Section 97j Funding FAQ

What can this funding be used for?

This funding is specifically for the_ purchase and implementation of tools_ that inform any behavioral threat assessment and threat assessment teams.

The tools described in section 97j must provide a common way of identifying and collecting early behaviors that could require intervention to prevent abuse, self-harm, or violence in schools. These include, but are not limited to, any of the following behaviors:

- Changes in attendance
- Changes in academic performance
- Changes in emotional response
- Withdrawal
- Beginning signs of self-harm
- Problematic peer interaction
- Discipline concerns that could result in any of the following outcomes:
  - Specific interventions, including mental or behavioral health supports
  - Academic support
  - Parent or legal guardian conferences
  - Discipline referrals
  - Other restorative practices

How much funding is allocated to each district or intermediate school district (ISD)?

How much funding is allocated will depend on the required vendor quote or estimate that is attached to the application. The award will be based on that quote.

If there are more applications than there is funding, allocated funding will be prorated equally among all qualified applicants.

Can ISD's apply on behalf of their constituent districts?

This funding does not have a consortium option. All districts and ISDs must apply on their own.

Can this funding pay for staffing?

Staffing is not an allowable expense with this funding.

Can this funding pay for curriculum?

Curriculum is not an allowable expense with this funding.

Is there a recommended list of vendors?

MDE does not have a recommended list of vendors. It will be up to the district/ISD to decide if the vendor meets the requirements of the legislation, including data collection.

What is the timeframe for spending?

The grant cycle will be 10/1/2023 – 9/30/2024. If requested, applicants will be allowed one additional year of carry-over, extending the end date to 9/30/25. The funding cannot be used to 'pay ahead' or pre-pay for any services or subscriptions that occur after 9/30/25.

How will the district or ISD receive funding?

The grant payments will be sent from the State Aid Management System (SAMS) following the approval of the application.