



TOMÁS J. ARAGÓN, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Director and State Public Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

May 12, 2021

Dr. Henning Ansorg
Health Officer
County of Santa Barbara
345 Camino del Remedio
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Authority:

Section 311(c)(1) of the Public Health
Service Act (42 USC 243(c)(1))

Section 7 of Chapter 10, Statutes of 2021
(AB 86)

**COVID-19 AB 86 Safe Schools for All Funding
Award Number: AB86-42
County of Santa Barbara**

Dear Dr. Henning Ansorg:

We are writing to invite you, or a member of your team, to participate in a state-wide public health and education sector collaborative with the California Safe Schools for All Team. Throughout the pandemic, safe schools have been a key priority in the state. They will continue to be a priority as we move into the Beyond the Blueprint phase, as schools will be one of the few settings with large unvaccinated populations. We have resources available to support schools, however the pandemic calls for unprecedented levels of collaboration—between public health, education, and community-based organizational leaders, and between local leadership on the ground and state level decision-makers. In recognition of this, AB 86 provides money to support these crucial partnerships. This letter describes the goals and structure of the collaborative, the funding provided to support participation, and the expectations for participation. We look forward to partnering with you for on this important effort.

The funding for this program is from AB 86, as described below. The goal of the funding is to allow LHJs to increase local staffing resources and partner with COEs and community-based organizations (CBO), and will facilitate bidirectional communication with state leadership, and rapid dissemination of best practices or lessons learned across counties. Goals of the initiative include increasing safety mitigation strategies and addressing barriers to in-person instruction, with specific emphasis on the most at-risk school districts. LHJs are

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granted flexibility to meet needs for safety mitigation, testing, and ventilation, engagement including but not limited to educational learning activities and other wrap around services such as food, tutoring, transportation, and mental health resources.

CDPH was appropriated \$25 million out of AB 86 and will allocate \$10 million to local health jurisdictions (LHJ) and \$10 million to County Offices of Education (COE) for direct support to schools and districts within their jurisdiction. Such grants will be scaled based on population ranging from \$60,000 - \$500,000 (Attachment 1).

The reimbursement for the Safe Schools for All Team funding pursuant to Section 7 of Chapter 10, Statutes of 2021 (AB 86), is to enhance public health education, engagement and mitigation strategies in schools and districts within your jurisdiction.

Funding for these activities is covered for the period beginning May 12, 2021 to June 30, 2022. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is allocating **\$200,000** to **County of Santa Barbara**.

Working with other Jurisdictions: LHJs are more than welcome to combine resources and create a consortium. Should you go this route, please submit only one workplan and spend plan for the consortium. We will need to know who the LHJ lead will be for the consortium as that is who CDPH will be communicating with and sending payment to.

Workplan and Spend Plan:

1. LHJs will need to complete an initial Workplan and Spend Plan by **May 28, 2021**. Both of these plans will be completed using an online portal. The first step to using that portal is to register using this link <https://caschoolsoopening.powerappsportals.us/en-US/profile/user-registration/>. After your registration is validated, you will be provided access to the Safe Schools for All grants portal to submit your workplan and budget. Please note that the LHJs will initially be allowed one registrant per jurisdiction. The representative registering will be responsible for submitting the Workplan and Spend Plan. As noted in the attached implementation plan, there are many areas of potential focus. We anticipate that jurisdictions may choose to focus on a smaller number of specific areas or on many of the areas.

Your Agency should consider the following strategies when developing your Workplan and Spend Plan:

- **Technical Assistance:** Identification of a point of contact for schools-related technical assistance questions, so that schools know how to access school-specific LHJ assistance if needed. LHJs should provide technical assistance on risk reduction strategies and risk-mitigation efforts to COEs, Local Education Agencies (LEA), and schools. Technical assistance should focus on safety mitigation, testing, vaccines, mental health resources, equity, and ventilation. Consolidated resources and information on these topics are available through the State of California Safe Schools For All Hub, <https://safe-schools-for-all-california.hub.arcgis.com/>.
- **Engagement:** LHJs should establish ongoing planning capacity for information sharing and coordination with schools, COEs, and LEAs. This information sharing will include key stakeholders such as parents and students, community based organizations, school boards and unions.
- **Public Health Education:** LHJs should develop, coordinate, and disseminate information, alerts, warnings, and notifications regarding risks and self-protective measures in schools. In an effort to harmonize messaging, LHJs should coordinate communication messages, products, and programs with schools, LEAs, and COEs.
- **Participation in state-wide and regional collaborative calls:** LHJs will participate in calls with other grantees, to facilitate collaboration across grantees and bidirectional communication with the state's cross agency Safe Schools for All team. CDPH will facilitate an introductory webinar on May 27th at noon to provide an overview on program goals, discuss reporting requirements, and clarify expectations. Invitations for this webinar will be sent to those who register as described in step 1.

2. Data and Reporting Requirements: LHJs must submit quarterly progress and expenditure reports following the due dates in the table below. Such reporting will be completed online through the Safe Schools for All grants portal. Instructions for accessing that portal will be sent to those who register as described in step 1.

- Progress Reports should outline the status of timelines, goals, and objectives within your Workplan.

- In addition, per the Legislative Joint Budget Committee, reporting should include the following quantitative metrics:
 - number of LEAs requesting technical assistance and the total number of pupils served by these LEAs,
 - number of LEAs provided with technical assistance for return to in-person education and the total number of pupils served by these LEAs,
 - number of LEAs provided with technical assistance on outbreak mitigation (e.g. contact tracing and case investigation),
 - number of LEAs that were provided onsite consultation with the LHJ, and
 - number of LEAs that had to adjust their plans based on feedback from the LHJ.
- Quarterly Expenditure Reports should reflect what has been spent against this source of funding.
- Submission of quarterly reporting should follow the dates below. The quarterly reports will be completed on the Safe Schools for All Grants Portal on the dates outlined below.

Reporting Period	Due Date
Quarter 1 (May 1, 2021 – July 31, 2021)	August 15, 2021
Quarter 2 (August 1 – October 31, 2021)	November 14, 2021
Quarter 3 (November 1, 2021 – January 31, 2022)	February 13, 2022
Quarter 4 (February 1, 2022 – April 30, 2022)	May 15, 2022
Final Report (May 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022)	July 15, 2022

3. Reimbursement/Invoicing:

CDPH will reimburse your Agency for **the full allocation** outlined above upon receipt of invoice. In order to receive your allocation, please complete and submit your invoice for **your full allocation** (Attachment 2) by June 30, 2021 to SS4A-Grants@cdph.ca.gov.

Your Agency must maintain supporting documentation for any expenditures against this source of funding. Documentation should be readily available in the event of an audit or upon request from CDPH. Documentation should be maintained onsite for five years.

Thank you for the time your Agency has and will continue to invest in this response. We are hopeful that this funding will help in efforts to safely reopen and operate schools within your jurisdiction. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please reach out to SS4A-Grants@cdph.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Melissa Relles

Melissa Relles
Assistant Deputy Director
Emergency Preparedness Office
California Department of Public Health

Attachments

Attachment 1: Local Allocations
Attachment 2: Invoice Template
Attachment 3: LHJ Implementation Plan