



Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School Police Services Unit

A Joint Unit of the Yarmouth Police & Dennis Police Departments



www.dypd.us

NOTICE: This is an archived item from the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School Police Services Unit website. Keep in mind that the law changes frequently with each legislative change and new court decisions handed down at both the state and federal level. Police procedures are modified to satisfy those changes. This article may be out of date with current practices.

Posted February, 2011

D-Y P.D. Secures \$75,000 Federal Grant

On September 29th the Yarmouth Police Department received notification from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing that our application for just over \$75,000 through the 2010 Secure Our Schools Grant had been approved.

The Secure Our Schools (SOS) Grant is a competitive grant program that disburses \$15 million nationally to law enforcement agencies for the express purposes of improving physical security at their partner schools. The grant has been offered annually since 2006. The application was prepared and submitted by the Yarmouth Police Department in partnership with the Dennis Police and Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District.

The grant requires a 50% local cash match; meaning the total amount of the project is just over \$150,000.

The availability of the SOS grant was discovered by the Dennis Police in 2006. The Yarmouth Police undertook the preparation and submission of the grant application and the school district pledged the matching funds. The 2006 project totaled \$250,000 and paid for an integrated infrastructure and installation of security equipment at every school in the regional district. Specifically an access control system allowed for all schools to be kept locked during regular school hours with card access for staff. A camera surveillance system has broadened the ability of school officials and school resource officers to remotely patrol campuses. A secure visitor management system is used to screen visitors prior to admittance and checks the visitor against a watch list of sex offenders and others who are barred from entry to the schools by restraining orders and other similar restrictions.

The security hardware project was always conceived as phased project with incremental expansion to occur each year. The execution of the 2006 SOS grant ran well into 2008. The effort to obtain the 2009 SOS Grant was unsuccessful.

Securing the 2010 SOS Grant will allow for expansion of the access control and camera surveillance system at every school in the district based upon the unique needs of each. We area also planning to purchase a product that will allow for

improvement and of the school district's Emergency Management Plan by moving it from a printed document to a web-based medium capable of greater and more secure access by school district and public safety personnel with a significant expansion in content.

The hardware described herein is meant to compliment our safety and security program, procedures, practices and training programs that have served as a model for dozens of school districts across the Commonwealth.