to be submitted in support of an application for the school safety grant.

Refer to 'the pathway to an eligible project' in the planning and eligibility notes for further details regarding consultant design and documentation requirements.

6.5. How detailed does the project timeline need to be?

Schools are requested to include a project timeline as part of their application to demonstrate that realistic consideration has been given to the completion timeframe. Only high-level activities are required in line with the following example categories:

- Engage contractor
- Authority approvals (if any)
- Other preparation or enabling activities (e.g. Off-site fabrication)
- Construction/site installation
- Practical completion

An example timeline is provided in the application help notes.

6.6. How do I develop a realistic project timeline?

Understanding the timeframes, key milestones and inter-dependencies associated with delivering a project is critical for schools seeking to work efficiently while minimising disruptions in day-to-day operations.

To gain a realistic understanding of your project timeline, consult with your preferred project contractor, external project supervisor, and other key team members to understand individual tasks, as well as any associated risks and constraints.

6.7. What is an enabling activity, and why is it important to consider as part of the project timeline?

An enabling activity in the context of a project is any preparatory task that must be completed before the main project work can commence. These activities are crucial for ensuring the project proceeds smoothly and often involve setting up necessary infrastructure or completing preliminary work to allow the main project to proceed.

The preferred project contractor can advise on specific enabling activities related to project delivery, such as off-site fabrication or equipment lead times. However, there may be other enabling tasks that applicant schools need to consider. For example, essential repairs or maintenance to a roof may need to be undertaken before installing new solar panels.

6.8. Who can complete the online declaration and submit the application?

The person responsible for submitting the final application in the online client portal must complete the declaration.

This person does not need to be a direct member of the approved authority, but they must have the necessary permissions to act on its behalf.