

School Safety Grant Planning and Eligibility Notes

Revision 01

November 2025

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School Safety Grant Planning and Eligibility Notes

The School Safety Grant allows schools to apply for targeted support for smaller projects within a specified stream of initiatives, outside the larger capital round timeline. In line with the QLD Government's Capital Assistance Scheme, which allows schools to apply for assistance toward building and infrastructure, projects focused on school safety are also community-driven and at the core of planning and design.

The School Safety Grant is a focused funding initiative of QIS BGA, with no guarantee that any future rounds will be offered. Schools with a proposed project that aligns with the School Safety Grant initiatives are encouraged to apply in this round, as it may not be offered again.

About the school safety grant

QIS BGA has developed the School Safety Grant to support Approved Authorities and 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 the implementation of school-based capital works projects that address genuine and demonstrable safety opportunities. Projects must align with existing school policies or documented procedures and demonstrate clear benefits, with outcomes that help mitigate risks and enhance safety in school environments for students, staff, and the school community.

These notes are intended to guide and support schools through the process of preparing an application, and are presented across the following sections:

- Intent of Funding
- <u>Timeline</u>
- Available Funding & Eligibility
- The Pathway to an Eligible Project
- Safety Solution Statement
- Example project matrix "Pathway to an eligible project"

The notes should be read in conjunction with the following supplementary resources developed to support this funding round, all available on the <u>QIS BGA website</u>:

- Safety Solution Statement (a mandatory pro-forma required to be submitted with an application)
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Application Help Notes

Contact us

Any school considering making an application under the School Safety Grant is encouraged to contact <u>QIS BGA</u> to confirm eligibility of your proposed project and to help ensure you are on track to meet the application requirements. If you have a query not addressed in the resource documents, please contact the grant's dedicated Project Officer as soon as possible.

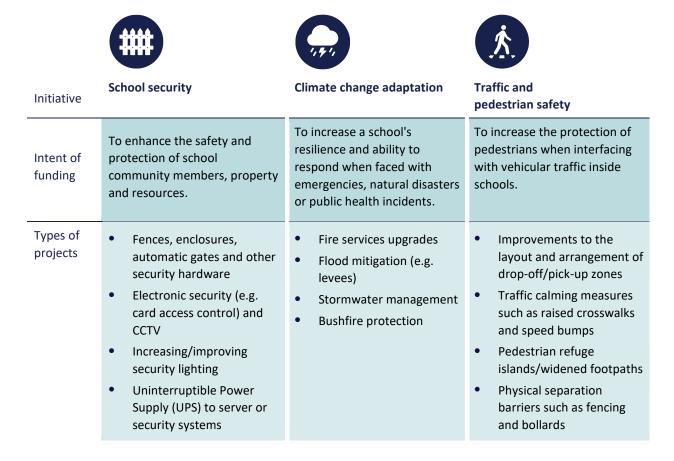
Kristy-Lee Cristea

Email: kcristea@bga.qld.edu.au

Phone: 07 3228 1583

1.1 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:



The types of projects listed above are provided as examples only, refer to Appendix B for further information. For a project to be eligible, it must:

- Categorise into one or more of the school safety initiatives.
- Demonstrate alignment with the funding intent as noted in the above table.
- Be located within a school site.

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 shade and/or weather protection structures.
- Digital data and cyber security (software/operating systems, etc.).
- Maintenance-type activities.
- Installation of systems or hardware supporting maintenance activities (e.g. roof access systems).

Schools considering applying for a project not explicitly listed are encouraged to discuss eligibility with the funding round's dedicated <u>Project Officer</u> as soon as possible.

1.2 Timeline

The following diagram illustrates key dates for the funding round:



Refer to the QIS BGA website for up-to-date details regarding application dates.

Once Ministerial approval of a grant is provided and the QIS BGA Recipient School Agreement is executed, successful projects will be able to enter into contracts/agreements with their preferred project contractor.

To comply with timing requirements of the Capital Assistance Scheme, the first claim for payment of a funding amount is required within two years of ministerial approval.

1.3 Available funding and eligibility

Applicant Schools must meet the eligibility requirements before submitting an application.

For a school to be eligible to receive funding under the School Safety Grant, it must:

- Be accredited and eligible for government funding under the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001, on the site where the proposed project would be delivered.
- Have entered into a QIS BGA Participation Agreement (or are in the process of doing so).
- Have a capacity to contribute (CTC) score less than 111.
- Exist on a site that is owned by the school/Approved Authority, or leased for more than 20 years.
- Have appropriate insurance in place.
- Propose an eligible safety project. Refer to the Pathway to an eligible project section for further information on requirements for an eligible project.
- Not be receiving (or applying for) other funding grants from QIS BGA, or any other State or Commonwealth agency to deliver the proposed project.



An application in this round must be for a single 'project' that will result in one contract of work only.

Each project, relating to a single contract of work, must meet the minimum project cost outlined in the following table. Schools can apply for more than one safety 'project' by either:

- Obtaining a quotation from a managing/head contractor to deliver multiple aspects of safety work as a single, combined project (i.e. a single safety application) or,
- Submit each 'project'/contract of work as a separate safety application, with each application required to independently meet the minimum project cost to be eligible.

The following table outlines the level of funding available to schools based on their capacity to contribute (CTC) score.

Safety Initiative		Minimum Project Cost (ex GST)	Level of Funding	
			CTC < 97	CTC 97-110
##	School security	\$50,000	75% of the project cost, capped at \$300,000 per	50% of the project cost, capped at \$200,000 per
2,7%	Climate change adaptation		School	School
Ţ.	Traffic and pedestrian safety			
	Any combination of initiatives			

SAS, MATSIS and special schools are eligible for the same level of funding as a school with CTC < 97.

The funding cap represents the maximum amount of funding a school can receive in this round, regardless of the number of projects for which it is applied. Where a school submits multiple applications, the cap applies across all projects, as if the combined elements are a single project.

For schools seeking to undertake work across multiple sites:

- Where the sites are within an immediate vicinity or the same suburb, one funding cap applies across all sites collectively.
- Where sites are not within an immediate vicinity or are in different suburbs, the funding cap will apply to each site individually.

Regardless of whether a funding cap applies collectively or individually, where project work is proposed to be undertaken on separately registered sites (i.e. separate NSSAB/AGE IDs), individual applications must be submitted for each site, with each application required to meet the minimum project cost.

This funding is for projects that will improve and enhance the safety of existing facilities and site infrastructure only, and it does not apply to any work associated with other applications being made under the 2026 capital round.

1.4 Pathway to an eligible project

The following sections outline the essential steps Schools must follow to present an eligible project for the School Safety Grant round.

Initiation	Project Planning			Apply
Understand and define the safety opportunity	Design and document	Pricing and market quotation		Complete the application online
Before a school can identify an appropriate safety project to pursue, it must first understand the nature and scope of its safety opportunity. Schools will record their safety opportunity in the Safety Solution Statement (Part A)	Consultant documentation is required to be submitted in support of an application in the School Safety round.	This step aims to establish a total cost for your project, while ensuring the delivery of high-quality products and services at the best possible price.	The Safety Solution Statement is a two-part, pro forma developed to ensure that a proposed project is well-designed and addresses a genuine safety need. Part B is to be completed by the external project supervisor.	After completing steps one to four, schools will have all the required supporting documentation to apply for a safety project.

Each step will produce specific outputs that will form the basis for assessing applications submitted under this round. The next sections provide a detailed overview of each step, along with a checklist of key activities to help guide applicant schools through the process.

Initiation



Understand and define the safety opportunity

Before a school can identify the most appropriate safety project to pursue, it must first understand the nature and scope of its safety opportunity. This opportunity represents a clearly defined safety need that, once addressed, will result in a measurable improvement in security or safety for students, staff and visitors.

The best way to understand your safety opportunity is to clearly define it.

This definition not only informs a school's selection of the most suitable project (or projects) to consider, but also forms the foundation of your application. It will guide your engagement with consultants and support your internal decision-making processes.

To establish your safety need and clearly define your safety opportunity, consider and prepare responses to the following questions and then record answers in the <u>Safety Solution Statement – Part A</u>. These responses will form a key part of your application and support the rationale and need for the proposed project.



When preparing answers to the following questions, you may wish to refer to the <u>Example project</u> <u>matrix "Pathway to an eligible project"</u> in Appendix B.

What is the safety issue?

Describe the specific safety concern or risk that the school is seeking to address.

What existing school policies will the proposed safety project support?

Identify relevant policies such as Work Health and Safety, Risk Management, Student Wellbeing, or Emergency Preparedness, among others.

Have any incidents, near misses, complaints, or concerns helped identify the safety opportunity?

Although an incident or near miss is not required to establish eligibility, providing details of such occurrences will help provide context and demonstrate how the issue was recognised and why it requires action.

Is there an underlying cause or contributing factor?

Explain any systemic or environmental factors that have led to the safety concern existing.

What measures will be used to evaluate the success of the proposed safety project following completion?

Define how the school will assess whether the project has effectively addressed the safety need.

Who has been involved in identifying, reviewing, and defining the safety opportunity?

List stakeholders who have contributed or been consulted, such as staff, students, parents, consultants, or governing bodies.

What is your safety opportunity?

Your safety opportunity is a 2–3 sentence description developed by the school that identifies a specific safety concern or risk within the school environment. This description should consolidate answers to the preceding questions and capture the safety need, desired outcome and success measures. The safety opportunity should reflect a genuine need, be supported by evidence, and demonstrate how the proposed project could reduce the identified risk in a measurable and meaningful way.



When responding to the above questions, keep your answers concise and focused, ideally within one to two sentences.

While not essential to completing step one, schools should consider engaging their external project supervisor early, as this professional will play a key role in the subsequent steps two to four. The external project supervisor will be responsible for the professional oversight of the project development and market quotation process. Their declaration and sign-off in step three is essential for a project to be eligible.

The external project supervisor must be either:

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

They must also be independent of the school and not affiliated with any of the contractor organisations providing market quotations.

If unsure about whether a particular candidate is suitable or qualified to fill the external project supervisor role, applicant schools should review and discuss the declaration in the Safety Solution Statement to help identify if an individual is comfortable to sign-off the required documentation. Alternatively contact QIS BGA to discuss.

Step 1 - Checklist			
Key activities to complete:			
	Prepare answers to the questions that will define your safety opportunity		
	Record answers to questions, and your safety opportunity in Part A of the Safety Solution Statement		
	Ensure the Safety Solution Statement Part A is completed, including the school endorsement sign-off		
	Engage your external project supervisor		
	Consider potential safety projects in collaboration with your external project supervisor		
	Plan for any internal approvals, such as budget endorsement or consent to apply for funding		

Project Planning



Design and document

Once your safety opportunity is clearly defined, the next step is to identify the most appropriate solution that can address the identified need, then develop and formalise the solution with consultant documentation. This process should be undertaken in collaboration with your external project supervisor and any other specialist consultant(s), who will assist in transforming your safety opportunity into a documented project.

Specialist consultants may include architects, engineers, or other professionals, depending on the nature of the proposed project.

Documentation must clearly illustrate the proposed solution, demonstrate how it addresses the safety opportunity, and be sufficient to obtain competitive market quotations by enabling contractors to price the works accurately.

The specific level of documentation required will vary depending on the type of project being proposed and may range from a performance specification or briefing document to fully detailed construction drawings.

The documentation should also include a 'site plan' indicating locations of proposed work relative to the site or campus as a whole.

This stage is critical in ensuring your project is well-planned, well-designed, and ready to deliver following ministerial approval.



Consider the type of contractor best suited to deliver your project. Remember, an eligible application must relate to one contract of work only; therefore, your documentation should clearly define a single project that can be delivered under a single agreement.

Step 2 - Checklist			
Key activities to complete:			
Engage external project supervisor (if not already)			
Engage other required consultants			
Work with the consultant team to define the scope of your project			
Understand the type of contractor/s that can deliver your project			
Identify the level of documentation required to obtain competitive market quotations, and deliver the project			
Design and document the project			

Project Planning



Pricing and market quotation

This step will establish a total cost for your project and application, while ensuring the delivery of high-quality products and services at the best possible price. This is achieved through a competitive market quotation process.

The total project cost for an application is the sum of all eligible costs, and may include, but is not limited to:

- Project construction costs (e.g. competitive market quotation)
- Professional/consultant fees (e.g. your external project supervisor)
- Local authority charges
- Other charges (e.g. site investigation services)

The total project cost will be determined based on actual values, either from fee proposals (for consultants) or competitive market quotations (for project/contract work), and should encompass all direct costs required to deliver the project.

Examples of ineligible costs include, but are not limited to:

- Contingency or any other type of provision or allowance for unforeseen costs.
- Fees and/or charges for work not directly associated with the proposed project/contract of work.
- Costs for work undertaken by the school or a third party (e.g. landscaping) that is not included in the competitive market quotation.

The process for obtaining competitive market quotations must reflect sound building industry best practices, support the value-for-money principle, and be open and transparent, aligning with ethical procurement practices.

Schools should obtain at least three market quotations to be submitted to support an application, and submit a copy of the preferred project contractor's submission. Refer to the <u>Application Help Notes</u> for additional information on the details and documents that need to be submitted with your application.

Where only two quotes can be obtained, QIS BGA requires a further representation of market value at the time of application. In this case, a Quantity Surveyor's estimate or a professional opinion of cost from a relevant consultant can be provided to support the application.

In cases where schools may face a limited pool of contractors available or willing to provide a quotation, e.g., due to a regional location or specialist contract requirements, the school should contact the funding round's dedicated Project Officer to discuss as soon as practically possible.



Schools should consider the anticipated timeline during discussions with market contractors, specifically regarding any validity period that may apply to quotations.

Schools should endeavour to obtain quotations that will remain valid until at least the anticipated Ministerial approval (120 days from application close date).

Also in step three, schools should consider their project timeline, including any authority approvals or preconstruction activities required, such as enabling work or off-site fabrication. The timeline should incorporate feedback from the quoting contractors regarding their anticipated start date and duration on site, assuming a contract date following ministerial approval and execution of the Recipient School Agreement. Refer to section 1.2 Timeline for further details.

A project timeline is required when applying online and must include at least the construction start and end dates. An example project timeline is provided in the <u>Application Help Notes.</u>

Step 3 - Checklist
Key activities to complete:
Obtain competitive market quotations
Identify your preferred project contractor and the associated construction cost
Confirm consultant fees (including external project supervisor for grant administration i.e. during construction)
Confirm any authority fees or charges
Finalise your total project cost
Understand your project delivery timeline

Project Planning



Safety solution statement

The safety solution statement is an integral part of your application. It will form the basis of establishing that your proposed project is well thought out, ready to deliver and represents value for money. The statement also shows that the safety issue you've identified is being appropriately addressed in line with existing school policies, and that the market quotations you've received reflect fair pricing and sound industry practice.

Part A of the statement is to be completed by the school to capture responses to 'step one' questions.

Part B is to be completed by the external project supervisor, and includes a declaration and sign-off section as well as a mechanism to capture key details such as consultant involvement and documentation records.

The statement should be completed following receipt of competitive market quotations in step three. It must be completed by a qualified professional, such as a registered architect (BOAQ), a Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland (RPEQ), or a licensed project manager (QBCC).

Step 4 - Checklist
Key activities to complete:
Part A of safety solution statement to be completed and signed-off by the school (if not already)
Part B to be completed external project supervisor including check-boxes and sign-off of the declaration
Attach separate document register (if required)

Apply

5

Complete application online

After completion of steps one to four, schools will have all the required supporting documentation ready to apply for an eligible project.

Applications are to be made online through the Enquire grant management system.

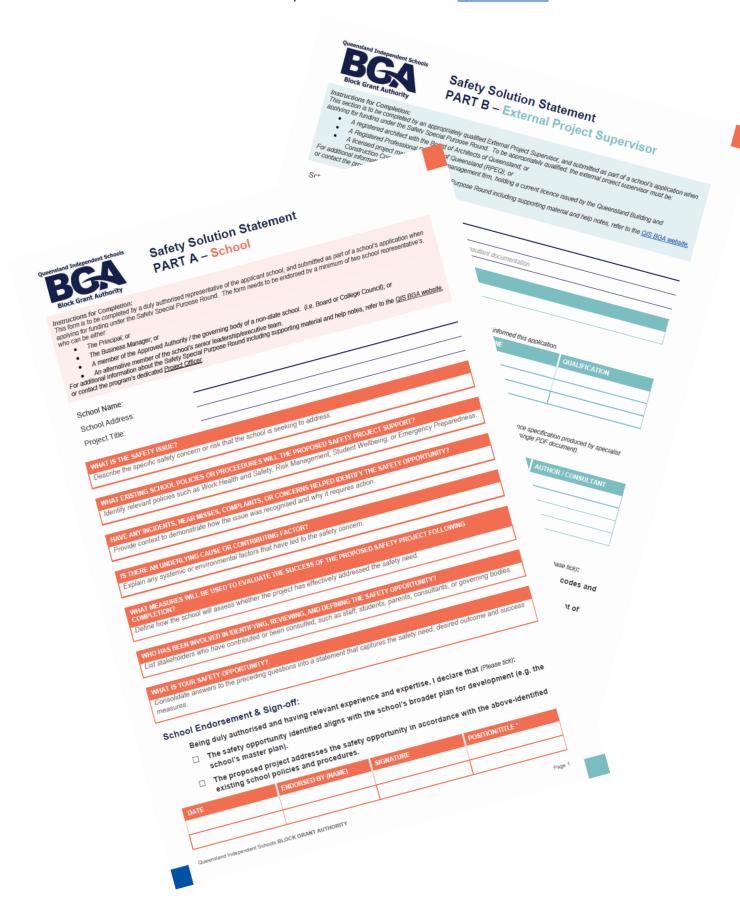
The online form will guide applicant schools through the completion of the required sections and will also prompt applicants to upload the necessary documentation.

Further Help Notes specific to making an application online are available on the QIS BGA website.

Step 5 - Checklist			
Key activities to complete:			
	Enter the required details in the online application		
	Upload consultant documentation		
	Upload safety solution statement		
	Upload the preferred project contractor quotation		
	Upload lease agreement (if applicable)		
	Finalise and submit your application		

APPENDIX A - Safety Solution Statement

Download an editable version of the safety solution statement from the QIS BGA website.



APPENDIX B - Example project matrix "Pathway to an eligible project"



School Security

LIGHTING & CCTV UPGRADE



Climate change adaptation



Traffic and pedestrian safety

1	

Understand and define the safety opportunity

What is the school safety need?

proposed safety project align with?

complaints or concerns raised that

have assisted in identifying the

Any incidents, near misses,

safety opportunity.

What existing school policies will the School Safety Policy.

The observed increase in trespassing after school hours has led attempting to leave the campus after dark, particularly via the

Who has been involved in the process of identifying, reviewing and defining the safety opportunity?

Is there an underlying cause or factor contributing to the safety opportunity?

What measures will be used to evaluate the success of the proposed safety project following completion?

'Safety Opportunity Description'

To increase the safety and security of staff and students leaving the administration building at night.

to staff and the school community feeling unsafe while Administration building and School Street gates.

Staff and students, the Principal, Operations team, and the ICT manager.

Insufficient physical security measures (low height of existing boundary fence), no CCTV, and inadequate external lighting.

Reduced reports of trespassers on campus, improved positive sentiment from staff, and no further safety concerns being raised regarding use of the Administration building and School St gates after dark.

To increase the safety and security of staff and students leaving the administration building at night, to reduce reports of trespassers on campus and negate any need for further safety concerns being raised regarding the use of the Administration building and School St gates after dark.

STORMWATER DRAINAGE AND **DIVERSION WORKS**

To protect general learning blocks D and G from flooding.

Work Health and Safety Policy.

Although built above the required flood level, D and G blocks have recently experienced water ingress into the ground levels on two occasions, rendering the classrooms unusable for multiple weeks while repairs were undertaken.

The school operations and facilities teams collaborated with a civil engineer to identify the cause and source of water entering the buildings.

The increased intensity of rainfall in severe storms has caused significant overland flow beyond the existing drainage capacity behind D and G blocks, resulting in water flowing into the buildings.

Success will be evaluated based on all ground-floor classrooms remaining dry and operational following future storms.

To protect general learning blocks D and G from flooding, so that all ground-level classrooms remain dry and operational following future storms.

NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AND BARRIER FENCING

To prevent students and visitor pedestrians from crossing the road at the end of the existing drop-off/pick-up zone.

School Safety Policy.

Students and parents regularly attempt to cross the road at the end of the internal drop-off/pick-up zone, where there is both a bend in the road and merging traffic lanes, reducing driver visibility and attention. An additional duty teacher is currently required to supervise this location every morning and afternoon.

Duty teachers have provided input regarding high-risk pedestrian behaviours observed, and the Principal and Business Manager have worked with the architect to understand the existing pedestrian pathways.

The location where pedestrians are attempting to cross results in a marginally shorter walking distance for those ultimately travelling west on Bonnett Pde. It is also the location of the old zebra crossing, which was removed some time ago.

Success would be measured by the number of pedestrians crossing at the designated zebra crossings, rather than at the end of the drop-off/pick-up zone.

To prevent students and visitor pedestrians from crossing the road at the end of the existing drop-off/pick-up zone, and to use the designated zebra crossing instead.







Climate change adaptation



Traffic and pedestrian safety

		LIGHTING & CCTV UPGRADE	STORMWATER DRAINAGE AND DIVERSION WORKS	NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AND BARRIER FENCING
	Specialist consultant/s	Architect and Electrical Engineer	Architect / Civil engineer	Architect / Traffic Engineer
Design and document	What is the proposed project?	Install new 2,100 mm high spear-topped boundary fencing, including automatic (plate-reading) gates. Upgrade the existing administration external lighting, and install new CCTV cameras to cover the Administration building and School Street gates.	Install a new surface-level grated drain in a re-profiled veranda slab, including a 150mm high kerb/hob wall under the relocated bag racks, to divert flow away from the buildings.	Construction of a new raised zebra crossing, including a fully fenced pedestrian refuge island, widened pedestrian footpaths, and continuous fencing along footpaths from the drop-off/pick-up zone to the new crossing.
document	Consultant Documentation	Architectural and Electrical engineering drawings	Civil engineering drawings	Architectural and/or civil engineering drawings
Pricing and market quotation	Competitive market quotations	3 x Electrical contractor quotations.	3 x Civil or building contractor quotations.	3 x Civil or building contractor quotations.
4 Safety solution statement	Safety Solution Statement	Endorsed by an architect (BOAQ) or an electrical engineer (RPEQ)	Endorsed by a civil engineer (RPEQ) or Architect (BOAQ)	Endorsed by an architect (BOAQ) or a civil engineer (RPEQ)

5

Complete the application

Complete the application online, via the school's Client Portal to the Enquire Grant Management System (GMS).