

The list below constitutes frequently asked questions about the [Nonpublic School Health and Security \(NSHS\) Program](#). This page will be updated with frequently asked questions and answers on a continual basis. For program guidance, it's best to start by reviewing the Grant Information Guide.

1. Question: Is my school eligible to participate in this program?

Answer: Schools are eligible if they enrolled BOOST Scholarship student(s) and were approved by the Nonpublic School Textbook program during the 2025-2026 school year.

2. Question: How can our school receive funds?

Answer: You must complete an [invoice form](#) and attach supporting documentation. The expenses must align with the allowable use of funds, and backup documentation must be attached to evidence the expenditures (payroll reports, receipts, etc.) Invoices can be submitted at any time during the grant period.

3. Question: What if the invoice is *more* than our school's allocation?

Answer: If your invoice exceeds the grant allocation, you can add a line on the invoice that subtracts out the amount that the school is paying for or add a sentence to the invoice that make it explicit that even though you paid the full amount, you're only asking MSDE to reimburse you for a specific portion of the costs. Your request to us cannot exceed your allocation.

4. Question: We'd like to use these funds for the salary of a nurse, counselor, and/or security officer. How would this work?

Answer: We can reimburse the school for the hours worked delivering health and mental health services to students or security support. Your invoice must be for hours worked (not for time off). Please provide documentation to evidence the hours they worked (pay stubs, payroll summary, etc.) as well as their hourly rate (contract, offer letter, pay stub, etc.). If the pay stub does not provide the number of hours worked or hourly rate, please complete a time and effort log to verify how many hours the employee worked.

5. Question: Can we use these funds for a sports trainer?

Answer: It depends. Remember that these funds are to support nurses and other health professionals, not coaches. Schools should use funds for [health professionals](#). When in doubt, send an email to grants.msde@maryland.gov with your question.

6. Question: What about licensed counselors? Could it cover educational testing by a psychiatrist?

Answer: Yes. These services are allowable. When invoicing, remember that you must attach supporting documentation to substantiate the expenses. Please redact any personally identifiable information from invoice.

7. Question: We'd like to add an exterior door, for safety. Can we use these funds to remove a section of a wall?

Answer: No, funds cannot be used for construction or capital improvements that would alter the structure of the building.

8. Question: What about additional outdoor lighting?

Answer: It depends. Funds can't be used for capital improvements (expanding or improving existing electric systems, or adding structural elements to a building, etc.) Send us an email at grants.msde@maryland.gov with the specifics of the request.

9. Question: Can we use these funds to install a chain link fence?

Answer: No, this would be considered a capital improvement and is not an allowable expense.

10. Question: Can we use these funds to upgrade our electric wiring to accommodate a video monitoring system?

Answer: No, upgrading your school's electric grid or bandwidth would be considered a capital improvement and is not an allowable expense. However, funds can be used to purchase the equipment. When in doubt, send an email to grants.msde@maryland.gov with the specifics of the request.

11. Question: How do we fill out the final report?

Answer: The [final report](#) is due by July 31, 2027. Here is some info to complete it:

- The Recipient Grant # is your school's NOGA number (27xxxxx)
- The grant period is July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027
- Answer questions #1 and #2
- For question #3, answer is required based on question #2
- For question #4, put "n/a" because schools won't have a balance to remit to MSDE
- For question #5, put "n/a" because a final AFR is not required
- For question #6, put "n/a" because a grant evaluation is not required