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NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AG Schimel Announces More Than \$2.8 Million in School Safety Grant Funding to 40 School Districts

MADISON, Wis. – Attorney General Brad Schimel today announced a list of 40 schools and school districts that have been awarded the next round of grants through the Wisconsin Department of Justice School Safety Grant program, administered by DOJ's Office of School Safety. Combined, the 40 schools and school districts will receive \$2,895,658 which will be spent on building safety improvements, as well as training for faculty and staff. More grants will be awarded soon. A list of all 735 schools and school districts that have requested grant funds is available on the <u>DOJ</u> website.

"School officials and law enforcement share the responsibility in keeping our kids safe when they leave their homes every day," said Attorney General Schimel. "These grant funds will establish a meaningful way to improve school safety through a focus on mental health training for school faculty and physical improvements to school buildings."

A list of schools and school districts that have been awarded school safety grants is at the bottom of this press release.

Grant dollars are divided into two categories: the Primary School Safety Grant and Advanced School Safety Grant. DOJ's Primary School Safety Grants focus on baseline improvements to schools, including door locks and hardening school entryways. The Advanced School Safety Grants are awarded to schools that have met minimum security thresholds. In addition to making upgrades to school buildings, one of the School Safety Grant prerequisites is providing all full-time teachers, aides, counselors, and administrators with a minimum of three hours combined training in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and Trauma Informed Care/Trauma Sensitive

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Schools (TIC/TSS) before the end of the 2018-2019 school year; or demonstrate that staff has already received such training. Highlights from the school safety grant applications¹ include such improvements as:

- Training for all staff on Trauma Informed Care (TIC), Trauma Sensitive Schools (TSS), Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE), Peaceful Warriors, PREPaRE, Threat Assessment and Active Shooter Response training (ALICE);
- Attending Nonviolent crisis training and purchasing of reference flip charts and response kits;
- Increase two-way communications throughout the entire school through handheld radios, radio repeater system, emergency communication system, and public address system upgrades;
- Allow for the purchase of reflective safety vests, fire escape ladders, door security bars, safety strobe lighting, additional outdoor lighting, and bollard barricades and perimeter fencing/gates including around playgrounds;
- Add/improve internal and external security cameras/video surveillance and system software including parking lots;
- Secure the entry areas, sidelites, and interior classroom windows with shatter resistant film, updated doors and locks;
- Allow for more secure entrances to gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias;
- Allow for the remodeling of entrances and vestibule/visitor holding;
- Improve visitor screening and entryways through adding key card/keyless access, video monitoring, and access control door entry system;
- Enhance security software to include panic buttons for both law enforcement and parents;
- Updating internal classroom and entrances with locks that lock from the inside, including remote lockdown; and,
- Labeling exterior vinyl numbers on the exterior of all building so that first responders can identify a specific area.

"Notre Dame de la Baie Academy would like to thank Governor Walker, Attorney General Schimel, our local state legislators, and the entire Department of Justice Office of School Safety for making funds available to Catholic schools to help enhance the safety and security of our buildings," said Assistance Principal Greg Masarik. "Long before these grants became available and the implementation of Act 143, Notre Dame Academy completed a thorough threat and school safety assessment. NDA's School Safety and Security Committee, in cooperation with the Green Bay Police Department, used those findings to strategically train our staff and develop a priority list of items that would further enhance the safety of our school building. The blessing of this grant is that we will be completing our top two priority items: adding shatter

¹ Specific building improvement details are not being released at this time. If released publicly, such information could negatively impact school safety measures, enable individuals to evade school security, and endanger the safety of students, teachers, and other school employees.

resistant security film to our ten glass entry doors to our school and adding an internal security camera system for our building."

Over the past three months, since <u>2017 Wisconsin Act 143</u> was signed into law, the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) has consulted with numerous stakeholders in the fields of education, security, law enforcement, and mental health. These specialists, listed at the end of this press release, worked with DOJ's own security experts to develop how the School Safety Grant Initiative will create sustainable improvements in Wisconsin schools.

"Through our \$100 million School Safety Plan we are moving forward to make our schools more secure for everyone," said Governor Walker. "It is important we continue to work together to make our schools safer because no parent, student, or teacher should ever feel unsafe in a Wisconsin school."

Grant applicants are required to partner with law enforcement agencies to ensure that proposed expenditures, visitor protocols, and school safety plans will be effective and provide students with the safest learning environment possible.

"Law Enforcement in Sheboygan County has an outstanding partnership with our schools," said Sheboygan County Sheriff Cory Roeseler. "We value this relationship and continue to work with school administrators to make our schools even safer than they already are."

In addition to helping keep schools safe from violent attacks, DOJ will be closely monitoring for behavior that could affect a school's ability to pay market rates for products like door locks and shatter-resistant film for glass. DOJ will review and investigate any instances of inappropriate pricing behavior so the benefits of the program are not reduced.

Following is a list of organizations who have met with DOJ staff, and consulted on the creation of the Office of School Safety and the grant process and criteria.

- Association of Wisconsin School Administrators
- Badger State Sheriffs Association
- CESA 4, 7, 10
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- NAMI-WI
- Wisconsin Association of School Boards
- Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials
- Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators
- Wisconsin Association of School Nurses

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- Wisconsin Catholic Conference
- Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association
- Wisconsin Council of Administrators of Special Services
- Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools
- Wisconsin Department of Administration
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
- Wisconsin Education Association Council
- Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association
- Wisconsin Juvenile Officers Association
- Wisconsin Professional Police Association
- Wisconsin Retired Educators' Association
- Wisconsin Safe and Healthy Schools Training & Technical Assistance Center
- Wisconsin School Music Association/Wisconsin Music Educators Association
- Wisconsin School Psychologists Association
- Wisconsin School Public Relations Association
- Wisconsin School Safety Coordinators Association
- Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association

For more information on DOJ's Office of School Safety, please visit: <u>https://www.doj.state.wi.us/office-school-safety/office-school-safety.</u>

List of schools awarded grants on July 10, 2018:

- Athens School District, \$61,437;
- Baldwin-Woodville Area School District, \$40,900;
- Bangor School District, \$39,957;
- Cassville School District, \$38,930;
- Central Wisconsin Christian Schools (Waupun), \$19,822;
- Clear Lake School District, \$41,839;
- Goodman-Armstrong Creek School District, \$40,073;
- Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran School (Greenville), \$20,075;
- Iowa-Grant School District, \$41,785;
- Kimberly Area School District, \$180,000;
- Melrose-Mindoro School District, \$59,316;
- Menominee Indian School District, \$55,817;
- Menomonie Area School District, \$168,808;
- Minocqua J1 School District, \$60,000;
- New Holstein School District, \$59,993;
- Niagara School District, \$42,177;
- North Crawford School District, \$40,440;
- Northland Pines School District, \$132,746;
- Notre Dame de la Baie Academy, \$22,700;

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- Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School (Ashland), \$20,560;
- Owen-Withee School District, \$66,585;
- Peshtigo School District, \$59,997;
- Port Edwards School District, \$62,062;
- Rhinelander School District, \$119,295;
- Rice Lake Area School District, \$114,268;
- Saint Ignatius of Loyola Catholic School, \$18,782;
- Saint Luke's Lutheran School (Oakfield), \$15,962;
- Saint Mary Catholic School (Mayville), \$9,255;
- Saint Matthew Grade School (Campbellsport), \$21,500;
- Sheboygan Area School District, \$492,032;
- St. John Nepomucene School (Little Chute), \$17,140;
- St. Joseph Catholic School (Fort Atkinson), \$20,000;
- St. Paul Lutheran School (Luxemburg), \$7,062;
- St. Paul's Lutheran School (Howards Grove), \$19,056;
- Syble Hopp School, \$19,312;
- Three Lakes School District, \$86,749;
- Washington Island School District, \$36,760;
- Wausau School District, \$406,194;
- Winneconne Community School District, \$51,997;
- Wittenberg-Birnamwood School District, \$64,275.

