



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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~ MEDIA ADVISORY ~

COPS Grant Goes to Springfield Partnership

Springfield Public Schools in partnership with the City of Springfield are pleased to announce the receipt of a \$94,402 grant from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) – Secure our Schools (SOS) program to purchase and install key card and lockdown button systems on all exterior doors in Springfield’s ten urban elementary schools.

This is the third infusion of federal funds to support Springfield's school security initiative. It builds on the 2009 COPS SOS funding for the district’s middle school security projects and the 2007 congressional directed appropriation for the district's high school security projects, which are both complete. Those projects used federal funding along with bond revenue to install card lock systems on all school entrances and lockdown buttons at each site along with security cameras to monitor all access points and the school grounds.

Members of the Oregon delegation including Congressman DeFazio, Senator Wyden, & Senator Merkely were instrumental in Springfield receiving federal funding over the last four years (nearly \$350,000 in total) to support this school security initiative.

Under this continuing partnership, the City manages the grant while the School District manages the implementation and provides the match funding. When the work is complete, all urban schools will realize improved security.

Background:

Secure Our Schools

The COPS Office will award nearly \$16 million under the FY10 Secure Our Schools (SOS) grant program. Grants will be awarded to 167 law enforcement agencies in 41 states/territories. SOS grants provide funding to state, local, or tribal governments to assist with the procurement of school safety resources and the opportunity to establish and enhance a variety of school safety equipment and/or programs to encourage school safety efforts meant to prevent school violence within their communities. Each SOS grant is two years in duration, and provides a maximum federal share of \$500,000. Funding under this program may be requested for: placement and use of metal detectors; locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures; security assessments; security training of personnel and students; coordination with local law enforcement; and any other measure that may provide a significant increase in security.