



Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security

Commission Operational Policies

The following Commission operational policies are in effect for the Louisiana School and Nonprofit Security Grant Program, maintained by the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools (LCSS) [under GOHSEP] through authorization from the Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security (LCSNS) in accordance with R.S. 29:726.5 *et seq.*, and R.S. 29:726.6.

§1. Definitions

A. For the purposes of this Chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

Commission—Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Safety

GOHSEP—Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

LCSNS—Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security

LCSS—Louisiana Center for Safe Schools

LSSGP—Louisiana for Safe Schools Grant Program

NOFO—Notice of Funding Opportunity

Nonprofit Organization—an entity created for the purposes of supporting social and charitable concerns, in which a profit is not realized, and in which the organization is exempt from paying taxes.

Quorum—a simple majority of the total membership of the commission (in accordance with R.S. 42:13).

Historical Note: Adopted by the Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security (March 2025).

§2. Purpose of LCSNS

A. In accordance with Act 334 of the 2023 Legislative Session, the Commission on School and Nonprofit Security was established within GOHSEP to provide:

1. oversight of LCSS; and

2. recommendations on:

a. the security needs of schools and nonprofit organizations that are considered to be at high risk of terrorist attacks in Louisiana;

b. the establishment, administration, and funding of a grant program for eligible entities to apply for security grants covering security personnel, security training, facility hardening, and other necessary security measures; and

c. legislative changes for increasing school safety to the legislature.

Historical Note: Adopted by the Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security (March 2025).

§3. Composition of the Commission

A. In accordance with R.S. 29:726.5, the Commission shall consist of the following members:

1. Director of GOHSEP or his designee;
2. Chair of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security or his designee;
3. Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Homeland Security or his designee;
4. Superintendent of the Louisiana State Police or his designee;
5. Executive Director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association or his designee with expertise in terrorist attacks;
6. Executive Director of the Louisiana Interchurch Conference or his designee;
7. Superintendent of the Department of Education or his designee;
8. Executive Director of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice or his designee;
9. Executive Director of the Louisiana School Boards Association or his designee;
10. Executive Director of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents or his designee;
11. Executive Director of the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools or his designee;
12. Chair of the Nonpublic School Commission or his designee;
13. Director of a homeland security and emergency preparedness office in a rural area, appointed by the Director of GOHSEP;
14. Director of a homeland security and emergency preparedness office in a large metropolitan area, appointed by the Director of GOHSEP;
15. Executive Director of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police or his designee;
16. President of the Louisiana Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association or his designee;
17. State Fire Marshal or his designee;
18. Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health or his designee;
19. Secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services or his designee;

20. Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education or his designee;
21. Chairman of the House Committee on Education or his designee;
22. one teacher selected by the Louisiana Association of Educators;
23. one teacher selected by the Louisiana Federation of Teachers; and
24. one member of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council selected by majority vote of the council.

Historical Note: Adopted by the Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security (March 2025).

§4. Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman

A. The members of the Commission shall meet and organize by electing one of its members Chairman and one of its members Vice-Chairman.

B. In case of a vacancy in either office, the Commission shall elect a replacement from among its members.

C. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected at the first meeting held following December 31 of each year.

Historical Note: Adopted by the Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security (March 2025).

§5. Commission Meetings

A. Quarterly Meetings

1. The commission will meet at a minimum on a quarterly basis.
2. In accordance with R.S. 42:11 *et seq.* (Open Meetings Law), commission meeting notices will:
 - a. contain the date, time, and place that the meeting will occur;
 - b. include the agenda for the meeting;
 - c. be posted no later than 5 days before the meeting is scheduled to occur (exclusive of weekends and legal holidays);
 - d. be posted at the site where the meeting will occur; and
 - e. be posted on GOHSEP's website.

B. Emergency Meetings. The following will occur in accordance with R.S. 42:17 and the provisions of this Subsection when the need for an emergency meeting occurs.

1. The LCSS Director will notify the Chairman of LCSNS that there is a need for an emergency meeting.

2. The Chairman of LCSNS will notify LCSNS committee members of a need to hold an emergency meeting with at least 24 hours of advanced notice (when possible).

3. To the greatest extent possible, notice of the emergency meeting will follow the requirements contained in Subsection A of this Section.

4. During a declaration of emergency in the State of Louisiana, Commission members who are unable to attend a meeting of the Commission in person due to conditions closely and directly related to the emergency may be present and participate in the meeting virtually.

NOTE: When Commission members participate virtually, that participation must be conducted in such a way that all members of the Commission, along with the public, can hear the virtual member's participation.

C. Quorum. Thirteen members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

D. Voting

1. The concurrence of a majority of the Commission members present, including those participating virtually, shall constitute a ruling upon an item of business set before the Commission.

a. In the event of a tied vote the Commission may, at its discretion, vote to defer the matter for consideration at a later meeting.

2. Temporary disruption of electronic communications during the consideration of an agenda item shall not disqualify a member from voting on said item.

E. Additional Meetings. Additional meetings of the Commission may be conducted upon the discretion of the Chairman.

Historical Note: Adopted by the Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security (March 2025).

§6. LSSGP—Eligibility of Schools and Nonprofits

A. Eligible Schools and Nonprofit Organizations

1. Eligible schools include public elementary or secondary schools in a city, parish, or other local public school district or other political subdivision and nonpublic schools approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education pursuant to R.S. 17:11.

2. Eligible nonprofit organizations include organizations that meet all of the following requirements.

a. The organization meets the description found in Section 501(c)(3) of the *Internal Revenue Code* and is exempt from tax under Section 501(a) of the *Internal Revenue Code*.

b. The organization must be one of the following:

i. an educational facility whose primary purpose is to instruct children grades K-12 on a daily basis;

ii. a house of worship that could have an educational facility on site but is not required; or

iii. a homeschool facility with at least 25 students and a classroom building separate from a residential structure.

B. The following factors will be considered when making an award determination:

1. prior incidents at any facility owned or leased by the organization;
2. prior threats made against the organization;
3. current events or incidents impacting other organizations with similar missions, beliefs, or ideologies;
4. feedback or information on the current local threat environment from local law enforcement agencies, parish offices of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Louisiana State Analytical and Fusion Exchange, Federal Bureau of Investigation field offices, and other organizations, entities, or agencies; and/or
5. reasonable and equitable opportunity for underserved populations, looking at the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) data and locations of schools and non-profits.

C. R.S. 29:726.6 authorizes GOHSEP to establish a grant program through which eligible schools and nonprofit organizations described in this Section can apply for and receive grants to defray the cost of security enhancements or measures including, but not limited to:

1. safety and security planning;
2. safety and security equipment;
3. security-related technology;
4. safety and security training;
5. safety and security exercises;
6. threat awareness and response training;
7. upgrades to existing structures that enhance safety and security;
8. vulnerability, risk, and threat assessments; and
9. security personnel.

Historical Note: Adopted by the Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security (March 2025).