



HERTFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HCPS, serving as a cornerstone of our community, will prepare graduates who are ready to meet the global challenges of education, career, and life.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hertford County Public Schools Receives \$300,000 School Safety Grant for Vital Security Enhancements

Ahoskie, NC - February 15, 2024

Hertford County Public Schools (HCPS) is delighted to announce that the Center for Safer Schools Safety Grant Program, under the auspices of State Superintendent Catherine Truitt, has approved HCPS' application for a significant grant totaling \$300,000. This crucial funding will be allocated to enhance safety measures across all schools within the district.

The approved grant will procure essential school safety equipment, reinforcing HCPS' commitment to providing a secure and protected environment for students, staff, and the entire school community.

The allocated funds will specifically be utilized for the acquisition of:

- **Centegix** - Formerly known as Ident-A-Kid, we will purchase new equipment for each of the 8 HCPS locations to make our visitor management process the same throughout the district. Each Centegix station will have a dedicated computer, driver license scanner, and two printers (one for visitor stickers and one for tardy passes). This initiative will help us identify campus visitors who have or have not checked in at the front desk.
- **Access Control** - We will work with BFPE to upgrade our access control systems (door access at all locations). This project will make access control uniform throughout the district and provide each staff member with an identification card as their "key" to enter a school building. Building access will be granted based on the staff member's role in the district.
- **Bus Cameras:** Implementing state-of-the-art surveillance on school buses to ensure the safety of students during transportation.
- **Radios for Schools and Buses:** Enhancing communication capabilities within schools and buses, a critical component for effective emergency response and daily operations.
- **Metal Detectors:** Additional security measures are introduced to safeguard school premises and events by adding metal detectors.

Dr. Jesse J. Pratt, Superintendent, states that “the safety and well-being of students, staff, and the entire school community are paramount to HCPS. These security enhancements will create a safe and conducive learning environment for all students and staff.”