Dear School Safety Equipment Grant recipients,

Thank you for your patience while we finalized the software updates necessary to make payments for the School Safety Equipment Grant.  We have approved a large number of paper claims that were based upon funds that were provided for the 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 state fiscal years. We are happy to report that the vast majority of claims submitted were easily approvable. If you have submitted a claim, and do not hear from NYSED staff asking for follow up information, you can assume that your request for reimbursement was approved.

We are currently doing the data entry necessary to get these paper claims into the electronic payment system, so the electronic processing of these payments through the Office of the State Comptroller will begin soon, and your school should receive funds by August 1, 2016.  If you have unreimbursed expenditures from year 1, you may see 2 separate payments.  Please feel free to contact us if you have not received your funds by that time.

Once the electronic system begins its work, approval and payment notification will be sent from our EMSCNPSE@NYSED.GOV e-mail address to the CFO and/or CEO we have on file for your school.  Because emails from the payment system are sent to the contact person listed in SEDREF, it is important to make sure that SEDREF information is up to date.  If you need to update this information, requests for changes to SEDREF should be sent directly from the school to dataquest@nysed.gov

Payments for this program will have an invoice/reference ID that begins with the letters ‘NPS.’ (Those are the initials for ‘nonpublic safety,’ which is our internal coding for this program.) Schools will receive payments either electronically or by mail, depending on the payment designation on file with the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC)

In the appropriation made for the 2016-17 Safety Equipment Grant, the legislature and Governor broadened the list of eligible items and services under the program.  We are currently working on updated guidance that will reflect the broader language for the new year of funds.

We have been advised by counsel that any funds remaining after payments for the first three years are made can still be used. However, the older funds (pre-2016-17) will still need to be used for the narrower purposes originally defined; while the new funds will be eligible for the broader uses we will describe in our forthcoming guidance. This is a little complicated, so we will work hard to make guidance available that is clear and useful. If we miss the mark, we will, as always, be happy to clarify the issues for you via phone or email.

Once the new guidance and reimbursement application is released, notification will be sent via the Nonpublic School Listserv and will be posted on the Nonpublic School website at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/nonpub/schoolsafety/home.html>

Please e-mail me directly with any questions

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