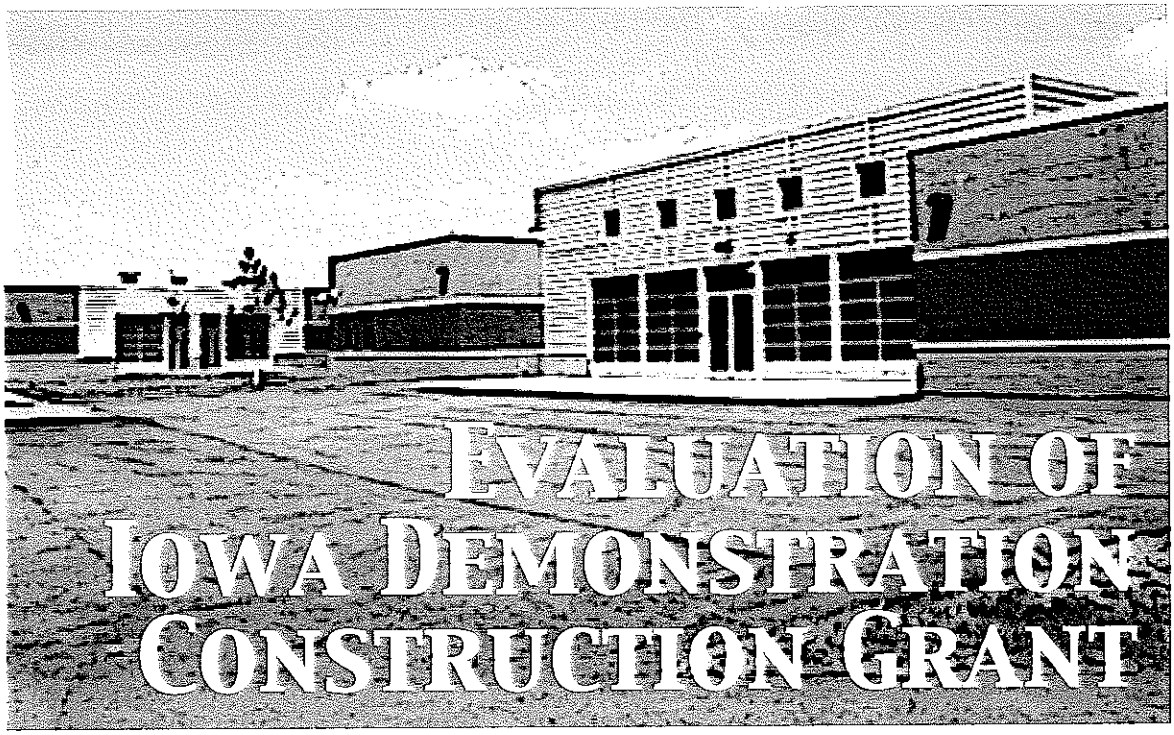
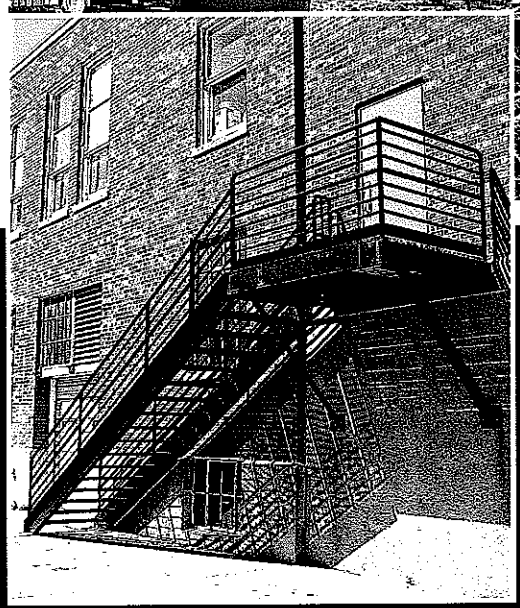
Iowa Department of Education



Evaluation of Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant

Harkin Grants



Authorized Under
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Department of Education
Grimes State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa
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EVALUATION OF IOWA DEMONSTRATION CONSTRUCTION GRANT

Harkin Grants

Authorized Under Title III of Public Law 105-78

Iowa Department of Education

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The Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant program was authorized in 1998 by Title III of Public Law 105-78 to help school districts correct fire (life) safety problems and to help school districts leverage local resources to construct new schools or remodel existing buildings Commonly referred to as the Infrastructure Grant, an evaluation of the program's first six years was commissioned by the Iowa Department of Education through a contract with Heartland Area Education Agency 11, Johnston, Iowa Dr. Phillip J. Berrie, an independent planning and evaluation consultant, was selected by Heartland AEA to design and implement the evaluation project

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INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT EVALUATION EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

History of Grant (1998 - Current)

The Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant program was proposed by Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa and originally authorized by Title III of Public Law 105-78 for $8,000,000 becoming effective September 28, 1998. Subsequently the grant has become known as Harkin Grants with Congress authorizing annual allocations of $10,000,000; $9,249,813; $9,000,000, $50,000,000, $6,954,499, $6,958,699, and $14,880,000, with grant periods running through September 30, 2008. The purpose of the program is to help school districts correct fire (life) safety problems and to help school districts leverage local resources to construct new schools or remodel, modernize, existing buildings. Approximately 35 percent of the available funds have been allocated each year for addressing fire (life) safety issues and 65 percent for construction.

Purpose and Design of Evaluation

The overall purpose of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant program (Infrastructure Grant program) was to determine the efficacy and perceived value of the program for participating local school districts from the program's infancy through FY04.

Results/Conclusions

The 263 districts awarded grant monies were overwhelmingly positive about the program. Almost all indicated that the economic condition for education existing for many years caused the districts' infrastructure to suffer in order to maintain excellent teaching/learning programs for students. The Fire (Life) Safety awards allowed cited safety issues to be addressed immediately for the increased safety of staff and students rather than rectified over a multi-year time period if at all. The Construction awards helped leverage community support for the building or remodeling of structures. Many of the districts also indicated they benefited from the increased awareness and support of the safety and learning needs of the staff and students.

Most districts found that the application procedures were relatively simple, the reports easy to complete, and communication with the Department of Education was excellent. The requirement for matching district dollars was seen as the least effective aspect of the program. However, many districts indicated that the matching dollars stipulation encouraged community support and total project buy-in. Furthermore, they believed their ability to leverage funds through a bond issue or other referendum was positively impacted.

Overall, the Infrastructure Grant program has shown to be highly successful. There has been a significant increase in the safety of staff and students through the reduction of critical fire marshal citations. Secondly, learning environments have been enhanced through construction grants. The awards provided the seed money and leveraging power to overcome reluctance to fund major construction or renovation projects.

INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT EVALUATION

A. Introduction

1. History of Grant (1998 - Current)

The Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant program was proposed by Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa and originally authorized by Title III of Public Law 105-78 for $8,000,000 becoming effective September 28, 1998. Subsequently the grant has become known as Harkin Grants with Congress authorizing annual allocations of $10,000,000; $9,249,813; $9,000,000, $50,000,000, $6,954,499, $6,958,699, and $14,880,000, with grant periods running through September 30, 2008. The purpose of the program is to help school districts correct fire (life) safety problems and to help school districts leverage local resources to construct new schools or remodel, modernize, existing buildings Approximately 35 percent of the available funds have been allocated each year for addressing fire (life) safety issues and 65 percent for construction.

Districts have been grouped into three size categories based on their enrollments with approximately one-third of the students and dollars allocated to each size category. Maximum fire (life) safety grant awards in 2004-05 were $25,000 for small districts, $100,000 for medium size districts, and $150,000 per large district, with no local match required six of the seven years. In the third year of the program, a local match of 25 percent was required for fire (life) safety grants. The Iowa Department of Education found that the local match was not necessary since fire (life) safety project costs exceeded grant amounts. It was also determined that documenting the match requirements became an unnecessary paperwork burden on the school districts and the Department.

Maximum construction grant awards were $250,000 the first year, $750,000 the second year, $500,000 in the third and fourth year, and $1,000,000 in the fifth year In 2003-04 and 2004-05 the maximum amount was $500,000. The maximum amounts were the same for districts in all three size categories A local match of 90 percent was required the first year, 75 percent for the next year and in subsequent years the local match was on a sliding scale from 20 to 50 percent, last year it was changed to a flat 75 percent

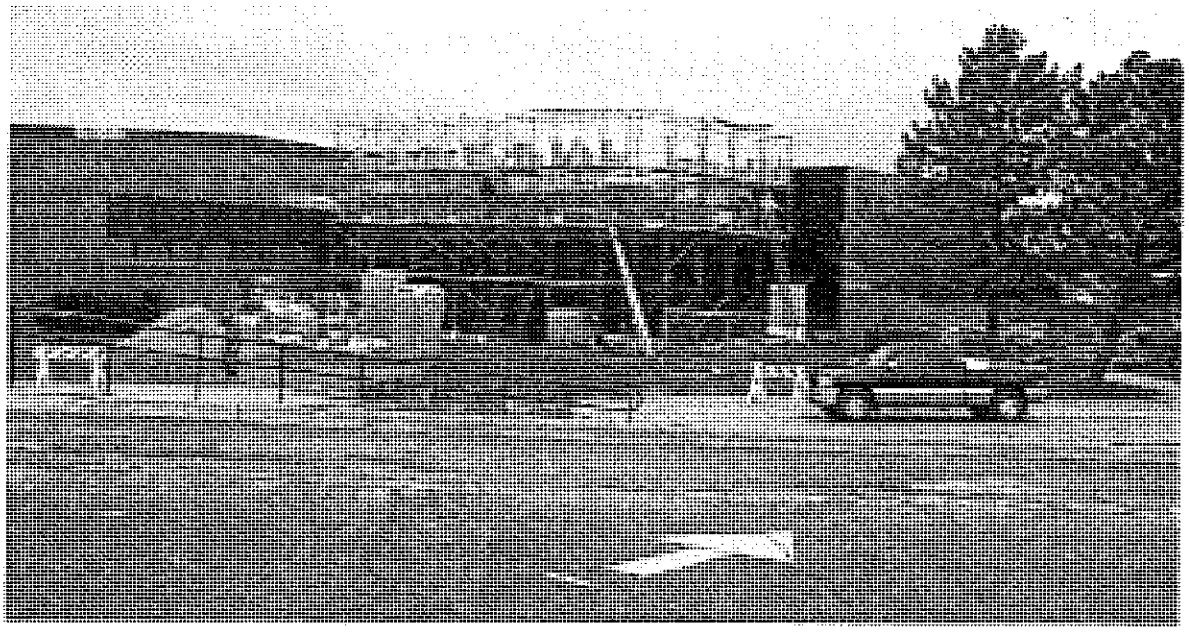
In 1998 the Iowa Department of Education was initially awarded these funds and since then 303 of 371 Iowa school districts have applied for 732 fire (life) safety grants. Districts have requested grants totaling $38,359,129 for fire (life) safety projects with an anticipated federal and local cost of $85,701,153. Two hundred sixty-six districts were awarded 516 fire (life) safety grants totaling $27,338,460, with an estimated federal and local cost of $62,297,619.

Typical fire (life) safety projects completed have been for fire and smoke alarm system updates, heat detection, emergency lighting, electrical system updates, installation of fire doors and fire escapes, enclosing stairwells, and sprinkler systems.

Since receiving the federal program grant in Iowa, 223 of 371 Iowa school districts have applied for 453 construction grants. The total federal funds that were applied for by districts for construction projects were approximately $191 million with an anticipated cost (federal and local) of $1 365 billion. A total of 170 construction grants have been awarded to 110 districts To date, these construction grants total $85,270,583, with an anticipated federal and local cost of $669,783,840.

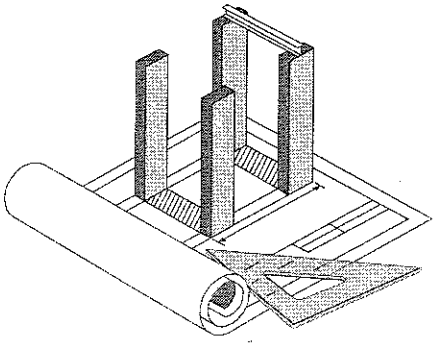
2. Purpose of Evaluation

The overall purpose of the Infrastructure Grant Evaluation was to determine the efficacy and perceived value of the program for participating local school districts from the program's infancy through FY04.



3. Evaluation Time Period

The Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program Evaluation examined the program's first six years (1998-2004). During that time period the federal government authorized annual allocations of 8,000,000, $10,000,000, $9,249,813, $9,000,000, $50,000,000 and $6,954,499, with grant periods running through September 30, 2006. As stated above, the purpose of the program was to help school districts correct fire (life) safety problems, as cited by the local fire marshal, and to help school districts leverage local resources to construct new schools or remodel existing buildings. Approximately 35 percent of the available funds were allocated each year for addressing fire (life) safety issues and 65 percent for construction.



4. Design of Evaluation

The design consists of two main components: (a) written surveys sent to all districts receiving either a fire (life) safety grant or a construction grant and (b) written surveys sent to all districts not receiving any grant during the time period under study.

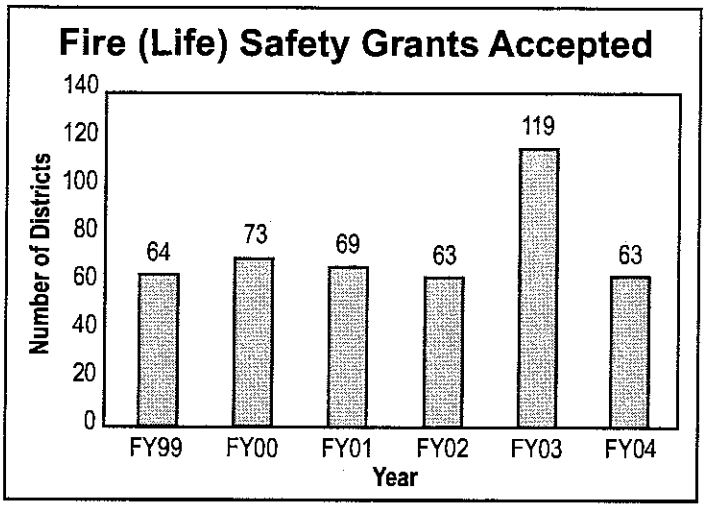
Surveys sent to school districts were used to:

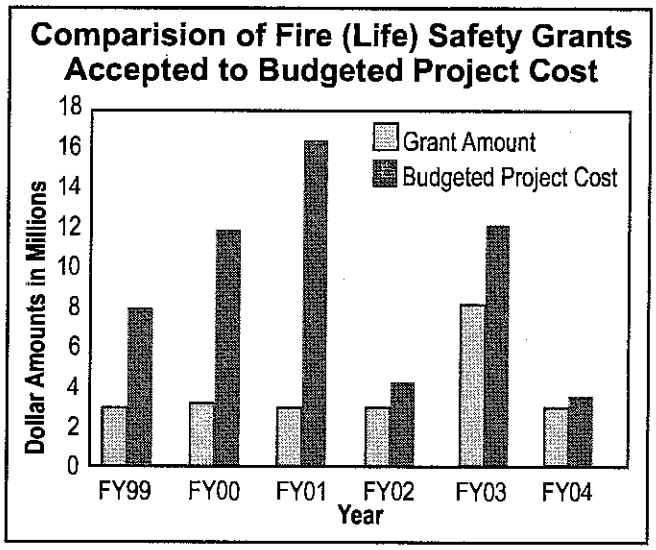
- Determine the districts' overall reaction to the grant program
- Determine what was effective and what was not effective about the program
- Determine what changes the districts would like to see in the program
- Determine what benefits the district realized from either type of grant
- Determine if districts would have completed the awarded projects without the grant
- Determine how the grants impacted the ability of districts to raise funds through a bond issue or other referendum
- Determine the districts' ability to meet the grant criteria including the local match
- Determine why a district did not meet the local match and if changes to the program might have enabled the district to meet the local match
- Determine why districts did not apply for the available grants

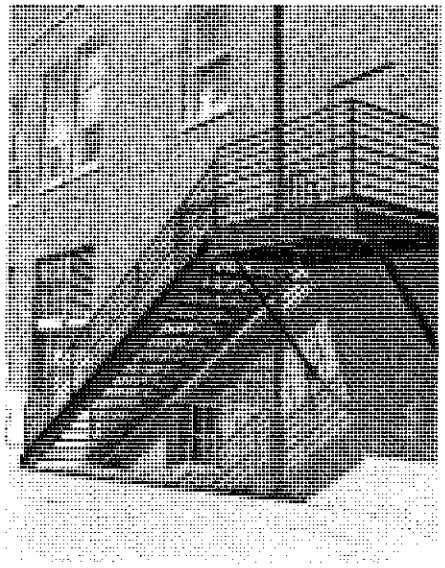
5. Fire (Life) Safety Awards

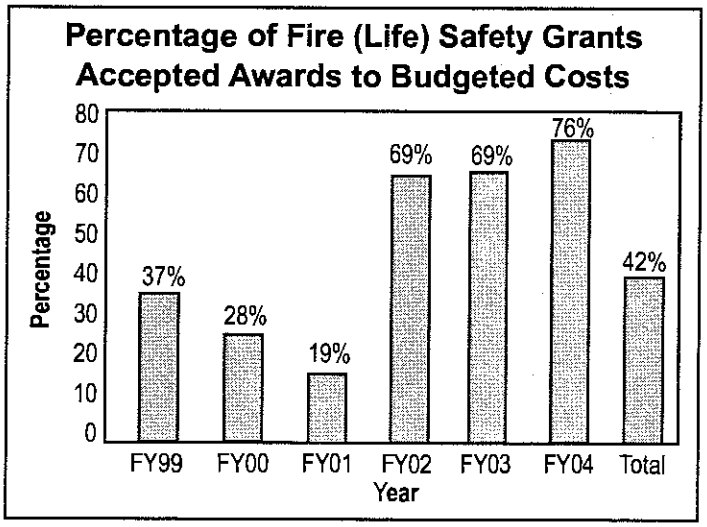
During the time period under investigation, 285 of 371 Iowa school districts applied for 610 fire (life) safety grants Districts requested grants totaling $33,371,323 for fire (life) safety projects with an anticipated federal and local cost of $78,628,877. Two hundred fifty-two districts were awarded 458 fire (life) safety grants totaling $24,775,475 Of the 451 grants that were accepted (seven districts declined their grants after being notified), 331 of the projects were completed with a final project cost to date of $25,780,687, with $16,178,369 of it financed through the fire (life) safety grants. Also, $1,438,149 has been expended on 52 projects started but not completed.

Typical fire and life safety projects completed were for fire and smoke alarm system updates, emergency lighting, electrical system updates, installation of fire doors and fire escapes, enclosing stairwells, and sprinkler systems.





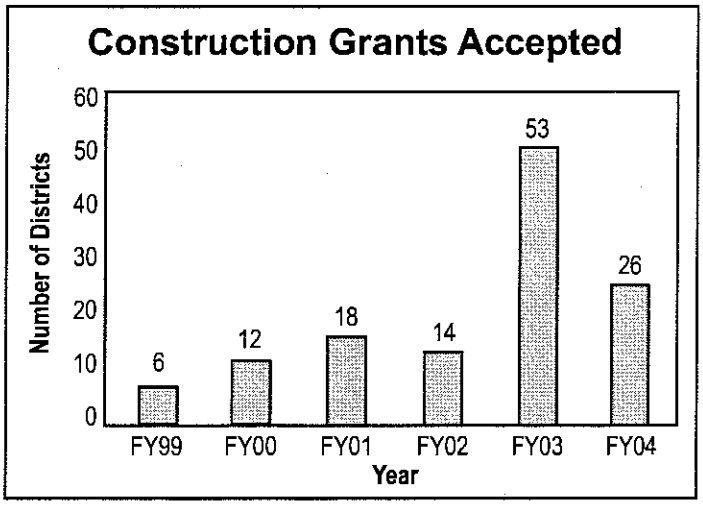


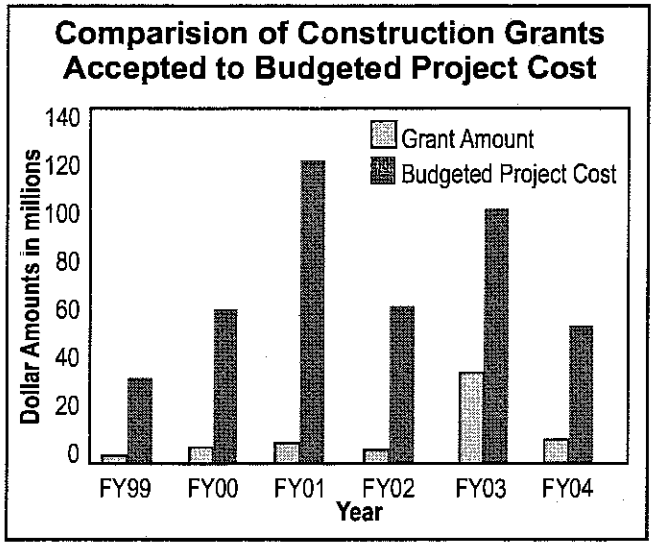


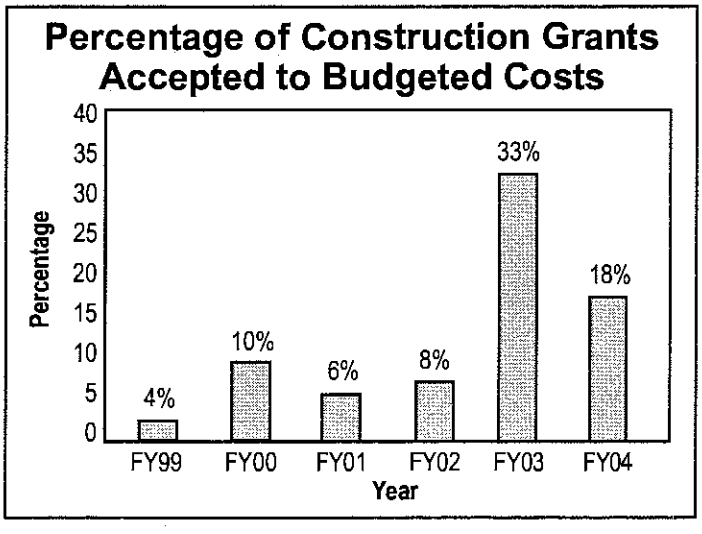
6. Construction Awards

During the time period under investigation, 208 of 371 public school districts applied for 377 construction grants. The total federal funds that were applied for by districts for construction projects were approximately $169 million with an anticipated cost (federal and local) of $1.154 billion. A total of 157 construction grants were awarded to 104 districts. To date, these construction grants total $79,693,054. Following award notification, seven districts declined their grant award, which totaled $1,636,266. In addition, some districts were unable to meet their local match and thus $10,848,385 from 21 grants awarded was forfeited and made available for the next round of awards. Of the 129 grants that were accepted, 50 of the projects have been completed with a final project cost of $231,297,745, with $18,840,216 of the project cost financed through the federal construction grant program. Districts receiving 4 grants totaling $1,352,775 have not started their projects and are still hoping to meet their local match within the time period allowed. Also, $49,844,894 has been expended on 52 projects started, but not yet completed.

Typical construction grants included funding new school construction, reconstruction, repairing, improving or remodeling a schoolhouse. Grants also assisted in providing adequate space for students through the addition, remodeling or enlarging of classrooms to help lower class sizes.







B. Data Collection

Surveys were distributed to all districts to elicit response relative to the purpose of the evaluation study. Of the original 371 districts, 263 were awarded at least one fire (life) safety or construction grant over the six-year time period under study. Two hundred forty-seven surveys were returned for a 93.9% response rate. However, seven of the returns contained little or no data and were deemed at least partially unusable. The tables below show the distribution of returned surveys by district size and by geographic region (AEA).

Distribution by Size	
District Size	Total
Small (0-1199)	176
Medium (1200-4749)	52
Large (4750+)	12
Total	240

Distribution by Geographic Location	
AEA	Numbers Responding
1	12 (5.0%)
4	8 (3.3%)
5	32 (13.3%)
7	42 (17.5%)
9	11 (4.6%)
10	20 (8.3%)
11	34 (14.2%)
12	15 (6.3%)
13	20 (8.3%)
14	18 (7.5%)
15	19 (7.9%)
16	9 (3.8%)
Total Count	240

The analyses tables within this document reflect the responses by the two categories shown at left:

- By size categories where Small included school districts with 0 - 1199 students; Medium districts with 1200 - 4749 students; and Large districts with 4750 students or more.
- By geographic location in Iowa determined by Area Education Agency residence.

C. General Survey

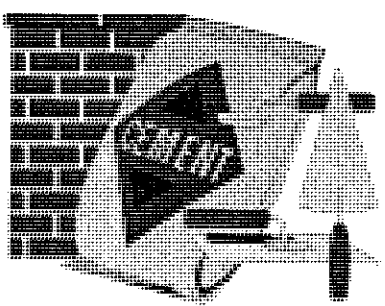
All districts receiving a fire (life) safety or a construction grant were asked to respond to a general questionnaire about the grant processes followed by specific questions relating to the type of grant received. Two hundred forty usable responses were received for a high 91.3% return rate.

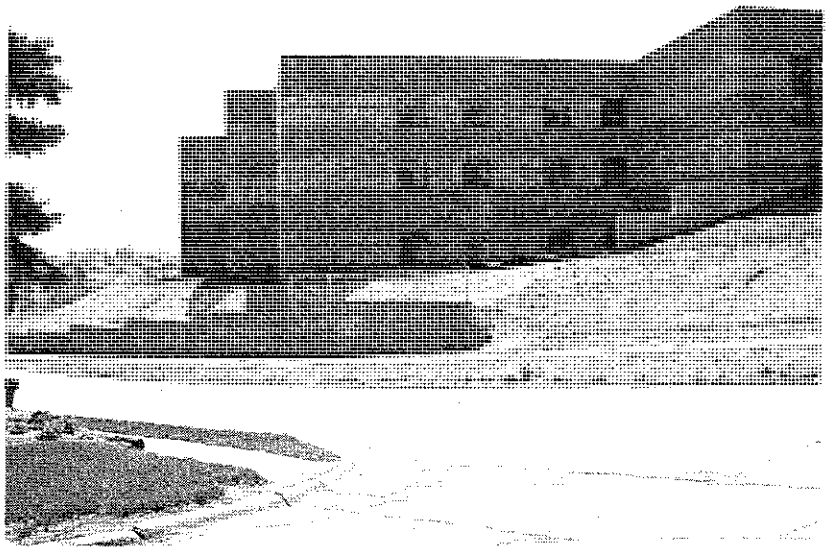
The general survey contained five questions about the overall satisfaction with the grant processes, as they existed when districts were awarded their grants.

Item A. Do you believe that the infrastructure grant program should be changed? Please explain. (General Survey)

Approximately 70% of the districts believed that the infrastructure grant program should remain as it currently exists with 29% saying it should be more flexible. A breakout by size and geographic locations yields a little more information.

The size of the district had little impact on the desirability of more or less flexibility in the grant program. The small districts seem to be slightly more in favor of leaving the program as it currently exists. The medium and large districts tended to want more flexibility.





District Size		Change infrastructure grant program			Total
		Less flexible	As is	More flexible	
Small (0-1199)	Count (%)	1 (.6%)	131 (74.4%)	44 (25.0%)	176
Medium (1200-4749)	Count (%)	0	30 (57 7%)	22 (42.3%)	52
Large (4750+)	Count (%)	0	8 (66.7%)	4 (33.3%)	12
Total	Count (%)	1 (4%)	169 (70.4%)	70 (29.2%)	240

There appears to be some geographical differences regarding the grant program's flexibility. At least half of the districts in AEA 1 and AEA 10 wanted more flexibility than existed when they applied for a grant

Geographic Location		Change infrastructure grant program			Total
		Less flexible	As is	More flexible	
AEA 1	Count (%)	0	6 (50 0%)	6 (50.0%)	12
AEA 4	Count (%)	0	6 (75 0%)	2 (25 0%)	8
AEA 5	Count (%)	0	24 (75 0%)	8 (25 0%)	32
AEA 7	Count (%)	1 (2.4%)	32 (76.2%)	9 (21.4%)	42
AEA 9	Count (%)	0	7 (63.6%)	4 (36.4%)	11
AEA 10	Count (%)	0	9 (45 0%)	11 (55.0%)	20
AEA 11	Count (%)	0	27 (79 4%)	7 (20 6%)	34
AEA 12	Count (%)	0	12 (80.0%)	3 (20.0%)	15
AEA 13	Count (%)	0	15 (75.0%)	5 (25.0%)	20
AEA 14	Count (%)	0	14 (77.8%)	4 (22.2%)	18
AEA 15	Count (%)	0	12 (63 2%)	7 (36 8%)	19
AEA 16	Count (%)	0	5 (55.6%)	4 (44.4%)	9
Total	Count (%)	1 (.4%)	169 (70.4%)	70 (29.2%)	240

Sample statements supporting leaving the flexibility of the infrastructure grant program as it currently exists: (See Appendix I-A for a complete listing)

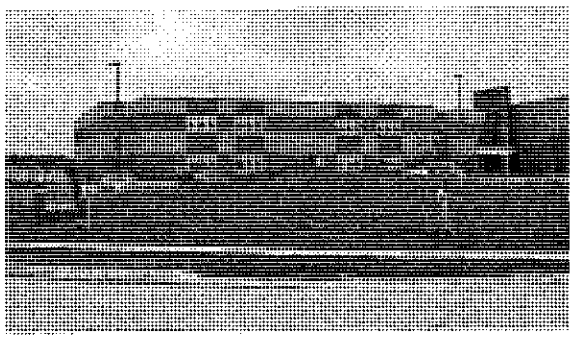
- A "district must demonstrate a need" should continue to be a major criteria.
- A little more flexibility would be nice. However, we realize that when there is that much money involved, that the guidelines must be strict.
- I appreciate effort to protect some monies for different sized schools. Larger districts often use professional grant writers and would have an unfair competitive edge if there were only one pool of money.
- I believe it is accomplishing what it was intended to do. I was very satisfied with the process and appreciate the patience of all those involved.
- I believe the funds allocated would be targeted for the intended purposes. If more flexible, projects of significant need may be overlooked more easily.
- It has been handled in a way that gives every district a fair and equal chance.
- My only experience has been after receiving citations from the fire marshal but that was a positive experience with the present program.
- Not really. There are many schools needing assistance. Keeping the applications tied to fire marshal's notices is a good way to keep everyone doing what is necessary.
- The fire (life) safety grants are very flexible and work to meet our needs.
- The process forces communities to form priorities and to also put up some local funds to match the grant. This requires commitment and ownership. That is necessary if the community is going to appreciate the funding and have community buy-in.
- The process to apply has been improved and is now more flexible. We are preparing for fire (life) safety 2004 and like the improvements.
- We strongly advocated for changes two years ago, and some of those changes were incorporated. We are satisfied now.
- As is for construction grants; and more flexible for the fire safety grants.

Statements suggesting changes in the flexibility of the grant program:

- 75% local match is difficult to fund for our district because of obvious budget concerns and the rollback on property valuation.
- As a district with a lot of projects needing to be completed, often the focus of how the dollars should be spent changes after the application is sent. We would be glad to be able to make changes with prior approval.
- Each district is so different, yet we have many needs. Additional flexibility would enable projects to be done that are needed but don't quite fit the guidelines.
- Estimating fire/safety grant cost is difficult. More flexibility is needed so that if more money is granted than used, other fire or safety issues could be allowed.
- It seems that projects supporting early learning programs have been a priority each year. While I understand the importance of early learning programs, there may be equally important needs in other areas that should get due consideration, e.g. energy conservation and efficiency.
- More flexibility allows for more creative ways to solve the problems.
- Perhaps it is not possible to do, but I would think that for many districts to be able to receive a smaller amount on the construction side would allow more districts to participate.
- The more flexibility we have the more we can meet local needs. The grant is better than most, but we always want the most flexibility possible.
- The restriction about having a citation from the fire marshal is a bit limiting.
- Timelines are extremely difficult to meet. We got an $11 million grant and lost it due to the July 31st deadline for matching funds. We passed a bond issue three months later and didn't get to use the money.
- We need a multipurpose room to accommodate our needs for: physical education, large group meetings and banquets, athletic practices, drama performances, musical performances, etc. Some of these are co-curricular activities directly related to academics. The current program shuts us out.

Overall, it appears that the vast majority of districts are comfortable with the flexibility of the program, as it has evolved over the years. The recommendation is to continue to listen to district suggestions without compromising the intent of the grant program.

Item B. Was the time allowed to complete the grant application adequate? If not what would you suggest? (General Survey)



There was little variance in responses based on district size or geographic location. Overall there was 87.6% of the districts stating that the time allowed to complete the application was adequate. Districts in AEA 1 were the lowest with 76.9% answering 'yes' to the adequacy of the timeline

District Size		Time allowed to complete grant was adequate			Total
		No	?	Yes	
Small (0-1199)	Count (%)	16 (9.0%)	9 (5.1%)	152 (85.9%)	177
Medium (1200-4749)	Count (%)	2 (3.8%)	3 (5.7%)	48 (90.6%)	53
Large (4750+)	Count (%)	0	0	12 (100%)	12
Total	Count (%)	18 (7.4%)	12 (5.0%)	212 (87.6%)	242

Geographic Location		Time allowed to complete grant was adequate			Total
		No	?	Yes	
AEA 1	Count (%)	2 (15.4%)	1 (7.7%)	10 (76.9%)	13
AEA 4	Count (%)	0 (0%)	1 (12.5%)	7 (87.5%)	8
AEA 5	Count (%)	0 (0%)	3 (9.4%)	29 (90.6%)	32
AEA 7	Count (%)	4 (9.5%)	1 (2.4%)	37 (88.1%)	42
AEA 9	Count (%)	2 (16.7%)	0	10 (83.3%)	12
AEA 10	Count (%)	1 (5.3%)	2 (10.5%)	16 (84.2%)	19
AEA 11	Count (%)	3 (8.8%)	0	31 (91.2%)	34
AEA 12	Count (%)	3 (20.0%)	0	12 (80.0%)	15
AEA 13	Count (%)	3 (14.3%)	1 (4.8%)	17 (81.0%)	21
AEA 14	Count (%)	0	1 (5.6%)	17 (94.4%)	18
AEA 15	Count (%)	0	1 (5.3%)	18 (94.7%)	19
AEA 16	Count (%)	0	1 (11.1%)	8 (88.9%)	9
Total	Count (%)	18 (7.4%)	12 (5.0%)	212 (87.6%)	242

Sample statements supporting the adequacy of time needed to follow the grant process. (See Appendix I-B for a complete listing)

- Challenging but adequate
- Could be an on-line process from start to finish
- Even with contractors backing out on their commitments, the time period to finish projects was still met.
- I was pleased with the process -- coordinating with fire marshal's office and the need for school board action was difficult
- It was a tight time line but adequate.
- The time allowed for completion of the grant application is adequate. If more time is allowed people will take advantage of it but it is not likely to increase the number or quality of grant applications.
- The time period from near the end of September to December 10th for the latest grants seems to me to be adequate.

- Time allowed is fine. Notification by mail vs. e-mail would be my preference. E-mail sometimes does not get through and this will put a district at a disadvantage.
- Training is late, but the application is very much like in the past so the later training is helpful just to confirm what you expect.
- We also appreciated the ICN sessions that provided additional clarification and guidance.

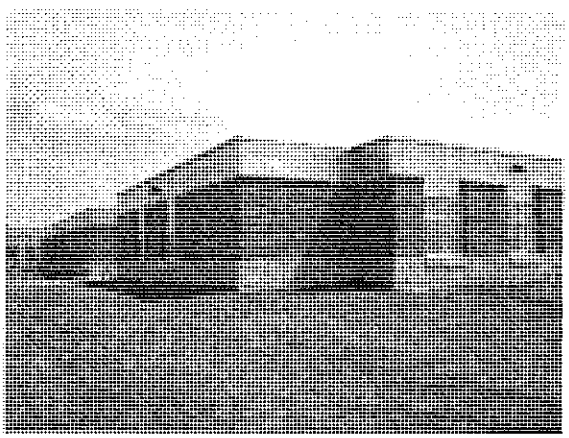
Statements suggesting that more time would be helpful.

- Additional time would be helpful since sometimes the fire marshal visits can't coincide with the grant timelines. Estimates don't always come as quickly as one would like.
- An extra month would be helpful (Jan 10th). There is a boatload of things happening early in the year and securing bids is time-consuming.
- Gathering five years of historical financial information can take a fair amount of time. I feel that extending the deadline to complete the application would be helpful. A one-month extension would make sense to me.
- I would like the announcement of the grants to be earlier. Many have elections prior to the announcement.
- More time between when application is available to when application is due. Sometimes tough to get board approval in timely manner.
- More time needed between when grant becomes available and deadline. Getting bond approval can be a problem.
- The fire marshal just came to our district yesterday (Dec. 1st). We haven't received the report. The grant is due Dec. 10th. It is impossible.

Based on the high level of satisfaction, there seems to be little need to change the window of time allowed for completion of the application.

Item C. Has the turn-around time from application to award been satisfactory? Comments: (General Survey)

The districts believed that the turnaround time from application to award was highly satisfactory. Overall approval was slightly over the 90% level with little variation among district size or location with the exception of AEA 1 (69%).



District Size		Turnaround time satisfactory			Total
		No	?	Yes	
Small (0-1199)	Count (%)	6 (3.4%)	10 (5.6%)	161 (91.0%)	177
Medium (1200-4749)	Count (%)	2 (3.9%)	4 (7.8%)	45 (88.2%)	51
Large (4750+)	Count (%)	0	1 (8.3%)	11 (91.7%)	12
Total	Count (%)	8 (3.3%)	15 (6.3%)	217 (90.4%)	240

Geographic Location			Turnaround time satisfactory			Total
			No	?	Yes	
AEA	1	Count (%)	2 (15 4%)	2 (15 4%)	9 (69.2%)	13
	4	Count (%)	1 (12 5%)	0	7 (87.5%)	8
	5	Count (%)	0	2 (6 3%)	30 (93.8%)	32
	7	Count (%)	2 (4.9%)	3 (7 3%)	36 (87.8%)	41
	9	Count (%)	0	0	11	11
	10	Count (%)	0	3 (15.8%)	16 (84.2%)	19
	11	Count (%)	2 (5.9%)	2 (5 9%)	30 (88 %)	34
	12	Count (%)	1 (6.7%)	0	14 (93.3%)	15
	13	Count (%)	0	1 (4 8%)	20 (95.2%)	21
	14	Count (%)	0	0	18	18
	15	Count (%)	0	2 (10 5%)	17 (89.5%)	19
	16	Count (%)	0	0	9	9
Total		Count (%)	8 (3.3%)	15 (6.3%)	217 (90.4%)	240

Sample statements supportive of the turnaround time (See Appendix I-C for a complete listing)

- As long as the timelines are known, it is not difficult to plan that way.
- Could be quicker. We end up waiting a long time to let bids.
- Everyone would like to see the time from when grants are to be turned in and the awards announced shortened, but it is okay.
- It is workable -- takes good management and fiscal planning of course, but that is essential in any case.
- The three-month delay is probably reasonable. However, a quicker response would be appreciated.
- Very good. Very little red tape.
- We are always eager to hear if we have been chosen to receive an award. The timeline has been reasonable and we take it into account in our project planning.

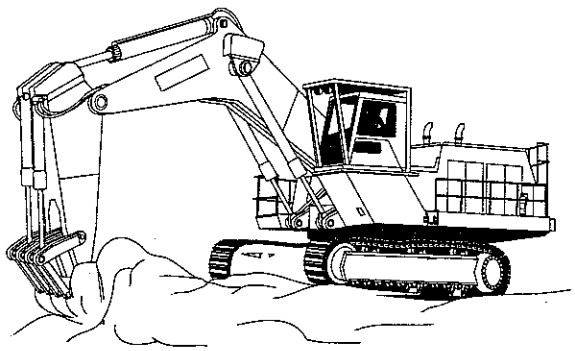
Statements not supportive of the existing turnaround time

- A concern I have is that if the fire marshal schedules a school visit late, the application process cannot be filed for that year.
- Reduced turnaround would allow districts to maximize the construction seasons in Iowa, which are subject to climate and weather conditions.
- Seems too long if you wait for the award, then finalize request for bid, wait for school board to approve and start project by the time school is out.

Once again, there was a high level of satisfaction with the grant processes. The turnaround time from application to award need not be changed based on the survey results.

Item D. Were the interim and final reports reasonable to prepare and provide adequate information? If not, what would you suggest? Comments: (General Survey)

If the reporting process is too complex or laborious to complete, the less likely a district will be willing to apply for grant monies. Responses to this item show that only 2.2% of the districts felt they were unreasonable to prepare. Neither size nor location of the districts made a significant difference in response patterns. Many districts expressed their appreciation for the ease of reporting requirements.



District Size		Interim & final reports reasonable to prepare			Total
		No	?	Yes	
Small (0-1199)	Count (%)	5 (3.0%)	20 (12.0%)	142 (85.0%)	167
Medium (1200-4749)	Count (%)	0	4 (8.2%)	45 (91.8%)	49
Large (4750+)	Count (%)	0	1 (8.3%)	11 (91.7%)	12
Total	Count (%)	5 (2.2%)	25 (11.0%)	198 (86.8%)	228

Geographic Location		Interim & final reports reasonable to prepare			Total
		No	?	Yes	
AEA 1	Count (%)	0	0	11	11
4	Count (%)	1 (14.3%)	1 (14.3%)	5 (71.4%)	7
5	Count (%)	1 (3.3%)	3 (10.0%)	26 (86.7%)	30
7	Count (%)	0	3 (7.5%)	37 (92.5%)	40
9	Count (%)	0	1 (8.3%)	11 (91.7%)	12
10	Count (%)	0	3 (17.6%)	14 (82.4%)	17
11	Count (%)	0	6 (19.4%)	25 (80.6%)	31
12	Count (%)	1 (6.7%)	2 (13.3%)	12 (80.0%)	15
13	Count (%)	2 (9.5%)	4 (19.0%)	15 (71.4%)	21
14	Count (%)	0	1 (5.6%)	17 (94.4%)	18
15	Count (%)	0	1 (5.6%)	17 (94.4%)	18
16	Count (%)	0	0	8	8
Total	Count (%)	5 (2.2%)	25 (11.0%)	198 (86.8%)	228

Sample of supportive statements (See Appendix I-D for a complete listing)

- A simple final report is all that is needed. Since you audit the projects anyway -- keep it simple.
- All reports were reasonable to prepare. The sample forms provided were very helpful.
- Nobody likes paper work but these reports are reasonable and we understand that progress needs to be tracked for accountability purposes.
- The reports are straightforward and necessary.
- The reports are very typical of grant monies. It tells where the money was spent
- The visit by the State Fire Marshall was wonderful and provided not only information to apply for the grant but also provided excellent changes in practice suggestions. We also received a visit from an AEA person who was also very helpful.
- They were very fair and adequate from the school's standpoint. It was enough information for the DE to understand the project but reasonable in time to provide.
- We carefully track project costs within our accounting system and have found the interim and final reports to be easy to prepare.

Statements suggesting changes to the reporting requirements

- Sometimes we were unsure and were concerned that we would lose funding.
- Too much reporting!
- I have talked with DE staff and they have been super! However, I struggle with the form. I would be willing to dialogue with folks about that.
- We had completed the report and then found out later that we now needed to provide a snmmary of vendors and expenditures. This might be explained better in the report directions.

The statements basically reveal that sound bookkeeping practices provide the foundation for easy-to-complete interim and final reports.

Item E. To what extent do you feel that the grant monies have positively impacted the educational environment? Comments: (General Survey)

The Fire/Life Safety grants and the construction grants are both intended to address infrastructure needs regarding safety and physical environment. There is an expectation that once safety and physical needs are met in schools, the educational/learning environment will also be enhanced. Districts 'felt' that to be true, but also believed it was a difficult concept to measure and directly link to the physical changes in the district. However, as can be seen below, 98.8% of the districts believed the grant monies had at least a 'medium' impact on the educational environment. There were minimal differences among districts based on size or location. More telling are the comments that were associated with this item

District Size		Grant monies had positively impacted the educational environment					Total
		Low 1	2	Medium 3	4	High 5	
Small (0-1199)	Count (%)	0	2 (1.2%)	20 (12.1%)	43 (26.1%)	100 (60.6%)	165
Medium (1200-4749)	Count (%)	1 (2.0%)	0	2 (3.9%)	13 (25.5%)	35 (68.6%)	51
Large (4750+)	Count (%)	0	0	1 (8.3%)	2 (16.6%)	9 (75.0%)	12
Total	Count (%)	1 (.4%)	2 (.9%)	23 (10.1%)	58 (25.4%)	144 (63.3%)	228

Geographic Location		Grant monies had positively impacted the educational environment					Total
		Low 1	2	Medium 3	4	High 5	
AEA 1	Count (%)	0	0	0	3 (27 3%)	8 (72.7%)	11
4	Count(%)	0	0	2 (28.6%)	3 (42.9%)	2 (28 6%)	7
5	Count(%)	0	0	2 (6.7%)	10 (33.3%)	18 (60 0%)	30
7	Count(%)	0	0	5 (12.5%)	13 (32.5%)	22 (55.0%)	40
9	Count(%)	0	0	2 (16.7%)	1 (8.3%)	9 (75.0%)	12
10	Count(%)	0	0	1 (5 9%)	4 (23.5%)	12 (70.6%)	17
11	Count(%)	1 (3.1%)	1 (3 1%)	5 (15 6%)	11 (34.4%)	14 (43 8%)	32
12	Count(%)	0	0	3 (21.4%)	2 (14.3%)	9 (64 3%)	14
13	Count(%)	0	1 (5 0%)	1 (5.0%)	3 (15 0%)	15 (75 0%)	20
14	Count(%)	0	0	1 (5.6%)	3 (16.7%)	14 (77.8%)	18
15	Count(%)	0	0	1 (5.6%)	3 (16 7%)	14 (77 8%)	18
16	Count(%)	0	0	0	2 (16.7%)	7 (77 8%)	9
Total	Count (%)	1 (4%)	2 (9%)	23 (10.1%)	58 (25.4%)	144 (63.2%)	228

Sample statements supportive of grant monies having a positive impact (See Appendix I-E for a complete listing)

- ++++
- Additional learning spaces enhance our district's commitment to effective instruction. More funds available would help the district's ten year plan to accomplish this goal.
- Certainly the safety issue has improved. There has also been a secondary benefit of quieter rooms.
- The high school is a safer building with the fire (life) safety improvements and alternative high students have a well-designed, modern learning environment.
- Has allowed the district to improve indoor air quality and overall has allowed for a more positive educational environment for all students.
- It has made an incredible difference within the school and our communities. The greatest impact was the success our district experienced in creating a junior high identity (as the junior high students were intermingled within the 9-12 classrooms in our K-12 facility). They now have their own wing!
- Made school safer, made educational environment more adaptable to hands-on learning and improved school climate.
- No question it has helped the overall environment.
- Safe buildings allow better care to be taken. Teacher/community members feel better about their school so fewer negative things are put on students.
- The grant monies have allowed the district to upgrade the fire alarm systems in our buildings. We were also able to correct an unsafe corridor situation. A district must supply a safe environment if students are expected to achieve to their potential.
- The grant monies have very positively impacted the high school environment. Staff and students now know the latest in fire safety equipment. Everyone including community members is much more comfortable knowing the school environment is much safer.
- The learning environment is much more safe and secure because of the improvements which have been made.
- The projects we have chosen are very visible and valued by staff and community. The projects have positively impacted public perception and student achievement.
- Unbelievable. The renovations and improvements are wonderful but the biggest impact was the involvement of the community (business, seniors, clergy, parents, farmers) in the sort-term and long-term planning process. Their ownership of "the process" is the real long-term benefit.

Statements regarding the lack of 'visibility' of the changes and impact on educational environment

- Most people won't notice the changes.
- Students/staff are often not aware of the "safety" work that is completed. Many times it is not visible to the staff, and thus they don't recognize the importance of the renovations.

Perhaps the most telling statements reflect the ownership of the entire community that came about due to the changes that enhanced the safety of the students and the staff.

D. Fire (Life) Safety Survey Results

A second questionnaire was included for all districts that received a fire (life) safety award. These grants were awarded to districts that had fire marshal safety citations on record, were asking for monetary assistance to relieve the existing safety issues, and successfully completed a grant application. Six questions were asked to determine the necessity of the grant, the assistance provided, and the degree of satisfaction in resolving the cited issues.

Item A. How necessary was it that you apply for the fire (life) safety grant to resolve your district's citation(s)? Why? (Fire/Life Safety)

This question was intended to determine if the grant monies were a factor in increasing the environmental safety of the students' learning facilities. It is interesting to note that almost 91% rated the necessity of applying for the grant as medium-high to high. Neither size nor geographic location had a significant bearing on the responses.

District Size		Necessity of applying for grant					Total
		Low 1	2	Medium 3	4	High 5	
Small (0-1199)	Count (%)	1 (6%)	1 (.6%)	16 (9.4%)	38 (22.4%)	114 (67.1%)	170
Medium (1200-4749)	Count (%)	0	0	2 (4.5%)	12 (27.3%)	30 (68.2%)	44
Large (4750+)	Count (%)	0	1 (8.3%)	0	3 (25 0%)	8 (66 7%)	12
Total	Count (%)	1 (.4%)	2 (9%)	18 (8.0%)	53 (23.5%)	152 (67 3%)	226

Geographic Location		Necessity of applying for grant					Total
		Low 1	2	Medium 3	4	High 5	
AEA 1	Count (%)	0	0	0	1 (10%)	9 (90%)	10
4	Count (%)	0	0	1 (11.1%)	4 (44.4%)	4 (44.4%)	9
5	Count (%)	0	0	7 (22.6%)	6 (19 4%)	18 (58.1%)	31
7	Count (%)	0	0	4 (10 5%)	12 (31.6%)	22 (57 9%)	38
9	Count (%)	0	0	2 (15.4%)	2 (15 4%)	9 (69.2%)	13
10	Count (%)	1 (5.6%)	0	0	3 (16 7%)	14 (77.8%)	18
11	Count (%)	0	1 (3 3%)	1 (3.3%)	8 (26.7%)	20 (66.7%)	30
12	Count (%)	0	0	1 (7.1%)	3 (21.4%)	10 (71 4%)	14
13	Count (%)	0	1 (5.3%)	0	3 (15 8%)	15 (78.9%)	19
14	Count (%)	0	0	1 (5.9%)	6 (35.3%)	10 (58.8%)	17
15	Count (%)	0	0	0	4 (21.1%)	15 (78 9%)	19
16	Count (%)	0	0	1 (12.5%)	1 (12.5%)	6 (75%)	8
Total	Count (%)	1 (.4%)	2 (.9%)	18 (8%)	53 (23.5%)	152 (67 3%)	226

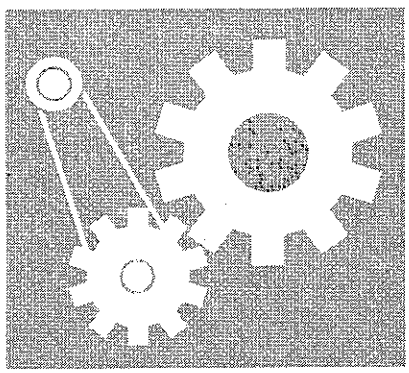
Supportive statements (See Appendix II-A for a complete listing)

- Fire marshal had given a deadline that would have called for discontinued use of 2 classrooms Also the district could not provide funding for this as PPEL funds were used to support a growing student population.
- At the time of the first citation, our district was operating with a negative solvency ratio. With the grant assistance, we were able to make our school safe without adding to our solvency ratio problem or adding to an already increased tax burden for our district residents.
- Due to the nature of the citations and the amount of funds needed to complete them, we either would have had to do the repairs over a period of years and forgo the repairs of other problems in our buildings.
- It would have been a financial burden that otherwise would have resulted in cut backs to student programs.
- At a time when all resources were obligated for construction, this grant allowed us to address the largest cause for concern.
- At the time the district received the funds, five bond issues had failed. All available funds were being used for other facility needs.
- In a small district like ours, the PPEL Levy does not generate enough funds to complete such projects This grant helps free up Local Option Sales Tax money for other high cost maintenance costs
- It is necessary to be in compliance with the recommendations. I sometimes do not agree with their recommendations; however, the safety of individuals is extremely important.
- Many of the district's buildings have been in poor physical condition and are old. The district has passed PPEL and LOSST levies but they will be insufficient to meet all the district needs. The fire safety grants have allowed us to undertake more projects and in a reduced timeframe. Safety has been enhanced.
- Our budget is too tight to allow us to make these changes without neglecting something else unless grant money is available.
- The district is very financially challenged and small. It is doubtful its patrons would have approved additional local taxes. Thus, it was imperative that the grant be received if the work was to be done
- The district would still be working to upgrade from fire citation 4 years ago

- There are backlogs of citation projects for which there simply is no funding. These dollars are much needed and appreciated.
- Very little had been done to update deficiencies until we received grant funds. The funding just wasn't there.
- We didn't have the money to do it and it needed to be done.
- Without the grant funds, the improvements would have been difficult to finance. We were able to make other safety improvements because of the resources we received by tapping into our PPEL funds.
- Would not have attempted the expenditures for the project without grant funds.

Based on the statements shared by the respondents, it appears that the majority of citations would not have been addressed and alleviated in a timely manner without the availability of the grant awards.

Item B. To what degree did the grant monies assist in alleviating the problems indicated in the fire (safety) citation(s)? Please explain. (Fire/Life Safety)



It is not enough to just receive grant money; the real interest lies in determining if the monies made a difference in alleviating the cited safety issues. As can be seen in the tables below, 93.7% stated that the problems were alleviated at a medium-high to high level.

District Size		Degree grant money alleviated problems					Total
		Low 1	2	Medium 3	4	High 5	
Small (0-1199)	Count (%)	1 (.6%)	4 (2.4%)	7 (4.1%)	38 (22.5%)	119 (70.4%)	169
Medium (1200-4749)	Count (%)	0	0	1 (2.3%)	15 (34.1%)	28 (63.6%)	44
Large (4750+)	Count (%)	0	0	1 (8.3%)	2 (16.7%)	9 (75.0%)	12
Total	Count (%)	1 (.4%)	4 (1.8%)	9 (4.0%)	55 (24.4%)	156 (69.3%)	225

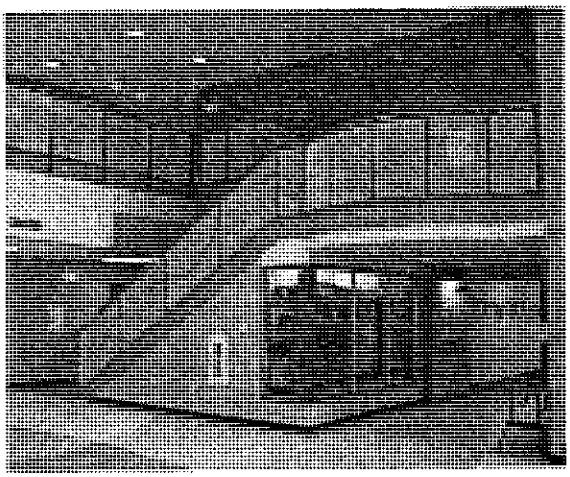
Geographic Location		Degree grant money alleviated problems					Total
		Low 1	2	Medium 3	4	High 5	
AEA 1	Count (%)	0	0	0	1 (10%)	9 (90%)	10
4	Count (%)	0	0	0	4 (44.4%)	5 (55 6%)	9
5	Count (%)	0	0	1 (3 2%)	13 (41 9%)	17 (54 8%)	31
7	Count (%)	0	1 (2.6%)	3 (7.9%)	7 (18.4%)	27(71 1%)	38
9	Count (%)	0	1 (7.7%)	0	5 (38.5%)	7 (53 8%)	13
10	Count (%)	1 (5.6%)	0	3 (16.7%)	0	14 (77 8%)	18
11	Count (%)	0	0	0	11(37.9%)	18(62.1%)	29
12	Count (%)	0	0	1 (7.1%)	0	13 (92 9%)	14
13	Count (%)	0	1(5 3%)	1(5 3%)	2(10.5%)	15(78 9%)	19
14	Count (%)	0	0	0	4 (23.5%)	13 (76.5%)	17
15	Count (%)	0	1(5.3%)	0	7(36.8%)	11(57 9%)	19
16	Count (%)	0	0	0	1 (12.5%)	7 (87.5%)	8
Total	Count (%)	1 (.4%)	4 (1.8%)	9 (4.0%)	55 (24.4%)	156 (69.3%)	225

Sample statements indicative of the comments regarding the degree of alleviation (See Appendix II-B for a complete listing)

- The grant monies awarded have enabled the district to make great advances in bringing our facilities to code. We have more work to be done, but we would not be where we are without the fire/life safety grant.
- We have made many changes over the years in the area of fire safety that could not have been done without these funds.
- Brought fire code up to standards.
- The requested funds were used to alleviate the one area of concern remaining in our fire marshal report.
- We need to put in a completely new fire alarm system and the grant monies allowed us to do it to a level that meets all standards. It also allowed us to make our buildings safer for our patrons in the event of a fire
- It gave us the opportunities to modernize our school without cutting budget to classroom areas.
- The funding provided will allow us to take care of most, but not all, citations.
- We have done one job at a time Fire Inspector has written our problems up for years Finally we are able to make some progress.
- Helped us to start the process of being in compliance. We finished it at our own cost.
- We were able to address 90% of the problems with these monies.
- Problems associated with the portions of the buildings that did not receive the renovations but still having problems could be addressed without waiting.
- To the "nth" degree --- we installed fire alarm systems, doors, corridor lighting, etc. --- exactly the problems indicated
- We were able to correct all deficiencies cited by the fire marshal in reports of 2002 With the grant money, we could fix the items without reservation, knowing we could recoup our expenses. Without adequate funding, we have a tendency to use "band aids."

Probably the most enlightening comments were the ones that stated that the grant award not only alleviated safety issues but also allowed more money from the budget to be allocated to classroom expenditures.

Item C. To what degree would the project(s) have been completed in a timely manner without the grant money? Please explain. (Fire/Life Safety)



Approximately 92% of the districts responded that it would be a medium to low possibility that the projects would have been completed without the assistance. With a few minor exceptions, size and geographic location did not seem to make much difference in terms of completing the projects in a timely manner.

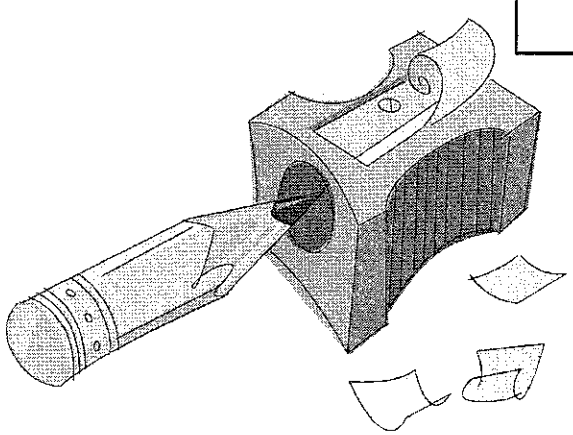
District Size		Project(s) completed in timely manner without grant					Total
		Low 1	2	Medium 3	4	High 5	
Small (0-1199)	Count (%)	77 (45.3%)	47 (27 6%)	31 (18 2%)	8 (4.7%)	7 (4.1%)	170
Medium (1200-4749)	Count (%)	18 (40%)	16 (35.6%)	8 (17.8%)	3 (6 7%)	0 (%)	45
Large (4750+)	Count (%)	8 (66.7%)	3 (25%)	1 (8.3%)	0 (%)	0 (%)	12
Total	Count (%)	103 (45.4%)	66 (29 1%)	40 (17.6%)	11 (4.8%)	7 (3.1%)	227

Geographic Location		Project(s) completed in timely manner without grant					Total
		Low 1	2	Medium 3	4	High 5	
AEA 1	Count (%)	4 (40%)	1 (10%)	2 (20%)	1 (10%)	2 (20%)	10
4	Count (%)	5 (55 6%)	1 (11.1%)	2 (22.2%)	0	1 (11.1%)	9
5	Count (%)	13 (41 9%)	9 (29%)	3 (9 7%)	4 (12 9%)	2 (6.5%)	31
7	Count (%)	14 (36.8%)	13 (34.2%)	10 (26.3%)	1 (2.6%)	0	38
9	Count (%)	3 (23.1%)	6 (46.2%)	4 (30.8%)	0	0	13
10	Count (%)	9 (50%)	5 (27.8%)	4 (22.2%)	0	0	18
11	Count (%)	20 (64.5%)	7 (22.6%)	3 (9.7%)	1 (3.2%)	0	31
12	Count (%)	5 (35.7%)	3 (21.4%)	5 (35.7%)	1 (7 1%)	0	14
13	Count (%)	9 (47.4%)	5 (26 3%)	2 (10.5%)	1 (5.3%)	2 (10.5%)	19
14	Count (%)	7 (41.2%)	8 (47.1%)	2 (11.8%)	0	0	17
15	Count (%)	10 (52.6%)	7 (36.8%)	2 (10 5%)	0	0	19
16	Count (%)	4 (50%)	1 (12.5%)	1 (12.5%)	2 (25%)	0	8
Total	Count (%)	103 (45 4%)	66 (29.1%)	40 (17.6%)	11 (4 8%)	7 (3.1%)	227

Sample statements regarding feasibility of completion (See Appendix II-C for a complete listing)

- Although they would have eventually been completed, we were able to keep projects moving. The safety of our school has increased
- At the time we were awarded the grant we did not have available funds to complete the projects. We would have developed a plan to complete the projects over a five-year period.
- Due to a decision to invest schoolhouse and PPEL funds over a period of five years to pay for the construction of new facilities, a tremendous backlog of maintenance, transportation, and technology needs developed! There were way too many needs to be addressed for the funds available. Without the grant money, I doubt the project would have been done.
- Eventually, but in small spurts.
- Grant funds have reduced competition for available district funding and allowing life safety projects to remain a top priority, while maintaining the life safety concerns of our students.
- I am sure that because of the citations, the board of directors would have found a way to address them. However, I think it would have taken longer periods of time to make the improvements, and other facility projects would have been left undone.
- It would have taken us longer to budget the money and plan for the remedies to the fire marshal's concerns.
- Not likely, as all our resources are/were earmarked. We still have one big item to take care of from the fire marshal report, but otherwise we have dealt with all other citations.
- Since we received the funding, we were able to do all the work at one time. Had we not received the grant, it would have taken several years to complete the work from general funds.
- We are so tight with infrastructure needs in this district that resources such as this one are the only way some of these items can be effectively accomplished.
- We have made many changes over the years in the area of fire safety that could not have been done without these funds
- We would have had to complete these projects to be in compliance with the fire marshal's most recent report dated December 18, 2001. With the fire life safety grant, we were able to complete the projects in a timely manner without depleting all the funds in the Physical Plant and Equipment Fund or the Local Option Fund. This allows us funds for replacing buses and other needed building repairs.
- Without the funds we would have needed to prioritize the citations and deal with those most urgent

For the most part, districts indicated that the projects would eventually be done but in a paced manner over a number of years. The grants assisted in speeding up the process of making a safer environment for students and staff.



Item D. Are there other citations (or potential citations) not resolved that additional grant monies might address in your district? Please explain and describe your priority order to address them. (Fire/Life Safety)

On this question, there was a split as to whether or not there were unresolved issues that additional monies might address. Over 54% indicated that issues still remained. In some cases, though, these issues were deemed as safety issues but not cited by the fire marshal.

District Size		Other citations			Total
		No	?	Yes	
Small (0-1199)	Count (%)	58 (35.6%)	17 (10.4%)	88 (54%)	163
Medium (1200-4749)	Count (%)	19 (45.2%)	2 (4.8%)	21 (50%)	42
Large (4750+)	Count (%)	1 (8.3%)	1 (8.3%)	10 (83.3%)	12
Total	Count (%)	78 (35.9%)	20 (9.2%)	119 (54.8%)	217

Geographic Location			Other citations			Total
			No	?	Yes	
AEA	1	Count (%)	4 (40%)	0	6 (60%)	10
	4	Count (%)	2 (25%)	4 (50%)	2 (25%)	8
	5	Count (%)	13 (43.3%)	4 (13.3%)	13 (43.3%)	30
	7	Count (%)	7 (19.4%)	2 (5.6%)	27 (75%)	36
	9	Count (%)	8 (66.7%)	3 (25%)	1 (8.3%)	12
	10	Count (%)	4 (26.7%)	1 (6.7%)	10 (66.7%)	15
	11	Count (%)	11 (35.5%)	3 (9.7%)	17 (54.8%)	31
	12	Count (%)	7 (50%)	0	7 (50%)	14
	13	Count (%)	6 (31.6%)	1 (5.3%)	12 (63.2%)	19
	14	Count (%)	9 (52.9%)	2 (11.8%)	6 (35.3%)	17
	15	Count (%)	5 (29.4%)	0	12 (70.6%)	17
	16	Count (%)	2 (25%)	0	6 (75%)	8
Total		Count (%)	78 (35.9%)	20 (9.2%)	119 (54.8%)	217

Sample statements regarding unresolved citations (See Appendix II-D for a complete listing)

- Based on Sept. 2003 fire marshal's inspection, we have several citations that need to be addressed, e.g. upgraded heat ejectors in the jr/sr high auditorium and gymnasium and remodeling at the rec center to provide 1 hour fire retarded material
- Each school that has significant remodel work planned will receive a complete fire sprinkler system as requested by the Fire Marshal.
- Fire and safety issues still remain. Fire alarm systems, fire doors, many items listed in the last fire inspection that we are trying to address but will take time. The safety of the kids is also a concern when it comes to inadequate security systems. We have very little
- Fire escape upgrade, sprinkler for the entire structure, alarm system upgrade, smoke/heat detectors.
- Hood suppression over cooking stove; replace/repair doors; additional detection equipment.
- Major problems have been corrected. There are always projects on our need-to-do list.

- Not at the present time. However, the facilities are old and new deficiencies may be discovered at the next inspection.
- Replace non-fire rated hallway walls in the science wing; glass separating classrooms from corridors need to be replaced with fire rated; elementary needs fire corridors with 2-hour separation; need walking corridor in paper warehouse; need to install automatic door closing device. We prioritize in accordance with funds and highest safety issues
- The district still has citations in several buildings These citations will be addressed as local or grant funds become available Priority is given to the buildings with the most severe citations and greatest safety concerns.
- The fire marshal's office or inspectors always find something and some are very expensive.
- We need additional funding to add additional sensors. They have changed the law since our building was built and they need to be closer together. Our current alarm system is full and to permit expansion we need to replace the system To be in compliance we should replace our system.
- We need to keep working on the list that the fire marshal presented We plan to do them all starting with the largest first
- We recently had a propane gas leak that made us realize that we needed gas detectors, shut off valves, fire proof doors in several areas, additional fireproofing and panic bars on corridors.
- Yes! We definitely can use additional grant dollars to solve present unresolved fire citations Have several rooms in secondary building that must have walls completely redone.

While the grant monies addressed cited problems, several districts stated that the next fire marshal visit extended the list of citations. The new issues were often listed too late to be included in the grant application.

Item E. Were other non-cited issues able to be resolved as a result of addressing the cited problem(s)? Please explain. (Fire/Life Safety)

In some cases, by addressing a cited problem, other related non-application issues could be addressed in a less expensive manner. However, the majority of districts indicated that the focus remained solely on the cited problems.

District Size		Non-cited issues resolved			Total
		No	?	Yes	
Small (0-1199)	Count (%)	87 (53%)	25 (15.2%)	52 (31.7%)	164
Medium (1200-4749)	Count (%)	24 (58.5%)	4 (9.8%)	13 (31.7%)	41
Large (4750+)	Count (%)	4 (33.3%)	1 (8 3%)	7 (58.3%)	12
Total	Count (%)	115 (53%)	30 (13 8%)	72 (33 2%)	217

Geographic Location			Non-cited issues resolved			Total
			No	?	Yes	
AEA	1	Count (%)	7 (70%)	1 (10%)	2 (20%)	10
	4	Count (%)	7 (87.5%)	1 (12.5%)	0	8
	5	Count (%)	15 (50%)	3 (10%)	12 (40%)	30
	7	Count (%)	20 (55.6%)	7 (19.4%)	9 (25%)	36
	9	Count (%)	8 (61.5%)	1 (7.7%)	4 (30.8%)	13
	10	Count (%)	11 (73.3%)	2 (13.3%)	2 (13.3%)	15
	11	Count (%)	21 (67.7%)	2 (6.5%)	8 (25.8%)	31
	12	Count (%)	5 (35.7%)	3 (21.4%)	6 (42.9%)	14
	13	Count (%)	7 (38.9%)	3 (16.7%)	8 (44.4%)	18
	14	Count (%)	6 (35.3%)	4 (23.5%)	7 (41.2%)	17
	15	Count (%)	4 (23.5%)	3 (17.6%)	10 (58.8%)	17
	16	Count (%)	4 (50%)	0	4 (50%)	8
Total		Count (%)	115 (53%)	30 (13.8%)	72 (33.2%)	217

Sample statements indicative of responses regarding non-cited issues addressed (See Appendix II-E for a complete listing)

- Addressing the cited issues has always taken all the grant funds as well as some local funds.
- Because of the need to prevent a dead-end corridor situation, new construction required ADA compliance. We were required to install a handicap accessible ramp.
- Suggestions were provided. We were able to inclnde a couple of these items.
- Funded projects allowed for additional improvements to be accomplished by the available funds.
- In our remodeling project, we resolved a potential citation by enlarging the windows that would be used for fire exits. We also changed our radiators to a type that could be covered, thus eliminating a potential safety hazard from burns.
- No. However the grant funds allowed us to put our limited funds into other needed areas.
- Other basic remodeling needs such as painting and flooring were addressed.
- Our entrance doors also addressed energy efficiency.
- Our outdated telephone system was replaced in order to accommodate needs of the dial-up alarm system.
- Receipt of grant money calls attention to the need for fire safety. Many non-monetary items become easier to address and more cooperation is easier to attain.
- Some automatic door closures will now be able to be connected to alarm system we just installed.
- Some very minor issues: i.e. extra plug-ins, etc.
- The exterior doors and some interior doors were replaced as part of our project. The district upgraded the locks on those doors at the same time and addressed school traffic issues for after school activities.
- We replaced our telephone system in order to have a different alarm system sound for tornado warnings. We were told not to use the fire alarm system for tornado drills.
- We were able to spend money on improving our door closures, which weren't cited but needed correction.
- Yes, as the overall security people feel when they see new doors with panic bars, new LED exit lights, etc.

The comments listed above illustrate how non-cited issues were able, in some cases, to be addressed concurrently with the cited problems.

Item E. Were there any unintended consequences or spin-offs (positive or negative) from the granted monies that were of note? Please explain. (Fire/Life Safety)

While the grant monies were intended to address fire marshal citations, often the focus on student safety had some unexpected results. As indicated below, over 28% of the districts indicated such was the case

District Size		Unintended consequences			Total
		No	?	Yes	
Small (0-1199)	Count (%)	96 (59.6%)	20 (12.4%)	45 (28%)	161
Medium (1200-4749)	Count (%)	28 (68.3%)	2 (4.9%)	11 (26.8%)	41
Large (4750+)	Count (%)	6 (50%)	1 (8.3%)	5 (41.7%)	12
Total	Count (%)	130 (60.7%)	23 (10.7%)	61 (28.5%)	214

Geographic Location			Unintended consequences			Total
			No	?	Yes	
AEA	1	Count (%)	5 (55.6%)	0 (%)	4 (44.4%)	9
	4	Count (%)	6 (75%)	0	2 (25%)	8
	5	Count (%)	14 (46.7%)	4 (13.3%)	12 (40%)	30
	7	Count (%)	21 (58.3%)	5 (13.9%)	10 (27.8%)	36
	9	Count (%)	9 (69.2%)	2 (15.4%)	2 (15.4%)	13
	10	Count (%)	10 (62.5%)	2 (12.5%)	4 (25%)	16
	11	Count (%)	21 (70%)	2 (6.7%)	7 (23.3%)	30
	12	Count (%)	9 (64.3%)	2 (14.3%)	3 (21.4%)	14
	13	Count (%)	12 (70.6%)	1 (5.9%)	4 (23.5%)	17
	14	Count (%)	10 (62.5%)	3 (18.8%)	3 (18.8%)	16
	15	Count (%)	8 (47.1%)	1 (5.9%)	8 (47.1%)	17
	16	Count (%)	5 (62.5%)	1 (12.5%)	2 (25%)	8
Total		Count (%)	130 (60.7%)	23 (10.7%)	61 (28.5%)	214

Sample statements regarding positive unintended consequences (See Appendix II-F for a complete listing)

- A discussion about the long-term needs of the facilities took place at the board level as a result of the grant.
- Again, when I was at (a different district), we also got one of the first safety grants. As a result, we proved to the community that we were going to take care of our facilities. As a result, once we proved that, the community approved a bond issue.
- All were positive -- by addressing fire (life) safety issues, we were able to resolve other issues, which further enhanced safety and learning environment in our school district.
- As a spin-off of updating our fire alarm system, we also updated our burglar alarm system. Also, our updated fire alarm system now allows for two more distinctive alarms -- one for fire and one for tornado.
- Dealing with Section 106 concerns. We are still trying to get approval to replace doors in the elementary school rather than rebuild doors that are "historically significant". The historical society is very unreasonable and difficult to work with.
- Good public relations always occur in our community when patrons are aware of life safety improvements in our building.

- Improved looks of our educational facilities ... plus positive spin from community members "something district should have done a long time ago!"
- Our electrician installed sensors in the gym and while he had his scaffolding set up we installed new lights and new scoreboards
- Our improved overall review of the buildings made us more aware of potential issues.
- Positive visual impression by parents in K-3 and allowed dial in to safety center on 24 hour basis to be installed.
- The positive consequence is that this process sends a message to everyone that we are working together to improve safety in our schools
- We have had numerous comments from the public who express appreciation for the fact that we are "taking care of our facilities" and doing things that improve safety.
- With the district having such problems trying to get bond issues passed, this was one way of showing the public that we are searching for other ways of financing some of the problems we have.
- Unforeseen and unknown problems came to light during the course of the projects. The result was a safer school for the students. Due to the Davis-Bacon wage requirements with the Federal money, the size of the project needed to be carefully monitored. Typically Davis-Bacon adds 7-10% to the cost of the project. This reduces the dollars to be spent on the project.
- The main spin off was increased awareness and understanding about the scope of fire safety issues and that the cost to address them would be higher than originally anticipated. District maintenance staff has learned how to identify and address many issues.
- We were able to add a "caller system" to onr alarm system, which got our local fire department involved. We also got them involved in demonstrations and education with our students.

Statements regarding negative unintended consequences

- Davis-Bacon requirements are time consuming and add costs to the project -- not labor rate, but changes for the paper work.
- Had to send a good deal back that could have been used for other fire prevention/safety issues not listed in the grant.
- The only negative consequences we noted were the compliance of the Davis-Bacon Act. Some contractors were not familiar with the paperwork to be in compliance with this law.
- We have run into some unexpected complications (asbestos). These complications caused more expense for the district
- I truly believe that the fire inspector gives unnecessary citations because he knows that there is money available. That has been stated to our custodians. Seems like a waste of taxpayer's dollars in some cases.
- Negative -- after we make corrections that the fire marshal wants we then are cited the next time for areas that we could have addressed the first time with the funds if we had known that. Each year depending on who the fire marshal is that visits your school the "rules change". It wonld be nice to have some consistency bnt that does not happen
- Negative. The federal requirement to follow the Davis-Bacon Act for wages made the projects far more expensive than necessary.

The comments listed above indicated positive community relationships, increased focus on safety needs, and better overall attitude within the schools. Several of the negative comments revolved around the added costs to the projects due to the Davis-Bacon requirements for wages and paper work.

General comments regarding the fire (life) safety grant program

- Both the fire marshal and the DE staff were a big help
- Excellent program that needs to be continued
- Fire (Safety) monies have proven to be extremely valuable to our small district.
- I appreciate this grant because I am a safety "nut" and I can now sleep at night.
- Thank you for the grant!
- This has been an invaluable program for many Iowa school districts. Thank you for all your hard work to coordinate this program
- Without assistance of these kinds of grant monies, we simply would be sparring with our local fire officials, asking to be grandfathered under old codes, and unable to address essential needs We're more than grateful.

E. Construction Grant Survey Results

A third questionnaire was included for all districts that received a construction (remodeling) grant. These grants were awarded to districts that had existing building needs, were asking for monetary assistance to relieve these existing infrastructure issues, and successfully completed a grant application. Seven questions were asked to determine the necessity of the grant, the assistance provided, and the degree of satisfaction in resolving the cited issues.

Item A. Would the construction projects have been initiated without the grant money? Please explain. (Construction Grants Survey)

Over 53% of the districts indicated at a medium-high to high level that the construction projects would not have been initiated without the grant assistance. The larger districts indicated some capability of infrastructure changes without the grant monies due to the larger budgets and ability to plan expenditures over a period of time.

Likelihood construction project initiated without the grant							
District Size		Low 1	2	Medium 3	4	High 5	Total
Small (0-1199)	Count (%)	14 (31 1%)	12 (26.7%)	4 (8.9%)	5 (11.1%)	10 (22.2%)	45
Medium (1200-4749)	Count (%)	9 (30%)	9 (30%)	3 (10%)	4 (13 3%)	5 (16.7%)	30
Large (4750+)	Count (%)	1 (9.1%)	1 (9 1%)	4 (36.4%)	2 (18.2%)	3 (27.3%)	11
Total	Count (%)	24 (27.9%)	22 (25.6%)	11 (12 8%)	11 (12.8%)	18 (20 9%)	86

Geographic Location			Likelihood construction project initiated without the grant					Total
			Low 1	2	Medium 3	4	High 5	
AEA	1	Count (%)	1 (20%)	3 (60%)	0	1 (20%)	0	5
	4	Count (%)	0	1 (50%)	0	0	1 (50%)	2
	5	Count (%)	1 (14 3%)	3 (42.9%)	0	2 (28 6%)	1 (14.3%)	7
	7	Count (%)	1 (5.6%)	7 (38.9%)	2 (11.1%)	5 (27 8%)	3 (16.7%)	18
	9	Count (%)	2 (25%)	1 (12.5%)	3 (37.5%)	0	2 (25%)	8
	10	Count (%)	4 (40%)	1 (10%)	3 (30%)	0	2 (20%)	10
	11	Count (%)	5 (45 5%)	2 (18.2%)	1 (9 1%)	1 (9.1%)	2 (18.2%)	11
	12	Count (%)	3 (75%)	0	1 (25%)	0	0	4
	13	Count (%)	3 (42.9%)	1 (14.3%)	0	1 (14 3%)	2 (28.6%)	7
	14	Count (%)	0	1 (25%)	0	1 (25%)	2 (50%)	4
	15	Count (%)	3 (42.9%)	1 (14.3%)	0	0	3 (42.9%)	7
	16	Count (%)	1 (33.3%)	1 (33.3%)	1 (33.3%)	0	0	3
Total		Count (%)	24 (27.9%)	22 (25 6%)	11 (12.8%)	11 (12 8%)	18 (20 9%)	86

Sample statements regarding the likelihood of project initiation (See Appendix III-A for a complete listing)

- (In a previous district) the community had voted down four other attempts The grant was the catalyst for approval.
- A small fraction of the project would be done without the grant
- Most likely, but at a much slower implementation and completion schedule
- Need was a 5, likelihood of meeting the need a 1. We have one of the lowest property tax bases per student in the state The one-cent sales tax has been a boon, but the particular projects helped us turn our planning around.
- No. The finances weren't there to complete the project on our own.
- No The first grant led to a successful bond vote.
- Probably not as a bond issue was rejected before
- The bond we passed before applying for grant #1. For grant #2 it allowed us to do additional work over and above the bond's scope.
- The district was running so close to their bonding capability it might not have happened. Getting the grant helped with the yes vote.
- There is no way we could have financed this project without the grant funding The likelihood of passing a bond issue is nil
- We used the grant money to renovate 8 science classrooms and labs at the high school. It would have been put off for 10 years until we had collected enough revenue from the LOSST to fund a renovation at the high school.
- We would have been forced to wait until the boiler broke down to replace it
- We would have had to scale back the first project by at least 30% without the money. The second project would not have been possible.
- Yes, we would have completed projects, but entire plan and structure of projects would have been different.
- Yes. We had already tried a bond issue prior to the announcement of the grants. The bond issue failed twice.
- Even with our matching funds, it was a struggle for our district to find the revenue sources to match grant allocation.
- The bond failed so we did not get the funds.
- We needed the space.
- We were going to build a new elementary. It was just a matter of how to structure the revenue

The above comments speak to the need of receiving assistance due to extremely tight budgets. Overall, it is apparent that the monies were critical to the districts in order to initiate the construction projects.

Item B. How necessary was it that you apply for the grant to resolve the issues of constructing new schools or remodeling existing buildings that faced your district? Why? (Construction Grants Survey)

Once again tight budgets were the factor involved in the necessity of applying for grant monies. The needs existed and, in many cases, would have remained unmet without the assistance from the grant. Approximately 92% responded that the necessity was at a medium-high to high level.

District Size		How necessary was it that you apply for the grant: Low 1	2	Medium 3	4	High 5	Total
Small (0-1199)	Count (%)	1 (2.2%)	0	2 (4.4%)	6 (13.3%)	36 (80%)	45
Medium (1200-4749)	Count (%)	0	1 (3.3%)	3 (10%)	5 (16.7%)	21 (70%)	30
Large (4750+)	Count (%)	0	0	0	2 (18.2%)	9 (81.8%)	11
Total	Count (%)	1 (1.2%)	1 (1.2%)	5 (5.8%)	13 (15.1%)	66 76.7(%)	86

Geographic Location			How necessary was it that you apply for the grant: Low 1	2	Medium 3	4	High 5	Total
AEA	1	Count (%)	0	0	0	0	5 (100%)	5
	4	Count (%)	0	0	0	0	2 (100%)	2
	5	Count (%)	0	0	1 (14.3%)	2 (28.6%)	4 (57.1%)	7
	7	Count (%)	0	1 (5.6%)	0	4 (22.2%)	13 (72.2%)	18
	9	Count (%)	0	0	2 (25%)	1 (12.5%)	5 (62.5%)	8
	10	Count (%)	0	0	0	1 (10%)	9 (90%)	10
	11	Count (%)	0	0	0	2 (18.2%)	9 (81.8%)	11
	12	Count (%)	0	0	0	1 (25%)	3 (75%)	4
	13	Count (%)	0	0	1 (14.3%)	1 (14.3%)	5 (71.4%)	7
	14	Count (%)	1 (25%)	0	1 (25%)	0	2 (50%)	4
	15	Count (%)	0	0	0	1 (14.3%)	6 (85.7%)	7
	16	Count (%)	0	0	0	0	3 (100%)	3
Total		Count (%)	1 (1.2%)	1 (1.2%)	5 (5.8%)	13 (15.1%)	66 (76.7%)	86

Sample statements regarding the necessity of application for a construction grant
(See Appendix III-B for a complete listing)

- Because of the number of students in wheelchairs in our district, access to facilities is critical.
- In the case of the addition to a new middle school, this grant helped us completely close an older, less efficient building. In the case of an HVAC upgrade, one-cent sales tax money simply was not available.
- Inflation, rising construction costs and mandated code requirements all contribute to higher per square foot construction costs. The grant monies allowed for available local funds to purchase additional scope of work in construction designing.
- Insufficient bonding capacity.
- It was paramount in renovating the elementary building. The ability to generate enough funds through bond referendums is not possible.
- Lack of space; teacher doubled up in some classrooms, other spaces inadequate for the program.
- Only have 1¢ sales tax dollars. Community would not vote to pass bond for such improvements.
- Our tax is pushing $18.00 per $1000 assessed valuation and we only have $12.5 million in bonding capacity. We are growing at a rate which will force us to build three schools in the next 5-6 years. Our bonding capacity will not allow it.
- Rising construction costs from planning to implementation would have caused us to scale back considerably without the grant.
- Very necessary. No improvements would have occurred without the grant support.
- Yes. The available money helped make patrons look at how this would lower the property tax portion of a bond issue.
- Absolutely necessary as we could not have achieved our infrastructure goals without the matching funds.
- As I said, the grant was the deciding factor. Our four communities have had problems in cooperating on bond issues. This helped to make the decision.
- It was important, as no construction would have been completed without the grant.
- Local sources of revenue are insufficient to address all building needs. Without the grant funds fewer projects will be able to be undertaken and completed.
- Our bonding capacity was limited. So these grants were very important to us. We did not have a significant reserve in PPEL, so these grants became critical for the new high school and remodeling of our old high school.
- The grant allows the district to move forward aggressively to address identified needs.

In most cases, bonding capacity was limited to the extent that the construction or renovation most likely would not have taken place without the assistance of the grant.

Item C. To what degree did the grant monies assist in alleviating the construction or remodeling issues? Please explain. (Construction Grants Survey)

As can be seen in the tables below, 95.3% of the districts believed that the grants alleviated some of their construction issues at the "medium" to "high" levels. There were very few who felt that the grants were of low value.

District Size		Degree grant money alleviated construction or remodeling issues					Total
		Low 1	2	Medium 3	4	High 5	
Small (0-1199)	Count (%)	0	0	3 (6,7%)	6 (13.3%)	36 (80%)	45
Medium (1200-4749)	Count (%)	3 (10%)	0	1 (3.3%)	14 (46.7%)	12 (40%)	30
Large (4750+)	Count (%)	0	1 (9.1%)	1 (9.1%)	1 (9.1%)	8 (72.7%)	11
Total	Count (%)	3 (3.5%)	1 (1.2%)	5 (5.8%)	21 (24.4%)	56 (65.1%)	86

Geographic Location			Degree grant money alleviated construction or remodeling issues					Total
			Low 1	2	Medium 3	4	High 5	
AEA	1	Couut (%)	0	0	0	0	5 (100%)	5
	4	Count (%)	0	0	1 (50%)	0	1 (50%)	2
	5	Count (%)	0	0	0	4 (57.1%)	3 (42.9%)	7
	7	Count (%)	1 (5.6%)	1 (5.6%)	2 (11.1%)	4 (22.2%)	10 (55.6%)	18
	9	Count (%)	0	0	0	4 (50%)	4 (50%)	8
	10	Count (%)	1 (10%)	0	1 (10%)	3 (30%)	5 (50%)	10
	11	Count (%)	1 (9.1%)	0	1 (9.1%)	2 (18.2%)	7 (63.6%)	11
	12	Count (%)	0	0	0	0	4 (100%)	4
	13	Count (%)	0	0	0	0	7 (100%)	7
	14	Count (%)	0	0	0	1 (25%)	3 (75%)	4
	15	Count (%)	0	0	0	1 (14.3%)	6 (85.7%)	7
	16	Count (%)	0	0	0	2 (66.7%)	1 (33.3%)	3
Total		Count (%)	3 (3.5%)	1 (1.2%)	5 (5.8%)	21 (24.4%)	56 (65.1%)	86

Sample statements regarding the degree that grant money alleviated construction or remodeling issues (See Appendix III-C for a complete listing)

- For the 2000 grant, we had to wait on the construction of the four classroom additions for successful passage of a local option sales tax vote. We had the money we needed, with the grant, to complete the project.
- Other needs remain but quantum leaps were made with the grant.
- Our district is a rural area with low valuations and we don't generate very much in property tax so to make the finances work we had to have the grant.
- The grant monies enable us to stretch our local funds to undertake more projects and to ensure that all needs are being met. A remodeled building receives the resources it needs to bring it up to par with a new building.
- The grant provided a way to address the critical needs of our district in regards to maintenance. These funds allowed us to take existing funding and stretch it to meet our many needs.
- We will have a new elementary and middle school by the start of the 2005-06 school year. This would not have been the case without the grant funds. We still have the issues involved in updating our high school.
- With the grant funds as a base, foundation and private donations were received to complete the construction projects.
- Funds provided opportunity to construct buildings/rooms that would not have been feasible.
- Grant monies opened the door to the community and board to push to set and accomplish facility goals.
- The bond failed so we did not get the funds.
- Not at all, we lost it.

Based on the data and the comments associated with this question, it is apparent that the grant provided an impetus to setting facility goals, allocating budget dollars to the goals, and initiating the construction or renovation projects.

Item D. Were the school board, educators and community satisfied with the project? Please explain. (Construction Grants Survey)

If the grant monies are well used and well received in districts, a high level of satisfaction is expected from the educators and the community. The data below illustrates that over 90% of the respondents believed that these groups were satisfied with the projects. Only 2 3% indicated that satisfaction was not met.

District Size		Satisfied with project			Total
		No	?	Yes	
Small (0-1199)	Count (%)	0	5 (11.1%)	40 (88.9%)	45
Medium (1200-4749)	Count (%)	2 (6.7%)	1 (3.3%)	27 (90%)	30
Large (4750+)	Count (%)	0	0	11 (100%)	11
Total	Count (%)	2 (2 3%)	6 (7%)	78 (90.7%)	86

Geographic Location			Satisfied with project			Total
			No	?	Yes	
AEA	1	Count (%)	0	0	5 (100%)	5
	4	Count (%)	0	0	2 (100%)	2
	5	Count (%)	0	0	7 (100%)	7
	7	Count (%)	0	2 (11.1%)	16 (88.9%)	18
	9	Count (%)	0	0	8 (100%)	8
	10	Count (%)	1 (10%)	0	9 (90%)	10
	11	Count (%)	1 (9 1%)	3 (27 3%)	7 (63.6%)	11
	12	Count (%)	0	1 (25%)	3 (75%)	4
	13	Count (%)	0	0	7 (100%)	7
	14	Count (%)	0	0	4 (100%)	4
	15	Count (%)	0	0	7 (100%)	7
	16	Count (%)	0	0	3 (100%)	3
Total		Count (%)	2 (2.3%)	6 (7%)	78 (90.7%)	86

Sample statements regarding the project satisfaction (See Appendix III-D for a complete listing)

- The 4 classroom additions actually connected to the wings of the new high school. Not only has it enabled us to connect the buildings in a pleasing way, the function of it has enabled us to expand our curriculum Every teacher now has a room and the addition looks like it has been a part of the original construction.
- The project has been very successful. It may now help us to get a very old building closed and allow room enough for all elementary to be housed at one location.
- The school board, educators, and community have been very pleased with the project The community recently voted to renew the PPEL levy for another ten years. A citizens oversight committee meets regularly and helps ensure accountability. City officials have been especially pleased with neighborhood revitalization after a new school has been built
- Very satisfied. Appreciate the efforts of the DE in overseeing the grants in a fair and easy to complete format.

- Very satisfied. Many favorable comments by patrons. Board is pleased.
- A point of pride.
- Board of Education, community and neighboring communities can't believe improvements in appearance and comfort to building.
- Everyone is pleased with the newly renovated facilities. The air movement and climate control are much improved. It is so light and brighr in the classroom. It is truly a learning environment.
- It is a great incentive to improve facilities and leverage additional resources.
- Recent district support of a $25 million bond referendum and passage of local option tax appear to be positive support by community/school board/educators, possibly triggered by visual impact of what can be accomplished when funding is available, demonstrated by projects supported by grant monies.
- The community, staff, and board were elated over the results of our construction project. They are already suggesting ideas for upcoming projects. Our success has had a positive impact on the neighboring district's ability to pass construction levies.
- The new facilities have resulted in at least two new major companies coming to town.
- Very pleased, community ownership and pride is at an all-time high.
- We need to replace two older buildings (three story). Our community has said "No" to two bond elections. Without the federal grant money, we wouldn't achieve our goal of a new elementary school.
- Construction has not started.
- Still in progress ... bid-letting in February 2005 with completion in August 2006.
- The project is still in its infancy.
- The bond failed so we did not get the funds.

The comments above relate the importance of "customer" satisfaction. Having the community and staff pleased with the projects allowed for great pride, suggestions for additional successful projects, and, in some cases, real growth in the community.

Item E. Are there other issues not resolved that additional grant monies might address in your district? Please explain and describe your priority order to address them. (Construction Grants Survey)

This question provided an opportunity for respondents to examine where their districts are in relation to additional construction and renovation needs. In many cases, districts were already making plans for applying for additional construction grants in future years. Approximately 80% of the districts determined that construction issues remained and needed to be addressed.

District Size		Other issues not resolved that additional grant monies might address			Total
		No	?	Yes	
Small (0-1199)	Count (%)	6 (14%)	7 (16.3%)	30 (69.8%)	43
Medium (1200-4749)	Count (%)	4 (13.8%)	0	25 (86.2%)	29
Large (4750+)	Count (%)	0	0	11 (100%)	11
Total	Count (%)	10 (12%)	7 (8.4%)	66 (79.5%)	83

			Other issues not resolved that additional grant monies might address			
Geographic Location			No	?	Yes	Total
AEA	1	Count (%)	0	0	5 (100%)	5
	4	Count (%)	1 (50%)	0	1 (50%)	2
	5	Count (%)	0	0	7 (100%)	7
	7	Count (%)	2 (12.5%)	2 (12.5%)	12 (75%)	16
	9	Count (%)	1 (14.3%)	0	6 (85.7%)	7
	10	Count (%)	1 (10%)	1 (10%)	8 (80%)	10
	11	Count (%)	2 (18.2%)	2 (18.2%)	7 (63.6%)	11
	12	Count (%)	0	1 (25%)	3 (75%)	4
	13	Count (%)	0	1 (14.3%)	6 (85.7%)	7
	14	Count (%)	1 (25%)	0	3 (75%)	4
	15	Count (%)	2 (28.6%)	0	5 (71.4%)	7
	16	Count (%)	0	0	3 (100%)	3
Total		Count (%)	10 (12%)	7 (8.4%)	66 (79.5%)	83

Sample statements regarding unresolved issues (See Appendix III-E for a complete listing)

- Not at this time.
- We have a 1950 building that needs a new boiler and rewiring. We would also like to air condition it so we could extend the school year. We hope to apply for grant money to help us.
- We have a strong need to address some roofing and wiring concerns in the secondary building. We will be applying for more assistance
- We have other major issues with our buildings. We have tried seven times to pass bond issues and have not succeeded. We now have new administration and are going to attempt some changes again in about a year. A grant at that time would be welcomed.
- With low bonding capacity and buildings that are over 50 years old, ongoing maintenance will be required. The community thinks brick lasts forever but to keep it watertight requires constant attention. We still have several major projects to complete in the next 3-5 years.
- Infrastructure needs, heating, cooling, plumbing, electrical continue to outstrip available funds.
- Our district bond referendum identified $35 million of infrastructure needs; however, the community supported only $25 million. Additional grant monies would allow local funds to stretch farther.
- Our science room is in desperate need of being updated It is still equipped with original fixtures that were installed in about 1950. Our Ag program desperately needs space for classroom and shop areas
- The district still has many millions of dollars of unmet facility needs. Local funds (LOSST and PPEL) will be insufficient to meet all the needs before the levies expire.
- The grant helped address issues related with a 1951 section of our bnilding Similar issues need to be addressed in a 1959 section of the building.
- We have well over $100 million identified projects that remain unfunded to date. Basic needs i.e., ADA, roofs and HVAC are the top priorities.

While the grant monies enabled districts to address substantial construction and renovation issues, many still exist. Several references were made to the hope and desire for the grant program to remain in existence in future years.

Item F. Were there any unintended consequences or spin-offs (positive or negative) from the granted monies that were of note? Please explain. (Construction Grants Survey)

Similar to the fire (life) safety awards, the construction projects yielded a 50-50 split on whether or not some unintended consequences emerged as a result of the work accomplished.

District Size		Unintended consequences			Total
		No	?	Yes	
Small (0-1199)	Count (%)	20 (45.5%)	4 (9.1%)	20 (45.5%)	44
Medium (1200-4749)	Count (%)	12 (40%)	4 (13.3%)	14 (46.7%)	30
Large (4750+)	Count (%)	6 (54.5%)	1 (9.1%)	4 (36.4%)	11
Total	Count (%)	38 (44.7%)	9 (10.6%)	38 (44.7%)	85

			Unintended consequences			Total
			No	?	Yes	
AEA	1	Count (%)	1 (20%)	1 (20%)	3 (60%)	5
	4	Count (%)	1 (50%)	0	1 (50%)	2
	5	Count (%)	3 (42.9%)	0	4 (57.1%)	7
	7	Count (%)	7 (41.2%)	1 (5.9%)	9 (52.9%)	17
	9	Count (%)	5 (62.5%)	1 (12.5%)	2 (25%)	8
	10	Count (%)	7 (70%)	1 (10%)	2 (20%)	10
	11	Count (%)	4 (36.4%)	3 (27.3%)	4 (36.4%)	11
	12	Count (%)	2 (50%)	0	2 (50%)	4
	13	Count (%)	2 (28.6%)	0	5 (71.4%)	7
	14	Count (%)	2 (50%)	1 (25%)	1 (25%)	4
	15	Count (%)	3 (42.9%)	1 (14.3%)	3 (42.9%)	7
	16	Count (%)	1 (33.3%)	0	2 (66.7%)	3
Total		Count (%)	38 (44.7%)	9 (10.6%)	38 (44.7%)	85

Sample statements regarding positive unintended consequences or spin-offs (See Appendix III-F for a complete listing)

- Better student learning and it has really helped with pride in the community. It helps with economic development
- Made us aware of other infrastructure needs in the district.
- More projects were completed than those for which funds were requested.
- New companies came to town.
- The district did leverage funds for a bond issue, LOSST vote and private and foundation donations.
- Additional space provided opportunity to remodel other areas. Also positive school/community relations as we all use the school and public libraries and activity area.
- Great community involvement and ownership. Our community is making greater and greater use of our remodeled facilities.
- People in the community have donated many hours and funds to supplement what the construction project has done (i.e. weight room equipment, score boards, trees, etc.)
- Provided impetus for successful local bond referendum!
- Tremendous support from our community to assist with furnishings. Positive feedback from patrons noting that we are addressing academic/classroom needs first!

Statements regarding negative unintended consequences or spin-offs

- A group of taxpayers challenged the elementary project
- Davis-Bacon additional costs for paper work -- nothing to my knowledge on pay scale -- around $10,000 cost
- The district was not aware of the Davis-Bacon Act and needed to do some backtracking
- The only unintended consequence was early in the grant program understanding and monitoring compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. The district has had to pay wages higher than the average local rate and has established a strong system for compliance.

Once again comments were made regarding the growing level of pride in the districts, the positive public relations, and the focus on other possibilities that could successfully be accomplished.

Item G. Have the grant monies impacted your ability to leverage funds through a bond issue or other referendum(s)? Please explain. (Construction Grants Survey)

One of the objectives of the grant program was to provide districts with leveraging power through supplying enough seed money to overcome reluctance to fund major construction or renovation projects. As can be seen in the tables below and in the following comments, approximately 58% of the districts believed that the grant money definitely impacted their ability to leverage additional funds.

District Size		Grant money impacted ability to leverage funds			Total
		No	?	Yes	
Small (0-1199)	Count (%)	11 (25%)	3 (6.8%)	30 (68 2%)	44
Medium (1200-4749)	Count (%)	11 (36.7%)	6 (20%)	13 (43 3%)	30
Large (4750+)	Count (%)	5 (45 5%)	0	6 (54.5%)	11
Total	Count (%)	27 (31.8%)	9 (10.6%)	49 (57.6%)	85

Geographic Location			Grant money impacted ability to leverage funds			Total
			No	?	Yes	
AEA	1	Count (%)	0	0	5 (100%)	5
	4	Count (%)	1 (50%)	0	1 (50%)	2
	5	Count (%)	3 (42 9%)	0	4 (57.1%)	7
	7	Count (%)	9 (52.9%)	2 (11.8%)	6 (35.3%)	17
	9	Count (%)	3 (%)	2 (%)	3 (%)	8
	10	Count (%)	2 (20%)	0	8 (80%)	10
	11	Count (%)	5 (45.5%)	0	6 (54 5%)	11
	12	Count (%)	0	2 (50%)	2 (50%)	4
	13	Count (%)	1 (14.3%)	0	6 (85 7%)	7
	14	Count (%)	0	1 (25%)	3 (75%)	4
	15	Count (%)	1 (14.3%)	1 (14.3%)	5 (71.4%)	7
	16	Count (%)	2 (66.7%)	1 (33.3%)	0	3
Total		Count (%)	27 (31.8%)	9 (10.6%)	49 (57.6%)	85

Sample statements regarding ability to leverage for bonding (See Appendix III-G for a complete listing)

- The money is such a small percentage of the overall cost of the project I am not sure that had anything to do with the passage of our bond issue.
- Due to the grant we were able to get a successful yes vote
- Our community has supported recently the sales tax. We've had community members mention they like how grants and sales tax combined can do some "big" items for us.
- SILO was passed to match the grant.
- The fact of availing ourselves of the grant opportunities was used as a plus point when campaigning for the LOSST referendum.
- The grant funds helped us leverage our local dollars.
- The grant undoubtedly had a positive impact on the bond issue
- The matching requirement was a significant factor in getting the voters to approve the tax levy.
- Absolutely yes. As I have stated, the grant was of great help in passing a bond issue, which had failed twice
- After the bond issue was approved, the district passed both the sales tax and the income tax surtax to fund the bond issue instead of property taxes
- As a result of construction grant, we were simultaneously able to pass a 10-year capital loan note of $1,224,000 for new construction of 4-6 attendance center to existing secondary building. The result has been a reduction of general fund expenditures.
- People were more willing to vote for a bond issue if they had help. We really appreciate this.
- We need to replace two older buildings (three story). Our community has said "No" to two bond elections. Without the federal grant money, we wouldn't achieve our goal of a new elementary school.

F. Districts Not Awarded a Grant

A written survey consisting of four questions plus an open comments section was sent to each of the 108 districts not receiving either a fire (life) safety or a construction award during the time period analyzed. The purpose of the survey was to determine if the districts were aware of the grant program, to analyze why districts did not receive an award, and to receive suggestions as to how to change processes to encourage more district's to participate. Over 96% of the districts returned the survey and provided information to assist in strengthening the current program.

Item 1. Were you or your predecessor(s) aware of the fire (life) safety and construction grant opportunities for your district?

As illustrated at right, only one district responded that they were not aware of the grant opportunities. No reason was provided as to why that was the case. The results strongly suggest that the notification process and subsequent communications are accomplishing what is intended.

Responses	Aware	Pct Yes	Not Aware	Pct No
104	103	99%	1	1%

Item 2a. If not, do you believe you would have applied given the appropriate information? Please explain.

- "We are not ready to bond yet."

Item 2b. Please describe what we could have done differently to communicate to you or others within your district?

- We have applied in the past and have applied again this year. I hope our applications are NOT being ignored.
- The communication is not the problem. The possibility of actually receiving a grant is! With many of us superintendents moving around the state, a good share of us have had such disappointing experiences, that we

don't respond to the next year's application process.

- Thought you could not apply if the fire marshal cited you as in need of making such improvements.
- We applied last year and did not receive it because we had not had a bond, SILO, or ISL within the last five years. We are applying again.
- We did apply but were not awarded a grant. We will try again this fall. We did not have any prior citations from the State Fire Marshall, so that automatically eliminated us from applying for the fire (life) safety grants. We now have citations!
- Your records are wrong.

There were only six comments related to this question. None of the comments speak directly to what could be done differently to communicate to the districts.

Item 3. If your answer to Item #1 was "Yes," please indicate your reasons for not applying for either the fire (life) safety or the construction grant. Please check all that apply.

To this item, 74 districts (57 small and 17 medium) replied but, with multiple choices possible, there were 89 total responses recorded. The purpose of the question was to determine why districts were not awarded either a fire (life) safety or a construction award over the six years in question. In forty-one (55%) of the cases, an application was made for a grant, but was not funded for one of several possible reasons. The remaining thirty-three districts (45%) did not apply for reasons shown below. Approximately half of these districts indicated that there was not an existing need for a grant at the time of the application process.

Reasons for not receiving an award by district size

Item	Item Number	Small Districts (57)	Pct	Medium Districts (17)	Pct	Total Count	Pct of Responses
Applied but not funded	Item 3a	33	57.9%	8	47.1%	41	55.4%
Did not understand grants' purposes	Item 3b	1	1.8%	3	17.7%	4	5.4%
Did not have a need	Item 3c	17	29.8%	6	35.3%	23	31.1%
Too time consuming or too difficult grant	Item 3d	5	8.8%	2	11.8%	7	9.5%
Matching $ was too difficult to achieve	Item 3e	12	21.1%	2	11.8%	14	18.9%

Due to the low number of districts responding to this item, it was not informative to examine reasons by AEA breakout.

Sample statements (See Appendix IV-3 for a complete listing)

- We had not had a visit from the fire marshal for four years and there was no need based on no visit. The construction grant seems to have a higher priority for new construction rather than renovation and replacement of outdated components that we need. The scoring system just seems to be weighted unfairly.
- First year in position and did not get application completed on time
- Did not believe we could generate enough points on the rubric due to section that includes low socio-economic status qualifier
- Did not have a fire marshal inspection in over six years.
- It has been very difficult to get area providers to give us quotes. We certainly have a need We will apply this year if vendors will respond to us in a timely manner.
- Looking at some of the questions dealing with PPEL elections, I doubted if we would be awarded a grant.
- On the construction grant, I have always questioned whether or not our projects met criteria of the grant. Also confused about timing of grant application. Do you apply for grant first, then seek local match or vice versa?
- Some of the projects that would have qualified were already underway and therefore excluded us from applying.
- The needs that qualify were not of enough significance to warrant application in the fire (life) safety and the construction match required was beyond our current ability to pay.
- The time frame restriction (re: when you have to spend the money and complete the project) has not allowed me to apply for the grant I do intend to apply in the future.
- We applied for and received two construction grants - Vision Iowa and School Renovation IDEA/Technology - and received both
- District was not directly made aware of applications and due dates.
- I have been informed several times that it is a waste of my time to apply since we receive LOSST money! Yes, I would apply, however, why try if we don't have a chance.

Item 4. Please provide suggestions as to how we could change communications, the application process, application requirements, or other aspects of the fire (life) safety and construction grants to encourage more districts to participate.

In an effort to learn how more districts could be successful applicants, this question asked for suggestions for changes that could be enabled over time.

Sample supportive suggestions
(See Appendix IV-4 for a complete listing)

- Continue with e-mails, ICN and responsiveness to questions.
- From the application I submitted this cycle, I would say the application process is fine. I hope our grant request is funded. Thanks.
- I believe the application requirements are understandable and straightforward. No change necessary.
- I have read the grant We do not have a need at this time. It is well advertised and is easy to do.
- When we finally had the required inspection, I felt the fire (life) safety grant was an easy one to apply for. All of the communication I needed was readily available I also appreciated the ICN session on November 15th so I could make sure everything was in place for the application. I wouldn't change a thing!

Sample statements with concerns raised

- A 75% match is very difficult for many districts to achieve. Fire safety requires a citation from the Fire Marshal's office. This is too restrictive There are lots of needs that don't result in a citation
- Broaden the criteria for construction or make categories. The smaller, rural districts do have needs but did not fit into this grant. Example -- installing an elevator.
- Don't send all info only to superintendents. Make application less time consuming.
- E-mails to at least two district officials. ICN training needs to be done at least 30 days prior to application to allow for board approval.
- I don't think there is any need to change the notification process. However, if we do not get annual or biannual fire inspections, we cannor use the grant process

- I understand it would be difficult, but provide feedback as to weak areas or concerns to a district regarding the application.
- Over 70 of us were denied last year. If school has received why not open only to those who haven't first -- don't know how to be fair, though I am not a professional grant writer and I understand schools hired one and didn't receive either.
- Schools that have taken care of facilities as we have, have difficulty meeting the requirements. We do have construction needs but this grant's requirements don't fit
- The grant application is far too time consuming and too long to complete. Have a web-based grant application for this process.
- To be honest, it has been the only day that has brought me to tears since I took this position. I feel we lost $100,000 unfairly.
- Why do grants have to be competitive? Either there is a need or there is not. Schools with talented grant writers have a huge advantage.

Item 5. Other Comments: (see Appendix IV-5 for a complete listing)

Samples indicative of the general comments (See Appendix IV-5 for a complete listing)

- I think it is extremely important to help districts with older buildings. Thanks for the input. We have modern and safe facilities We completed a remodeling construction program before this grant became available. We don't have a need right now
- Previous to the 2004-05 school year, the fire marshal had not been in our schools for five years. We were making small improvements that did not cost much We did not have a voted PPEL or local option sales tax that generated enough for a 75% match on the construction side so we did not apply. Now the fire marshal's been in, major cleanup on their part, so we will be applying this year.
- Explanations for failure would be most welcome so that any shortcomings in our application could be addressed in future applications.
- We are trying again. I felt out of my league when writing this grant. I know what we need as Fire Marshal really hit us hard at his last visit but vocabulary is different
- We did not get notification of the application or due dates of the last grant. E-mails to more than one person in the district would be best.
- We have sent in applications for the past three years but have not received any grant money. We are planning to apply again this December

G. Conclusions

As stated at the beginning of this document, the overall purpose of the Infrastructure Grant Evaluation was to determine the efficacy and perceived value of the program for participating local school districts from the program's infancy through the last fiscal year (FY04) of the study.

To accomplish the overall purpose listed above, surveys were sent to school districts to:

Determine the districts' overall reaction to the grant program

The 263 districts awarded grant monies were overwhelmingly positive about the program Almost all indicated that the economic condition for education existing for many years has caused the districts' infrastructure to suffer in order to maintain excellent teaching/learning programs for students. The fire (life) safety awards allowed cited safety issues to be addressed immediately rather than rectified over a multi-year time period if at all The construction awards helped leverage community support for the building or remodeling of structures to further enhance the educational process.

Determine what was effective and what was not effective about the program

Other than the fact that the awards enhanced district budgets, perhaps the most effective parts of the program were three-fold Most districts found that the application procedures were relatively simple, the interim and final reports were easy to complete if adequate records were maintained, and communication with the Department of Education was of the highest order. The requirement for matching district dollars was perhaps seen as the least effective aspect of the program. However, many of the districts indicated that the matching dollars stipulation encouraged community support and total project buy-in

Determine what changes the districts would like to see in the program

Responses indicated that over the years, suggestions in terms of timing of the awards, assistance provided by the Department of Education, and application format were listened to and incorporated into the grant process. Approximately 29% of the districts felt that the program ought to be more flexible. This for the most part referred to criteria for awards or increased timelines for the completion of the application. Suggestions compromising the integrity of the program were set aside.

Determine what benefits the district realized from either type of grant

Multiple benefits have emerged from the two types of grants. The most obvious, of course, are the budgetary benefits that provided increased safety of staff and students and/or an enhanced learning environment. These monies allowed for general budget allocations to be channeled directly to the teaching/learning process for the benefit of children. Safety and construction projects that would have taken many years to accomplish could be addressed in a timely manner. Perhaps an unexpected benefit occurring in many of the districts was the increased community awareness and support of the safety and learning needs of the staff and students.

Determine if districts would have completed the awarded projects without the grant

In some instances, the answer to the question is a resounding no – the projects would not have been initiated without the grant award. For other districts, many of the issues faced were of a nature that there was no choice. For the safety of the students and staff or for the continuation of a healthy teaching/learning environment, the needs would eventually be addressed. However, without the grant, other aspects of the budget would suffer and the projects would most likely have been pared down and/or delayed.

Determine how the grants impacted the ability of districts to raise funds through a bond issue or other referendum

The majority of the districts (58%) receiving a construction award believed that the grant money definitely impacted their ability to leverage funds through a bond issue or other referendum. An additional 10% were unsure if they made a difference while 32% did not believe the grants had an impact on leveraging ability. Many of the districts responded that community members were more willing to vote for a bond issue since the grants eased the debt burden.

Determine the districts' ability to meet the grant criteria including the local match

Only 41 of the 371 districts indicated that their application was not awarded a grant during the six-year time period. Sixty-seven districts did not apply. Those receiving awards (263 districts/71%) successfully met the grant criteria. Fourteen districts indicated that the local match was too difficult to achieve due to local support or the timing of the award process. Based on the responses, it appears that the grant criteria have been reasonable to attain through the application process.

Determine why a district did not meet the local match and if changes to the program might have enabled the district to meet the local match

In several instances, districts indicated they did not have enough time from the award of the grant to initiate and successfully pass a bond issue. Without the bond issue for a match, monies were not allocated from the grant to the district for local usage. These districts felt strongly that more flexibility in the time frame be allowed in the process.

Determine why districts did not apply for the available grants

Of the 371 districts eligible to apply for an infrastructure grant over the time period studied, there were 108 that did not receive a grant. Forty-one of those districts applied but were not awarded monies for failure to successfully meet the prescribed criteria. In several cases, they were awarded grant monies but failed to meet the required match – often due to a timing issue for bond passage. Twenty-three of the remaining districts did not have a need that matched the intent of the program. Other districts felt that the process of applying was to difficult/time-consuming or that the matching dollars requirement was too difficult to achieve. Only one district indicated that they were not aware of the program.

Overall, the Infrastructure Grant Program appears to be highly successful. There has been a significant increase in the safety of staff and students through the reduction of critical fire marshal citations. Secondly, learning environments have been enhanced through construction grants. The awards provided the seed money and leveraging power to overcome reluctance to fund major construction or renovation projects.

H. Recommendations

After reviewing the results of the four surveys, several recommendations emerged to help ensure the continued success of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. The recommendations are based on the ratings and comments that appear to be emphasized throughout the entire study.

1. Continue to ask for and listen to suggestions made by the district personnel.
2. Maintain the current on-site visitation process to further understand the success and shortcomings of the program.
3. Examine the possibilities of enhancing the use of technology for communication – including additional usage of the ICN and the dedicated infrastructure website
4. Continue to pilot and evaluate new methods of communication to the districts.
5. Conduct special workshops earlier in the grant cycle targeted for new superintendents

Appendix I

General Survey Comments

(All Districts Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety or Construction Grant)

Appendix I
General Survey Comments
(All Districts Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety or Construction Grant)

A. Do you believe that the infrastructure grant program should be changed? Please explain.

1. Awards should be smaller 250k instead of 500k to allow more awards. Less emphasis should be placed on Free and Reduced Lunch numbers and more on the growth of student numbers.
2. Because of the grants, we have been able to meet the building needs as indicated by the fire and safety inspections.
3. Besides new construction the ongoing costs of such systems should be considered.
4. Changing infrastructure needs of Iowa districts continue to challenge available funding sources.
5. We applied several years but due to our need, and the requirement of the grant we are virtually disqualified. The fire (life) safety grant is fine.
6. Don't make it more complicated. In fact, if there are ways to streamline it, that would be great.
7. Easy to follow instructions -- application takes time.
8. Fire--Safety is fine.
9. First year superintendent -- need additional information regarding grant monies
10. Fire (life) safety program helped address our safety issues.
11. Good strong program.
12. We received the Fire Safety grant 2 of the 3 times applied for it. I believe the guidelines have gotten stricter and been harder to receive.
13. I am happy with the help!
14. I am happy with the way the grant is laid out.
15. I believe it works well as is.
16. I believe it works well as is.
17. I believe it would be beneficial if accessibility issues could also be included.
18. I believe the current structure is appropriate.
19. I feel it is fair and equitable
20. I feel its purpose is appropriate. Possibly less emphasis on F/R count.
21. I like the way it is tied directly to the deficiencies outlined in the fire marshal's report
22. I think the grant should give more consideration to those schools who have fire marshal's that require more than what the state requires. For example sprinklers vs. smoke for fire detection.
23. I thought it was more user friendly this year.
24. I thought the grant application process was reasonably easy.
25. I thought the process was fair.
26. If you want to continue to do the things it was established to do, why change? Unless we could use a portion for asbestos removal?
27. Include opportunities to use existing PPEL levies to incorporate into district contribution in project completion.
28. Infrastructure grant program has provided an opportunity to do more with our remodeling project.
29. It is intended to help schools pay for items that the fire marshal has cited schools for.
30. It is very difficult to work with contractors and grants.
31. It worked extremely well for us.
32. It would be helpful if the grant included general maintenance to buildings, grounds, and transportation.
33. It would be helpful if this could be used for more projects!
34. It would be nice to include gyms, etc.

35 It would help if the infrastructure grant would be a little more flexible so districts can meet additional academic needs.
36. Money was received timely. The process seemed adequate.
37. No
38. No changes recommended
39. Not just limited to fire marshal citations.
40 O.K. as is. Program worked as designed for the district.
41. Process is relatively easy to complete and requires minimal time.
42. Seems only certain projects are funded.
43 Should be able to keep award if bonding again within 12 months.
44. Some schools passed bond issues and then received the grant on top of this simply because of timing. Had we waited 6-12 months to pass our bond issue we could have had a better chance to get more funding.
45. The Dept. has addressed this each year.
46. The grant program seemed well organized.
47. The grant scoring process seems to make it almost impossible to get a grant unless you have a high FRL%.
48. The infrastructure program does a good job distributing funds to all sizes of schools and uses a measurement system that is clear and well designed.
49. The infrastructure program is easy to understand in its current form.
50. The more flexible it is, the more people will apply!
51. The problem is something that can't be changed. Funding!! The year we received the grant the amount was only $500,000 maximum, when the year before it had been $1,000,000. Neighboring districts received the grant 1 year apart but received $500,000 less.
52. The process fits my needs for time and data required for the fire/life safety grant.
53. The program gives focus to the purpose of constructing or remodeling our facilities. I do not believe it needs to be more flexible.
54. The program presently meets the needs of our program.
55. There are a number of safety issues related to construction/remodeling that cannot currently be addressed they are not identified by the fire marshal (i.e. school security issues, access to facilities, cameras to monitor for bullying...)
56. There are many safety issues that can be addressed if not limited by fire inspector recommendations
57. There seems to be some hindrance depending on the extent of your need (total dollar) and also depending on your financial situation. Just because a district has a surplus in their general fund does not mean that the need is any less or that those funds are available just for that project.
58. This program has allowed our district to implement fire (life) safety upgrades to assure enhanced safety of our attendance centers. I'm doubtful these upgrades could have been achieved without state resources.
59. This program has worked well for us. The match for the construction grant was better when it was 50-50.
60. Too long.
61. Too time consuming to gather information. Our district does not have a grant writer.
62. Very pleased.
63. We applied for the construction grant in 03-04. We were denied. We wanted to install a phone system, and were told that it was an area that would qualify.
64. We completed a fire life safety grant application for 2002-03 and were told after the awards were announced that our project did not qualify as a fire safety issue even though we had a letter from the fire department stating the requirements that this project (fire apparatus access road and fire hydrant) was required to have. A substantial amount of time was spent on the application only to find out later that the project did not qualify for a grant.
65. We have things we would like to complete with fire (life) safety but have not have them listed by the fire marshal and office

66. We have tried to obtain the construction grant and have failed for some reason to be awarded the grant. I am not sure why, but more flexibility might be helpful.
67 We have used two grants in the past and see no reason to change.
68. We tried to apply last year but we couldn't get the fire marshal to come out. I wrote a construction grant. We didn't get it last year.
69. When the fire marshal doesn't make regular visits sometimes we don't have citations to fix. However these are needs but you don't really want to call the fire marshal and ask for a visit.
70. Worked great for us!
71. Yes, should not have to show new funds to merit application.
72. Yes. We were not allowed to use the grant funding because the total project was not going to be completed. The school board voted to close the middle school building at the end of this year where half of the fire citations were given. The district wanted to use the budgeted section of the fire safety grant funding related to the half of the grant proposal, which involved correcting citations in the elementary school. Both parts of the grant proposal had been approved for funding. Flexibility in this program might include an exemption similar to our situation. We did not want to waste funding resources in a building that was to be closed by the end of the year and in doing so, lost all funding.
73. 75% local match is difficult to fund for our district because of obvious budget concerns and the rollback on property valuation.
74. As a district with a lot of projects needing to be completed, often the focus of how the dollars should be spent changes after the application is sent. We would be glad to be able to make changes with prior approval.
75. Each district is so different, yet we have many needs. Additional flexibility would enable projects to be done that are needed but don't quite fit the guidelines
76. Equal weight to new construction and remodeling. An unsuccessful application lost evaluation points because it was new construction rather than remodeling.
77. Estimating fire/safety grant cost is difficult. More flexibility is needed so that if more money is granted than used, other fire or safety issues could be allowed.
78. If circumstances should change after the grant has been awarded, it would be nice if the district had a little more flexibility in how the dollars were used.
79. It is an excellent program to provide critical resources to schools. I think the change to eliminate poverty districts as a priority is unfortunate because more affluent schools have newer buildings and need fewer fire (life) safety funds.
80. It seems that projects supporting early learning programs have been a priority each year. While I understand the importance of early learning programs, there may be equally important needs in other areas that should get due consideration, e.g. energy conservation and efficiency.
81. More flexibility allows for more creative ways to solve the problems.
82. More flexible to allow for construction of other school facilities (e.g. transportation, fitness).
83. Perhaps it is not possible to do, but I would think that for many districts to be able to receive a smaller amount on the construction side would allow more districts to participate.
84. Projects change from the start to what you end up with such as needs of kids, community, etc. It's hard to stay completely in the confines of the grant application and a process to request changes would be nice.
85. The more flexibility we have the more we can meet local needs. The grant is better than most, but we always want the most flexibility possible.
86. The restriction about having a citation from the fire marshal is a bit limiting.
87. Timelines are extremely difficult to meet. We got an $11 million grant and lost it due to the July 31st deadline for matching funds. We passed a bond issue three months later and didn't get to use the money.
88. We need a multipurpose room to accommodate our needs for: physical education, large group meetings and banquets, athletic practices, drama performances, musical performances, etc. Some of these are co-curricular

activities directly related to academics. The current program shuts us out
89. A "district must demonstrate a need" should continue to be a major criteria.
90. A little more flexibility would be nice. However, we realize that when there is that much money involved, that the guidelines must be strict.
91. Application and accountability expectations were reasonable and needed.
92. As is because it addresses the true infrastructure needs that districts have.
93 Has worked well for us. Since it is tied into noted deficiencies, those are the target areas and are where the money should go.
94. I appreciate effort to protect some monies for different sized schools. Larger districts often use professional grant writers and would have an unfair competitive edge if there were only one pool of money.
95. I believe it is accomplishing what it was intended to do. I was very satisfied with the process and appreciate the patience of all those involved.
96. I believe the funds allocated would be targeted for the intended purposes. If more flexible, projects of significant need may be overlooked more easily.
97. It has been handled in a way that gives every district a fair and equal chance.
98. It is fine the way it is. The needing of a citation helps to get help to those districts needing it the most.
99 My only experience has been after receiving citations from the fire marshal but that was a positive experience with the present program.
100. No. As I understand the construction grant we received prior to my tenure here, the process of application and awarding of the grant went very well. The fire and safety grant from last year was critical to work we needed to accomplish and the process was very manageable.
101. Not really. There are many schools needing assistance. Keeping the applications tied to fire marshal's notices is a good way to keep everyone doing what is necessary.
102. The fire (life) safety grants are very flexible and work to meet our needs.
103 The process forces communities to form priorities and to also put up some local funds to match the grant. This requires commitment and ownership. That is necessary if the community is going to appreciate the funding and have community buy-in.
104. The process to apply has been improved and is now more flexible. We are preparing for fire (life) safety 2004 and like the improvements.
105. We strongly advocated for changes two years ago, and some of those changes were incorporated. We are satisfied now.
106. As is for construction grants; and more flexible for fire safety grants.
107. Construction portion/allocation has been beneficial for our district. For the remodeling in fire-safety, we would prefer more flexibility in identifying needs. We have high priority needs that are not noted in a fire-safety report.

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B. Was the time allowed to complete the grant application adequate? If not what would you suggest?

1. As I remember it, pretty short time line.
2. Filled out prior to me.
3. Fine!
4. Have two allocation periods during each fiscal year.
5. I need more notification up front to get bids.
6. I wasn't part of this process.
7. If we wait till it's announced, we sometimes are pretty busy We usually start (the past year and currently) working in August.
8. In most cases we fix what we want to fix.

9. It has varied .... mostly OK
10. It was stressful getting everything completed and mailed by the deadline. A little more time would be very helpful.
11 It was very short, however we made it.
12. It would be hard to do the projects faster. More time would be good.
13. Minimal
14. Minimum of 90 days to prepare grant application.
15 More time could be used to gather supporting documents.
16. More time needed.
17. No problem.
18. OK
19. Our superintendent that completed the application is no longer with the district.
20. Seemed that too little time to get needed information together if one had a fall visit from fire marshal's office.
21. Seems short, but like a lot of other administrators, my plate is already full.
22. The time frame seemed reasonable.
23 The time to prepare application was fine to be able to assess the needs of the project
24. The timeline was fine. In order to get the building ready for the next school year, our project couldn't be completed in one summer, so we had to break it into two summers and holiday breaks.
25. This year -- yes!
26. Time is needed to garner community support. A bond issue may be necessary. The time between release of RFP and due date is limiting.
27. Time was adequate.
28. Very adequate.
29. Was completed by previous superintendent.
30. We had no problems.
31. We ran over the deadline but DE was very cooperative and understanding
32. Yes
33. Yes
34. Yes, although the current timeline of December 10 is causing us problems. We are planning board action on Dec. 20th.
35. Additional time would be helpful since sometimes the fire marshal visits can't coincide with the grant timelines. Estimates don't always come as quickly as one would like.
36. An extra month would be helpful (Jan 10th). There is a boatload of things happening early in the year and securing bids is time-consuming
37. Gathering five years of historical financial information can take a fair amount of time. I feel that extending the deadline to complete the application would be helpful. A one-month extension would make sense to me
38. I would like the announcement of the grants to be earlier. Many have elections prior to the announcement.
39. More time between when application is available to when application is due. Sometimes tough to get board approval in timely manner.
40. More time needed between when grant becomes available and deadline. Getting bond approval can be a problem.
41 The fire marshal just came to our district yesterday (Dec. 1st). We haven't received the report The grant is due Dec. 10th. It is impossible.
42. Challenging but adequate
43. Could be an on-line process from start to finish.
44. Even with contractors backing out on their commitments, the time period to finish projects was still met.
45. I was pleased with the process -- coordinating with fire marshal's office and the need for school board action was difficult
46. It was a tight time line but adequate.
47. The time allowed for completion of the grant application is adequate. If more

time is allowed people will take advantage of it but it is not likely to increase the number or quality of grant applications.

48. The time period from near the end of September to December 10th for the latest grants seems to me to be adequate.
49 Time allowed is fine. Notification by mail vs. e-mail would be my preference. E-mail sometimes does not get through and this will put a district at a disadvantage.
50. Training is late, but the application is very much like in the past so the later training is helpful just to confirm what you expect.
51. We also appreciated the ICN sessions that provided additional clarification and guidance

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C. Has the turnaround time from application to award been satisfactory? Comments:

1. Always very timely.
2. Could be earlier.
3. DE is always very responsive.
4 Don't have a recollection of 1998's project.
5. Good job.
6. Good response time.
7. Have not submitted payment voucher. Waiting for final inspections of system.
8. Helpful to know right away.
9. I believe it was our first grant.
10. I feel that the turnaround time has been reasonable.
11. I wasn't part of this process.
12. I would like the announcement of the grants to be earlier. Many have elections prior to the announcement.
13. It allowed plenty of time to do adequate planning.
14. It has provided enough to get everything in place.
15. It is a real help to plan and then address the needs right away.
16. It would be nice if the turn around was faster, but I have no idea if that is possible.
17. It would help to know about awards sooner.
18. March is a good month. Work can be scheduled for the summer months, which works out well.
19. More than satisfactory!
20. Not sure. I was not here at the time we received the grant
21. OK
22. The sooner the better for budget planning purposes.
23. The turnaround time was very minimal.
24. There were no problems with the turnaround time.
25. They have been inconsistent but I understand that is often something you do not control.
26. This is situational depending upon an ongoing problem or something that has just occurred.
27. Time frame is workable.
28. Timelines are extremely difficult to meet. We got an $11 million grant and lost it due to the July 31st deadline for matching funds. We passed a bond issue 3 months later and didn't get to use the money.
29. Too much time to notify.
30. Turnaround time helps to get the planning in place and the costs correct.
31. Turnaround time was timely.

32. Very good.
33 Very timely!
34. Very well done in a timely manner.
35. We d id n't hav e to wait forev er. Good turnaround.
36. We have had adequate time to plan and organize
37. We received notice right before the holidays. Perfect timing
38. Yes.
39. A concern I have is that if the fire marshal schedules a school visit late, the application process cannot be filed for that year.
40 Reduced turnaround would allow districts to maximize the construction seasons in Iowa, which are subject to climate and weather conditions
41. Seems too long if you wait for the award, then finalize request for bid, wait for school board to approve and start project by the time school is out.
42. As long as the timelines are known, it is not difficult to plan that way.
43. Could be quicker. We end up waiting a long time to let bids.
44. Everyone would like to see the time from when grants are to be turned in and the awards announced shortened, but it is okay.
45. It is workable -- takes good management and fiscal planning of course, but that is essential in any case.
46. The three-month delay is probably reasonable. However, a quicker response would be appreciated.
47. Very good. Very little red tape.
48. We are always eager to hear if we have been chosen to receive an award. The timeline has been reasonable and we take it into account in our project planning.

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D. Were the interim and final reports reasonable to prepare and provide adequate information? If not, what would you suggest? Comments:

1. All works well
2. Any problems were at this end.
3. Our AEA facilities coordinator was very helpful with completing final reports.
4. Did not complete because we did not receive funding.
5. Fine.
6. I believe that they are appropriate.
7. I did not fill out the final report but the interim report was reasonable.
8. I don't remember.
9. I wasn't part of this process.
10. It would be nice to have been given a timeline from the start as to when reports were due.
11. More time.
12. No problem.
13. OK
14. Our interim reports indicated little progress -- mainly due to when our project was scheduled to be implemented. It was frustrating to have nothing to report.
15. Our project is not finished, so have not done final reports.
16 Safe spaces!! It doesn't get any better than that. To know we have fire barriers so we can safely get students out enables us to sleep at night.
17. Sometimes construction timelines didn't coincide with report requirements.
18. The forms were adequate. As a rookie superintendent with a rookie board secretary, we should have done a better job of coding. The documentation portion was not initially clear.
19 The information really seemed repetitive in filling out the forms.

20. The reports are easy to prepare. I have no suggestions in this area
21. These reports have not been notably burdensome.
22. They were fine. Again thanks for your patience.
23. They were straightforward and the DE staff was helpful.
24. Very easy to fill out.
25. Very much needed in this time of educational funding cuts.
26. We did have some difficulty in this area since we had a change in superintendents during this period.
27. Yes, it was a very simple procedure
28. Sometimes we were unsure and were concerned that we would lose funding.
29. Too much reporting!
30. We had completed the report and then found out later that we now needed to provide a summary of vendors and expenditures. This might be explained better in the report directions.
31. A simple final report is all that is needed. Since you audit the projects anyway -- keep it simple.
32. All reports were reasonable to prepare. The sample forms provided were very helpful.
33. I have talked with DE staff and they have been super! However, I struggle with the form. I would be willing to dialogue with folks about that.
34. Nobody likes paper work but these reports are reasonable and we understand that progress needs to be tracked for accountability purposes.
35. The reports are straightforward and necessary.
36. The reports are very typical of grant monies. It tells where the money was spent.
37. The visit by the State Fire Marshall was wonderful and provided not only information to apply for the grant but also provided excellent changes in practice suggestions. We also received a visit from an AEA person who was also very helpful.
38. They were very fair and adequate from the school's standpoint. It was enough information for the DE to understand the project but reasonable in time to provide.
39. We carefully track project costs within our accounting system and have found the interim and final reports to be easy to prepare.

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E. To what extent do you feel that the grant monies have positively impacted the educational environment? Comments:

1. ++++
2. A safe environment is a good one.
3. Additional learning spaces enhance our district's commitment to effective instruction. More funds available would help the district's ten year plan to accomplish this goal.
4. Allowed changes we would not have been able to make.
5. Assisted in meeting fire marshal's requirements without taking funds from other areas
6. Available fund resource allows accomplishment of improvements and upgrades that may not have been realized due to budget constraints.
7. Both our grants were positively accepted by the communities and made a major impact on our educational facilities. The fire (life) safety grant was used to correct some major safety issues in our oldest building. Since we have not been able to pass a bond issue, money was very tight to correct these issues.
8. Buildings with fire/safety citations were able to correct deficiencies in less time with grant monies.

9. Certainly helped us have safer buildings.
10. Certainly the safety issue has improved. There has also been a secondary benefit of quieter rooms.
11. The high school is a safer building with the fire (life) safety improvements and alternative high students have a well-designed, modern learning environment.
12. We are very appreciative of the monies received. Without the funds, the projects would have been much slower and longer to complete, and in some cases, possibly not at all.
13. Enable money to improve learning environment for students.
14. Every dollar helps with today's school finances as they are.
15. Financially for schools, the grant program is a must. As to whether the project needed to be done, is a matter for a different agency.
16. Fire (Safety) Grant was extremely helpful and timely. We are a very small district with limited resources.
17. Fire alarm system was installed -- it definitely makes the learning environment safer.
18. Fire Safety -- Improved safety conditions for district.
    Construction -- We were able to pass a building issue vote and complete the building project successfully.
19. First it has created safe schools for kids.
20. From a safety aspect it is better.
21. Good to have financial help in making changes for fire marshal.
22. Grant $ were utilized to meet fire code standards. Did not play a huge role in the educational environment.
23. Has allowed the district to improve indoor air quality and overall has allowed for a more positive educational environment for all students.
24. Helped correct some safety shortfalls.
25. How can you put a value on safety issues? I saved my former school by putting in smoke alarms above the fire marshal's recommendations.
26. I believe it has made our school safer for students and staff. If there would be a fire in our school, it could be more contained and quicker notification than in the past.
27. I think they have helped schools to get at improving facilities. It provides an incentive to update.
28. I've seen the positives to districts that have received the grants.
29. It has allowed us to assist with an addition to our high school that has a positive impact on fire safety conditions.
30. It has allowed us to complete a couple of projects we wouldn't have been able to fund.
31. It has had a huge impact. The fire alarm system has made our building(s) fully compliant.
32. It has helped a lot in this time of budget cuts. There is no way we could have afforded to add preschool rooms without the grant.
33. It has helped provide a safer environment for our students.
34. It has made an incredible difference within the school and our communities. The greatest impact was the success our district experienced in creating a junior high identity (as the junior high students were intermingled within the 9-12 classrooms in our K-12 facility). They now have their own wing!
35. It provided us with an opportunity to make needed repairs and add equipment that was necessary, without local expenditures.
36. It really helps in safe environments for the students.
37. Less general fund towards projects and this leaves more general funds for education
38. Made possible the completion of the project, which has provided an exceptional Activities Center. Fire safety work could not have been completed without the grant funding
39. Made school safer, made educational environment more adaptable to hands-on

learning and improved school climate.

40. Money from the grants eliminates the expense from Physical Plant and Equipment Levy which allows us to but other needed equipment such as computers, bus or school facility repairs.
41. Most people won't notice the changes.
42. No question it has helped the overall environment.
43 Not sure -- never received grant!
44. Our district addressed a fire/life safety issue involving adequate separation of two floors of the building. The need would not have been addressed without the assistance of the grant funds
45. Our grants were both for fire safety. In that regard, I suppose the money created a safer environment, but I'm not sure of the positive impact on creating an environment more conducive to learning.
46. Our two grants have improved the safety in our school tremendously. The improvement in our alarm system and automatic dial-in was a dramatic improvement for our school. The second grant for door replacement improves our security in both school buildings, making it safer for all of our students.
47 Perhaps it is a stretch to even ask this question. I believe we could not have passed the bond issue without the grant. Having said that, the things we were able to do with the project have made a big difference, larger classrooms for special education, Title I, and early childhood; dedicated space for our latchkey program; improved heating and cooling system; new telephone and intercom systems, just to name a few things.
48 Plans to construct an addition to the high school and a new elementary school were allowed to proceed because of the grant monies received.
49. Provided additional funding to help make our facilities safe in a shorter time frame.
50 Safe buildings allow better care to be taken. Teacher/community members feel better about their school so fewer negative things are put on students.
51. Safer. A better awareness of environmental issues within the building and classrooms.
52. Safety impact -- significant. Overall impact on learning environment is less noticeable.
53. Safety is a big concern and this grant has taken care of one of the school issues in safety.
54. Safety is a big concern to all districts. There is not enough money in a budget without grants to make needed changes in older buildings that most districts in rural Iowa have.
55. Safety is always an issue for school districts; therefore, the school was able to address some of these issues.
56. Safety!
57. Same as my previous district -- to meet the safety needs of students. This was an important element in completing the project.
58. Significantly improved facilities and made facilities safer for students and staff.
59. Since we have only received the fire safety grants there hasn't been a lot of impact on the education environment directly. We've replaced some doors, doorknobs, etc. but these probably have minimal effect on the environment. However, from a parent's point of view, I would think knowing one's children are in a safe place would give some peace of mind. Also, the staff can feel assured that they are working in a safe place. The measures we take next in an effort to provide a safe environment are likely to be the same -- preparing for intruders. We will be looking into an intercom system, ways of securing areas and rooms, etc.
60. Students/staff are often not aware of the "safety" work that is completed Many times it is not visual to the staff, and thus they don't recognize the importance of the renovations.
61. Super impact! Positive.

62. Thanks. We couldn't have done it without these grants.
63. The alternative school has decreased the dropout rate by 80%.
64 The changes that were made because of the grant were positive and profound. A new ramp at the elementary school provides safe egress for all including the elderly and handicapped. Emergency lighting and fire alarms are updated at all centers When problems do occur we are much more comfortable knowing that we have new alarm systems and new doors to allow quicker and safer evacuation.
65. The classroom space we added for our lower elementary and preschool program have eased our crowded conditions and allowed us to eliminate a portable classroom. Now all of our students can be served in our main building This has been wonderful!
66 The early childhood center and additional classroom space have been critical to the educational functioning of this district.
67. The fire safety grant has helped us to provide a safer learning environment for our students, staff and visitors.
68. The firewall project addressed a safety issue for students and staff as well as improved the appearance of our elementary center.
69. The grant funds have allowed us to modernize our school facilities to a greater extent than we would without the funds.
70. The grant has allowed the district to have additional funds for building needs.
71. The grant money positively impacted our district. The grant money allowed us to repair our safety issues without using general fund -- PPEL funds.
72. The grant monies allowed the district to comply with extensive requirements mandated by the fire marshal at a time when the district was experiencing a difficult financial situation. The district participated in a Corrective Action Plan that was approved by the SBRC.
73. The grant monies have allowed our school district to make changes and improve our facilities for student safety and student learning that we would not have undertaken without the grant.
74. The grant monies have allowed the district to upgrade the fire alarm systems in our buildings. We were also able to correct an unsafe corridor situation. A district must supply a safe environment if students are expected to achieve to their potential.
75. The grant monies have very positively impacted the high school environment. Staff and students now k now the latest in fire safety eq uipment. Every one including community members is much more comfortable knowing the school environment is much safer.
76. The impact has been outstanding. My only concern was the reduction in per grant funding ($1,000,000 to $500,000) and total program funding reduction.
77. The improvements we made to our auditorium to make it safer for fire/life safety concerns had a very positive impact. New doors with panic bars, better lighting and new exit lights all improved the safety of our facility.
78. The learning environment is much more safe and secure because of the improvements which have been made.
79. The money we received allowed us to take care of other things we were in need of.
80. The monies made it possible for our district to do things we could not have done.
81. The new elementary has temporarily alleviated our crowding issues. Great addition to our campus.
82. The overall cost to upgrade old facilities is high.
83. The projects we have chosen are very visible and valued by staff and community. The projects have positively impacted public perception and student achievement.
84 The staff and students know that we have made a big attempt to provide safety for them. This helps with the climate in the school.
85. The students see the work being done and realize their safety is of great concern
86. The two buildings completed have brought a very positive reaction from students, staff and parents.

87. These grant opportunities have allowed the district to complete projects that make the learning environment healthier, safer, more energy efficient and more pleasant than it previously was.
88 These grants have made a tremendous impact on the status of our fire safety systems in the buildings. Without these funds, we would not have updated antiquated systems for years to come. Replacing old and installing new emergency lighting would have taken a number of years to complete. Living in an area with over 50% of families receiving free or reduced lunch, the PPEL did not generate enough funds to maintain buildings, let alone address other issues unless it was at a critical level.
89. They have been very helpful to our district. Since we were awarded funds we were able to accomplish much more in a quicker timeframe. This has allowed us to use those funds for fire items and save other funds for direct instruction.
90. They have probably done as much as any infrastructure issue can do.
91. They have very positively impacted our district as it has allowed us to be up to code standards in some of our deficiencies. We just need to receive it again this year so we can complete the fire door project.
92. Things that were needed to make our buildings more safe and secure for the students were possible due to the funding stream.
93. This grant is enabling our district to provide a brighter, more accessible, more up-to-date facility that directly affects the education received by our students.
94. This has been a great avenue for our district to update current facilities in a manner that is realistic during tough financial times. Thank you!
95. This has made a huge impact in our district as well as many others across the state. We can take pride in our facilities!
96. To meet the safety needs of students. This was an important element in completing the project.
97. Unbelievable. The renovations and improvements are wonderful but the biggest impact was the involvement of the community (business, seniors, clergy, parents, farmers) in the sort-term and long-term planning process. Their ownership of " the process" is the real long-term benefit.
98. Very p ositiv e p rogram.
99. We are very confident that in the event of a fire, everyone would be able to exit quickly and safely.
100. We could not have corrected the fire marshal citations without this grant.
101. We could not have the project we have without this support.
102. We had a 1916 building! I don't think that we would have been able to do as much without this money.
103. We had the oldest operating set of school facilities in the state, and almost certainly still do at the elementary level. The Fire (Life) Safety grants have been absolutely crucial to upgrading electrical and hazard systems at our elementary schools.
104. We have brought our facilities forward 20 years. We could not have done ev ery thing without this money.
105. We have not received that much money to have major impact. However, any time a school can free up PPEL funds for such things as technology, it is likely to impact the educational environment positively.
106. We have received both fire safety and construction grants. The fire safety grants have enabled us to provide a safer environment for students and helped us eliminate concerns brought forth by the fire marshal. The demonstration construction grant has primarily been used to build new buildings to replace those that were old and in poor condition.
107. We now have a state-of-the-art fire alarm system throughout every part of our older, 3-story building. It has certainly impacted the safety of our educational environment.
108. We now have the ability to evacuate a 3-level building in less than 30 seconds. We have 4 stairwells (3 internal and 1 external -- part of fire (life) safety grant) to

allow for this. We also allow 2 kindergarten classrooms to be below ground by excavating (walk out basement effect) and providing immediate egress. Please come and see our improvement.

109. We were able to address and resolve fire/safety issues by being able to install a new security system and fire alert system in our attendance centers. Everything seems to be working well.
110. We were able to do work on our secondary building that was badly needed.
111. We were able to install new updated fire safety alarm system.
112. We were able to make updates and improvements that we might not have been able to afford without the grant.
113. We were able to provide some needed upgrades to our former high school building (now middle school) We also were able to construct a 4-classroom addition to our new high school and we were able to construct an excellent guidance department office suite as a result of having additional funds for classrooms.
114. We were able to replace the boilers in the middle school and elementary to provide heat for our students and staff. The boilers were 70 years old and obsolete, which provided unreliable comfort in the buildings. Fire Marshal citations were also addressed to increase safety.
115. We would have fixed these problems with or without the grant. Grant funds allowed us to use the $20,000 for materials and programs that would affect kids in a positive way.
116. When we can improve facilities for student and public use by making them safer we should by all means be doing that.
117. With dropping enrollment and decreasing property evaluation, these funds have allowed our district to improve and update our facilities with current fire detection land warning technology.
118. With shortage of funds, any additional resources are beneficial.
119. With very tight funds, this was critical to our building success.
120. Without the fire/safety grant, our school would be closed. We have received over $75,000 the past three years and with the difficult financial times we could not have corrected these items.
121. Without the funds we would have struggled to meet the fire marshal's requirements. Our buildings are safer and provide a better learning environment.
122. Without the grant we would have had to divert money from other infrastructure needs.
123. Wouldn't have been able to make the improvements without the grant.

Appendix I: General Survey Comments - All Districts Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety or Construction Grant

Other Comments:

1. A truly meaningful grant program.
2. Construction grant opportunities have challenged our district to think creatively while addressing new needs in cost-effective ways. One of the construction grants literally helped us rethink our middle school facilities program. The other helped us confront the issue that our " three new high schools" are now over 30 years old and are in need of major infrastructure replacement.
3. First year superintendent and would like additional information and examples when applying for the grant monies.
4. Good program - please continue.
5. Great program, easy to attain and get done things that need to be finished.
6. I am writing this from a secondary viewpoint. Our superintendent actually wrote the grant proposals, however he is no longer with our district, therefore I am writing this based on his and my conversations.
7. I applaud Senator Harkin's vision and commitment to Iowa education. I do not

know of any other who has done as much for Iowa education. We need to address Section 106 concerns and make them reasonable to deal with. We spent over $80,000 dealing with the historical society's concerns They seemed unreasonable.

8. I was supt. in a different district when we got the first construction grant. Without the grant we would not have the excellent facilities they now have. Also, because of the grant and new facilities, new companies have moved to the town.
9. I'm not sure the grant questions couldn't be simplified. They seem redundant.
10. It has been wonderful and really helped our district. However, now I've run out of specific fire-related issues We certainly have other needs but they do require stretching the imagination a bit to make them qualify
11 It has made a tremendous impact on our staff and students but also the community as a whole. Anytime you put money back into the community it becomes a win-win situation for everyone.
12. It was seven years between fire marshal inspections I am very appreciative of the communications from DE staff.
13. Keep up the good work!
14. Matching percentage has decreased and deters us from completing some major projects
15. DE staff does an excellent job in helping schools!! Great job to all at the DE!!
16. DE staff are very helpful.
17. (Staff name), don't ever retire!
18. Primary achievements have been additions for early childhood and special needs classrooms. The new buildings are safer than the old ones and in compliance with current ADA regulations. The new buildings are more energy efficient and have allowed us to redirect energy dollars back to the classroom. Our PPEL and LOSST funds are insufficient to address all the needs.
19. Resources are wonderful. The simplification of the process is appreciated
20. Schools that can afford professional grant writers have an advantage in receiving these grants -- my perception.
21. The grant has meant we do not have to balance safety needs over other uses for building improvements.
22. These funds are essential for schools in rural Iowa.
23. These grants are far too competitive.
24. This grant enabled us to upgrade our alarm systems throughout the school district.
25. This is a great program which Iowa schools are grateful for. Hope it continues!
26. This took place before my tenure as superintendent began. I'm answering on the basis of what I've been told.
27. Very pleased to have had the money to remodel our older facilities to bring them up to par with the new construction.
28. We applied for the construction grant last year but it wasn't funded. Mainly because it wasn't new construction. The plans to apply this year were discontinued due to the 75% match.
29. We appreciate the grants and the grant system works well for us.
30. We have applied numerous times but have received only one Fire (life) Safety award. It would be helpful if we knew why we have only received one award.
31. We hope that the percentage of Free and reduced students in a district is not weighed too heavily in consideration of which districts receive grants. While our district has a low free and reduced %, many of our infrastructure needs are just as large or larger than districts with a higher %. We also hope we are not "penalized" in the judging process because our voters have approved the local options sales tax and $1.34 voter approved PPEL. A district should not have a lesser chance of receiving a grant because they were able to convince voters of the need for a local option sales tax and voter-approved PPEL
32. With the number of citations we received we were motivated to pursue the closing of our elementary school. We have done that, which will result in a more efficient operation. Grant money allowed us to rectify very serious citations at the high school.
33. Without the grants, the projects would have been reduced in scope so fewer students would have been affected.
34. Would like to see the program both expanded and continued

Appendix II

Fire (Life) Safety Survey Comments

(All Districts Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety Grant)

Appendix II
Fire (Life) Safety Survey Comments
(All Districts Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety Grant)

A. How necessary was it that you apply for the Fire (Life) Safety grant to resolve your district's citations(s)? Why?

1. Aged facilities that currently exist in our district have required major upgrades due to code upgrades and enforcement. Available funding allowed upgrades to be implemented in the earliest time frame.
2. All our available resources from PPEL and 1% sales tax had been used to complete the total renovation of the middle school and high school addition We didn't have enough money so we had to borrow from general fund Paying back the general fund restricted us.
3. Always need outside funds where possible.
4. Because it was an issue of public safety, the grant funds from the federal government were welcome for all our publics' (taxpayers') benefit.
5. Because of the lack of funding over the years, the buildings have not been maintained properly. The grant along with LOSST funding has allowed us to do many projects.
6. Because several issues were not being addressed as quickly as they should have been.
7. Cash flow with PPEL funds. Too many needs and not enough money.
8. Citations run much higher than normal PPEL funds generate. It helps get things resolved.
9. We are property poor, had no 1¢ sales tax, and was in debt in the general fund when we applied for the grants.
10. Cost
11. The district alone could not reach costs involved.
12. Could not afford to get things done in a timely manner.
13. Could not have done it otherwise.
14. Could not have done the project without it.
15. Declining enrollment => declining budget! Need to keep district funds for education.
16. District did not have the funds available to complete citation projects.
17. District needed the funds to make the improvements.
18. Due to asbestos costs.
19. Due to the number of citations, without the grant we would not have completed them.
20. Elementary fire alarm system was old and needed replacing.
21. Existing district funding would not have allowed us to complete the fire marshal recommendations.
22. Financial assistance needed.
23. Fire systems are expensive. PPEL fund was exhausted.
24. For this project we had a fire code write-up but not enough project funds.
25. Funds are always necessary to address the concerns of the fire marshal for safety of our students in education.
26. Funds are so limited.
27. Have lots of needs -- PPEL and SILO funds committed.
28. High need with limited resources.
29. In 1998 when we received one, the magnitude of our needs versus ability to pay was huge. Subsequently, we applied last year and didn't get one. We're trying again.
30. In another building project and needed to correct citations at the other building.
31. It allowed the district to free up funds for other facility needs.
32. It allowed us to construct an addition to the building to alleviate crowded

33. It could not have been handled within normal budget.
34. It helped our budget by getting the grant and fixing the citations in a timely manner.
35. It is important when the citations are for large amounts.
36. It was effective in helping us progressively realize our worthy goals.
37. It was necessary to apply for these funds. Without assistance from an outside funding source, these projects were put off or other work could not be completed.
38. It was necessary Our voted physical plant and equipment levy did not generate enough funds to cover the cost of this project
39. It was quite necessary to apply for the grant in order to complete the project. The district did not have enough funds without the grant to complete that project and all other projects we feel need to be included in our five year capital projects plan
40. Lack of available district funds required our need to apply
41. Lack of PPEL to complete citations without grant
42. Like any other district, we had the availability of using PPEL funds. But trying to keep a vehicle fleet going and old buildings maintained can cut into those funds substantially. Therefore, having the opportunity to get a grant for at least part of the costs was a great incentive.
43. Limited ability to raise needed revenue for all projects in a property poor district.
44. Limited local funding for facility needs and required improvements of costly nature in an older school building.
45. Limited resources mandate that projects be prioritized.
46. Limited resources.
47. Local dollars not available.
48. Many citations would go without repair due to financial restraints.
49. Many of the projects would not have been completed without the help of the grant money.
50. Money is tight!
51. Money issue.
52. Money not available.
53. Money was not budgeted for this. The grant enabled me to provide safety for our students.
54. Money was very tight for the bond issue on our new high school This grant enabled us to make the needed upgrades in the old high school.
55. Needed the funding.
56. New requirements by the legislature and/or fire marshal cause upgrades for our buildings. These unfunded mandates are offset by the Harkin grants.
57. Not sure -- I was not here when we applied.
58. Old facilities require a lot of money to upgrade. Any monies from any source helps.
59. Our alarm system was very outdated at the elementary. The new smoke detectors tied into our current fire alarm system making the high school safer.
60 Our auditorium lighting system was a serious hazard to students.
61 Our budget is limited, just as in all districts and when you're not expecting the expenditure this grant has allowed us to make the necessary repairs.
62. Our financial resources are limited.
63. Our fire marshal has required us to install approximately .75 mil of sprinklers in two of our buildings. That is approximately 3/4 of our total PPEL revenue
64. Our PPEL funds were tied up in loan obligations, and the general fund was already stretched.
65. Overall costs to the district were nearly $150,000. Very difficult for district to complete without the grant.
66. Parts of our school building were closed down immediately and others were pending.
67. Receiving a grant made it easier to convince the school board to go ahead with the improvements.
68. Recent cuts in state aid plus very expensive solutions for major fire/safety problems.

69. Restrictions on other funding sources. We would not have been able to complete these projects in a timely manner without the grant money.
70 Saved us money from the general fund.
71 Secure funding to remedy problems.
72. Short on funds.
73. Significant requirements to change/update facilities to current safety codes. Funding would have been very difficult without this grant.
74. Small district -- limited funds -- grant was a necessity.
75. Some citations were more significant than others, and without the grant, we would have had to delay other projects to deal with the citations.
76 The citations had been of a recurring sort, but due to low property tax ratios per student, we were a district simply unable to martial the resources for correcting the issues.
77. The citations received by our district would have required more repair work than we could budget for and still maintain other facility needs.
78. The citations that were listed were extremely expensive. Using the grant money allowed us to resolve the safety issues ASAP.
79. The citations were very expensive and complicated to resolve. The district could not complete part of the project each year. The entire fire alarm system needed to be upgraded.
80. The cost was quite high and the school district was deficit spending.
81. The district had begun the process of planning for the construction of an addition to the high school and a new elementary school and had committed most of the physical plant and equipment funds to those projects.
82. The district had many citations; too numerous to be able to take on without financial resources.
83 The district has limited resources and the ADA upgrades would have taken away from the normal maintenance of the schools.
84. The fire marshal was in to inspect our elementary building and after his visit the school was cited for a new fire alarm system with heat detectors and smoke detectors and to be interconnected to the building's fire alarm system.
85. The grant provided additional resources to update a fire alarm system and to add fire rated doors to closets and between buildings for added safety and protection.
86. The inspectors find more things that need to be done than PPEL will generate in one year. A district usually has many other demands on PPEL funds.
87 The items were costly and there are always many other requests for limited dollars.
88. The list of fire safety issues identified by the state fire marshal grows with limited funds.
89. The money helped to correct the citations that were issued.
90. The money in the district's PPEL fund has been earmarked for roof replacements.
91. The most recent FLS grant allowed the district to close a 1915 building -- it was critical to have received the monies, as another construction project was very, very tight.
92. The number of citations could not be resolved as efficiently without the grant.
93 The project was cost-prohibitive prior to the grant. The problem had existed for years and had not been addressed.
94. The school's budget is already stretched
95. The submission of our fire (life) safety grant allowed us to install a new fire escape at the one center and repair and modify the fire escape at the other center.
96 The total dollars to resolve the citation would have taken the entire $.33 PPEL for the year... Leaving no money for busses, roofs, etc.
97. The work to be completed was not extremely expensive although the grant was a big help.
98 There were no available funds to pay for projects to resolve the citations.
99. These are funds that allowed us to go beyond what our PPEL and other general funds could take care of.
100 Tight budget

101. Tight money and budget constraints
102. Too many old facilities to correct at once.
103. Update fire marshal's recommendations.
104. Very important! We have old buildings, dropping enrollment and declining property evaluations
105 Very necessary -- not many budgets can take such a big-ticket item hit out of clear blue sky without help from somewhere
106 Very necessary because we have an old high school and a shrinking general fund balance.
107. Very necessary due to the cost of the project to construct the firewall.
108. Very necessary. At the time our funds and budget were extremely limited
109. Way too many years of leaders not addressing problems; lack of funds that were not tied up in other projects; age of buildings cause major problems.
110. We could do more in a timely fashion, by using this grant, which left us with additional funds to use on instruction.
111. We could have accomplished the projects without the money but we saved general fund for other uses.
112. We could have handled the financial burden; however, when we applied for the grant we were facing budget cuts and an unknown future in educational funding. The grant has allowed us to make repairs without using general fund dollars. First time recipient.
113. We could not have completed the projects without the grants.
114. We could not have completed the three projects in a timely manner without the grant funds.
115. We could not have financed our project without it.
116. We couldn't have done the work financially that the fire marshal deemed necessary without the grant.
117. We did not have all the finances available to complete the project on our own.
118. We do not have the funds to complete all that was necessary without the grant.
119 We do not have the resources available to correct the citation without the grant.
120. We found we had several issues to bring into compliance with fire codes which would require funding over several years had we not received the grant which allowed us to complete all the work at one time and save money.
121. We had a significant list of needed work.
122. We had committed 2 years of our PPEL to other projects and did not have available cash to resolve the issues immediately.
123. We had no automated fire alarm system until we received this grant funding at the high school.
124. We had no funds available.
125. We had projects that were recommended for completion and the construction grant program was the most expedient and timely means for addressing our needs due to financial limitations.
126. We had received notice from the fire department that updates were needed and we needed to act as soon as possible to avoid future citations.
127 We have a 1919 building and a 1922 building. Both are great structures built to last another 50 years. The grants helped bring them into the 21st century as far as a safe environment.
128. We have a very low source of income from PPEL We could not have made all of the repairs without the additional funding.
129. We have adequate funds but being a small district with old buildings means all funds are appreciated.
130. We have limited resources and a lot of projects that are important to complete -- but go incomplete due to a lack of ability to finance.
131. We have tried to pass bond issues seven times. This grant was able to correct issues that we were having trouble funding
132 We just didn't have the money at the time.
133. We needed financial help and we got it.

134. We needed to update fire safety and the grant money allowed us to completely upgrade.
135. We used the grant monies to bring our heat sensors and smoke detectors up to code. Our general fund would not have supported the citations in a timely manner
136. We were able to address most citations.
137. We were able to quickly address our citations rather than wait to see what district funds we had available.
138. We were way behind on maintenance and were under pressure to do other things. The grant money enabled us to make progress in multiple areas.
139. We would and could have done it anyway.
140. We would have slowly made corrections. The money just helped us do it sooner.
141. We would have used general fund monies to remove the citations -- then made program cuts.
142. We would not have been able to complete the upgrades in a timely manner.
143. We would not have been able to complete the upgrades in a timely manner.
144. While our grant was not a huge amount, every dollar helps when you have several buildings to maintain.
145. With declining enrollment it is very necessary to file for grants that help make the necessary improvements to make our buildings safe.
146. With remodeling, we had to bring our fire alarm system up to code.
147. With the amount of citations it would have been a financial hardship without the grant.
148. Without grant only fire/life safety issue would have been addressed.
149. Without it we would not have been able to make the improvements.
150. Without receiving the grant money, the problems would not have been resolved without raising taxes.
151. Without the grant funds some citations may not be addressed in a timely manner.
152. Without the grant the district did not have enough funds to correct the problem.
153. Would not do it otherwise without a negative impact on instruction.
154. Would probably eventually have been able to take care of it ourselves, but issues were resolved more quickly by receiving the grant.
155. Wouldn't have the money to make the necessary changes.
156. At a time when all resources were obligated for construction, this grant allowed us to address the largest cause for concern.
157. At the time the district received the funds, five bond issues had failed. All available funds were being used for other facility needs.
158. In a small district like ours, the PPEL Levy does not generate enough funds to complete such projects. This grant helps free up local option sales tax money for other high cost maintenance costs.
159. It is necessary to be in compliance with the recommendations. I sometimes do not agree with their recommendations; however, the safety of individuals is extremely important.
160. Many of the district's buildings have been in poor physical condition and are old. The district has passed PPEL and LOSST levies but they will be insufficient to meet all the district needs. The fire safety grants have allowed us to undertake more projects and in a reduced timeframe. Safety has been enhanced.
161. Our budget is too tight to allow us to make these changes without neglecting something else unless grant money is available.
162. The district is very financially challenged and small. It is doubtful its patrons would have approved additional local taxes. Thus, it was imperative that the grant be received if the work was to be done.
163. The district would still be working to upgrade from fire citation 4 years ago
164. There are backlogs of citation projects for which there simply is no funding. These dollars are much needed and appreciated.
165. Very little had been done to update deficiencies until we received grant funds. The funding just wasn't there.
166. We didn't have the money to do it and it needed to be done.

167. Without the grant funds, the improvements would have been difficult to finance. We were able to make other safety improvements because of the resources we received by tapping into our PPEL funds.
168 Would not have attempted the expenditures for the project without grant funds.
169 Fire marshal had given a deadline that would have called for discontinued use of 2 classrooms Also the district could not provide funding for this as PPEL funds were used to support a growing student population.
170 At the time of the first citation, our district was operating with a negative solvency ratio. With the grant assistance, we were able to make our school safe without adding to our solvency ratio problem or adding to an already increased tax burden for our district residents.
171. Due to the nature of the citations and the amount of funds needed to complete them, we either would have had to do the repairs over a period of years and forgo the repairs of other problems in our buildings.
172. It would have been a financial burden that otherwise would have resulted in cutbacks to student programs

Appendix II: Fire (Life) Safety Survey Comments - (All Districts Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety Grant)

B. To what degree did the grant monies assist in alleviating the problems indicated in the fire (safety) citation(s)? Please explain.

1. All issues resolved
2. We were able to complete two major projects that were long overdue: 1) replace all ground level windows, on a 1914 bldg., with egress windows; 2) install fire/smoke dampers in the ventilation shafts of a 1924 bldg
3. Much more easy to accept the larger expensive projects when much is paid by a grant.
4. The monies were instrumental in completing the projects in the designated timeline given.
5. They were very helpful in alleviating some tough problems and making the schools safer.
6. The grant was a must to get everything done.
7 All taken care of.
8 We were able to correct the citations and have a safe environment.
9. The problems were corrected and not put on the "back burner."
10. It solved problems for those buildings included in the application.
11. Used money to address citations!
12. Corrected all cited problem areas.
13 Total remedy of high school building.
14. Helped defray construction costs.
15. Installed up-to-date.
16. Took care of all known problems at the time.
17. The grant dollars eliminated the fire citation completely
18. High degree -- we have much yet to do.
19. We were able to replace the panel, which was causing the greatest problem. We still need to update the circuits in the building and create a consistent alarm system.
20 The problems were alleviated.
21. The grant actually took care of all the major citations
22. We needed the money All citations were completed.
23. We were able to address the problem and avoid shutting down our facility.
24. It was very helpful. The size restriction for grant awards should be reviewed. As a district with 963.6 students has as many facility needs as those with 1200.
25. Difficult to do without grant when there are so many other needs for PPEL and/or SILO money

26. Met safety needs
27 We were able to resolve all of our safety issues that were present at that time.
28. By addressing our fire/life safety issues we were able to correct most deficiencies.
29. The grant allowed us to correct handicap accessibility for kids. These doors and accessories are very expensive.
30. The grant money allowed more items to be corrected.
31. We had to become ADA compliant and the grant allowed us to do this quickly.
32. Doors provide the fire barrier needed.
33 The alarm system did not meet requirements.
34. We were able to address all issues in a timely fashion.
35. $25,000 grant but the project cost $175,000
36. We eliminated an escape that was unsafe We improved the physical locations of grades K, 1, and 2. 2nd grade was 3rd floor - now 2nd (internal escapes). 1st grade was 2nd floor external and now 2nd internal K was 1st floor external and now is 1st floor with no steps.
37. Grant money paid for all but $5,600 of the cost to install and repair the escapes.
38. We had some very large projects we did not agree on that the grant would not have covered.
39. Too many requirements and too little funding.
40. They eliminated the citations.
41. We were able to add detectors to smaller areas throughout our building. We were also able to make our system an " addressable system" which allows us to quickly see where a problem may exist.
42. Allows district to do other projects
43. The Fire (Life) Safety funds enabled our district to update outdated systems.
44. The school submitted the bid to apply for the grant.
45. They would allow us to fix the problem.
46. The grants provided funding for the necessary upgrades to be completed in one summer and the following fall.
47. All items on the fire report were resolved through use of the grant monies.
48. Provided funds for about 75% cost of major citation at our elementary building.
49. It has allowed us to alleviate many of the citations.
50. It allowed the district to address needs immediately rather than on a staggered approach.
51. Helped pay to fix the problems.
52. Allowed the district to address most priorities. Most acute needs addressed immediately.
53. We were able to meet original citations.
54. We received just one year of grant funding and made a good start in resolving citations, but we have more work to do.
55. As far as safety it had made an immeasurable difference.
56. It solved some issues, but with aging building and new standards to meet we need all the support we can attain.
57. What we needed to do could be done through use of the grant
58. We are applying again this year.
59. All of the fire/life safety concerns in our report by the fire inspector could be addressed to get our auditorium up to code.
60 The grant monies were used for the most expensive safety citations
61. Very helpful.
62. We received one award, which covered about a third of the total cost.
63. Resolved the citations.
64. The grants provided funding for the necessary upgrades to be completed in one summer and the following fall
65. Provide the financial support otherwise we would not have been able to complete projects in a timely fashion and provide safety and security to our students.
66 The grant money helped our school district correct most of the citations. We would not have been able to easily afford completing the required projects on our own

67. All problems corrected.
68. We addressed all issues on our citations.
69. All citations have been taken care of up to this point.
70. We now have egress windows in classrooms that needed them. We have a few that we would like to do but have not had the funding. We also updated our alarm system in one of our unattached buildings. We have one other building we would like to do.
71. Availability of alternative funds has allowed existing infrastructure dollars to be directed to non-life safety infrastructure needs throughout the district and allow for repairs that were directed by needs of education programs.
72. We did get most of our citations resolved with this money.
73. Completed them.
74. It helped us to get much closer to compliance and thus much safer.
75. We had two problems. The building was originally built in 1955 with wood ceilings and poor ventilation. A dropped ceiling was added and dry wall covered the wood Adequate return air was installed. This corrected the problem.
76. Solved major problems.
77. One building is older and many things need to be addressed.
78. The grant nearly covered the amount required to install a new fire alarm system.
79. After three grants, I feel we are in good shape.
80. The funds gave the district an opportunity to take care of the major citations right away.
81. Allowed district to complete work as citations indicated.
82. All problems were alleviated.
83. We were able to do many fire safety projects.
84. About 25%. However, the grant really impacted the board as to how much had to be done.
85. We didn't have the money to do the project.
86. It allowed us to complete our action plan in a much more timely fashion.
87. Significant requirements to change/update facilities to current safety codes. Funding would have been very difficult without this grant.
88. Upgrade fire alarm system, door closures, exit signs, and sprinkler system
89. With the assistance of fire-safety grants, we have been able to update all of our school buildings to meet current fire code requirements.
90. Very helpful - not sure if this will cover all needs now to the district.
91. Alleviating nearly all citations.
92. Installation of fire alarm system.
93. The district was able to finish all citations because of the grants.
94. The grant monies were very helpful.
95. These funds directly alleviated problems indicated in citations.
96. We were able to resolve the most critical problems with the fire (life) safety grant money
97. The grant monies awarded have enabled the district to make great advances in bringing our facilities to code. We have more work to be done, but we would not be where we are without the fire/life safety grant.
98. We have made many changes over the years in the area of fire safety that could not have been done without these funds.
99. Brought fire code up to standards.
100. The requested funds were used to alleviate the one area of concern remaining in our fire marshal report.
101. We need to put in a completely new fire alarm system and the grant monies allowed us to do it to a level that meets all standards. It also allowed us to make our buildings safer for our patrons in the event of a fire.
102. It gave us the opportunities to modernize our school without cutting budget to classroom areas.
103. The funding provided will allow us to take care of most, but not all, citations.
104. We have done one job at a time. Fire Inspector has written our problems up for

years Finally we are able to make some progress.

105. Helped us to start the process of being in compliance We finished it at our own cost.
106. We were able to address 90% of the problems with these monies.
107 Problems associated with the portions of the buildings that did not receive the renovations but still having problems could be addressed without waiting.
108. To the "nth" degree --- we installed fire alarm systems, doors, corridor lighting, etc. --- exactly the problems indicated.
109 We were able to correct all deficiencies cited by the fire marshal in reports of 2002. With the grant money, we could fix the items without reservation, knowing we could recoup our expenses. Without adequate funding, we have a tendency to use " band aids."

Appendix II: Fire (Life) Safety Survey Comments - (All Districts Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety Grant)

C. Would the project(s) have been completed in a timely manner without the grant money? Please explain.

1. Absolutely not.
2. As money would come in over the years, parts of the projects would have been completed.
3. Ask Iowa legislators!
4. At the expense of not getting a new bus, which is also one of our top priorities because our bus fleet is old, and being a country school, we need to have dependable buses.
5. Because of limited funds, we could not have completed it in a timely manner without the grant money.
6. Because of the amount of money needed and PPEL funds already committed for roof projects it helped the district complete the project.
7. Because of the cost some things would have taken longer to complete.
8. We had a limited PPEL infrastructure levy at the time of the grant request. It is unlikely we would have addressed the issue in as timely of manner.
9. Commitments are addressed, as funding is available.
10. Completed eventually but not immediately.
11. Definitely not.
12. Definitely not -- we would have completed the projects over a 5-10 year period.
13. Depends on how aggressive the fire marshal's office gets
14. Dollars not available.
15. Eventually.
16. Existing district funding would not have allowed us to complete the fire marshal recommendations.
17. Funding allowed projects to proceed. Without funding, something else would have been delayed.
18. Funding
19. Had no impact on timing.
20. I doubt it. The grant money gave the community incentive to pursue other improvements that were sorely needed in a timely manner
21. I doubt that we would have completed all the repairs and upgrades in the same two year time frame had we not received the grants. Since these would have been paid from PPEL funds, the board probably would have spread the costs over a little longer timeline.
22. It was not an extremely expensive project.
23. It would have been difficult to address the issues in a timely manner due to other fire compliance we had committed funds to.
24. It would have been done in stages.

25 It would have been placed on our maintenance priority list. The grant funding allowed us to move the projects to the top of the list.
26. It would have been very difficult.
27. It would have taken 3 or more years to do the work without the grant.
28. It would have taken longer or something else would have been postponed.
29. It would have taken much longer without the funds.
30 It would take two or three years to levy and save PPEL funds to do the projects.
31. Lack of finances.
32. Lack of funds either in the general fund or the PPEL fund
33. Lack of local funds
34. Limited funds in our budget -- one-year time span.
35. Limited local funds that were unrestricted or uncommitted to other critical needs.
36. Limited resources.
37 Maybe but because of the money we were able to proceed immediately.
38. Maybe. The problem was that our smoke detectors, installed many years ago, were now determined to be too few. The law changed with no funding attached. The grant $$ helped.
39. No
40. No
41. No
42. No
43. No
44. No -- Money would not have been available as quickly.
45. No, because of the cost of the projects and the need to complete them quickly to keep students safe.
46. No, dollars not available as stated above.
47. No, due in large part to the low tax base, high property taxes, and inability to pass a voted PPEL. These grants have made an incredible difference.
48. No, funds were not available for us. We could not afford to do it.
49. No, it wouldn't have due to the lack of $ and many years of non-maintenance. It takes years to get caught up.
50. No, the funds were required or we would have had to wait.
51. No, the money was not there.
52. No, we would have needed to hold on a few projects without financial assistance.
53 No, we would have spent 4 years doing what we did in one!
54. No, we would not have had the money.
55. No, with limited funds for maintenance, many of these projects would still be on the list to be completed.
56. No, without the addition of the grant monies, funds would not have readily been available
57. No.
58. No.
59. No.
60. No.
61. No. Because of cost we would have moved slower.
62. No. Because of the timeline, one is forced to comply. The grant gets one going.
63. No. It would have been done over the next 2-3 years.
64. No. Lack of funds.
65 No. No funding available.
66. No Problem in financing.
67. No. The district is very financially challenged and small. It is doubtful it patrons would have approved additional local taxes. Thus, it was imperative that the grant be received, if the work was to be done.
68. No The grant money provided an incentive to get the work done.
69. No. The project would have been spread out over several years.
70. No. The project would not have been attempted.

71. No The work would have eventually been completed, but over a much lengthier time span.
72. No. We had another construction project going on The additional $40K provided just enough buffer to do some additional work in a more timely manner.
73. No. We would have done quick fixes until PPEL money available.
74. No. We would have spread the repairs over a longer time period.
75. No. Would have been completed over time with PPEL and SILO funds.
76. Not as quickly.
77. Not enough $$.
78. Not in a timely manner. With time (3-5 years) we would have addressed it because of necessity.
79. Not likely. Part of the project may have been completed in a timely manner, but other parts of the project would have been delayed.
80. Not without making serious cuts to other programs
81. Perhaps -- a year from now the 1¢ tax will be available.
82. Possibly -- SILO money had just become available. However not having to use SILO money allowed us to use the money elsewhere.
83. Probably -- because we had no choice.
84. Probably because of the inspection process.
85. Probably but it would have impacted the districts disposable income for other projects.
86. Probably delay a year.
87. Probably delayed.
88. Probably not -- at least the majority of the projects would be financially impossible at this time of budget cuts.
89. Probably not -- would have been spread over several years.
90. Probably not due to lack of funding sources, etc.
91. Probably not! District would have pushed the timeline to limit.... may have even pushed past time limit.
92. Probably not.
93. Probably, but in a much more controlled fashion. We would have prioritized the citations and then worked into the budget as we could. The deadline on spending/completing has helped get it cleaned up in a timely fashion.
94. Projects would not have been completed as timely without the grant funds. Local funds are insufficient to address all the needs of the district. The grant funds have enabled us to complete projects that otherwise may not yet have been started.
95. Provide the financial support otherwise we would not have been able to complete projects in a timely fashion and provide safety and security to our students.
96. Requirement of Fire Marshall.
97. Restrictions on other funding sources. We would not have been able to complete these projects in a timely manner without the grant money.
98. Some of the projects cannot be completed without these grant funds.
99. The Board of Education would not have allocated the funds for a new fire alarm system.
100 The district's priority was on acquiring appropriate facilities since another building was closed because of inadequate fire safety.
101. The grant deadlines forced us to make plans right away. Without this push I would guess the projects would have taken more time.
102. The grant money made the completion much quicker than it would have been without the grant. We would have needed to take from some other area of the district needs list to get this done.
103. The mandated work needed to be done. The grant money expedited the process.
104. The money helped speed the completion of fire safety issues.
105. The money was necessary for completion of the critical portion of the citation.
106. The project would not have been done without the grant

107 The projects would have been completed. The grant money allowed us to move forward and complete the corrections more quickly.
108 The projects would have been delayed until PPEL funds were collected.
109. The several issues that needed the district's monies would have taken precedent over the safety issues
110. The steps taken to respond to the Fire Inspection would probably have been completed in a timely manner.
111. The taxes would have been raised and this would take time.
112. The time frame for completion would have been much longer.
113 There are more needs than dollars available
114 They would have been completed, but at the expense of other PPEL funded improvements
115. They wouldn't be completed without the grant.
116. This is an ongoing project.
117. This was a major project that probably would not have been completed without the grant money.
118. Timeline would have been extended an extra 1-2 years to accomplish the project.
119 Too many citations.
120. We are a small district with old facilities and limited resources. The grant is necessary to complete projects in a timely fashion.
121. We did not have the money.
122. We didn't have the money. Too many needs.
123. We have many needs when it comes to infrastructure and only a fixed amount of money.
124 We have no excess PPEL funds, due to $183,000 yearly capital loan payment. The grant monies allowed us to correct most deficiencies.
125. We only have a small amount in PPEL.
126. We used the grant monies to bring our heat sensors and smoke detectors up to code. Our general fund would not have supported the citations in a timely manner.
127 We would have completed the projects but it would have taken us 2-3 years. The projects would have been completed in phases and would have left us with a substandard warning system.
128. We would have had to borrow the money to complete the project.
129. We would have had to do the projects in phases, as funding was available locally.
130. We would have had to put aside dollars for work to be done when the district had funds.
131. We would have made our best effort, but it would have been difficult.
132. We would have slowly made corrections. The money just helped us do it sooner.
133. We would have spread the project over three years and patched one system to make the whole building work.
134. We would have used PPEL money to address the fire safety needs. This grant enabled us to use PPEL for other needs in the district.
135. We would have very likely delayed the project had we not received the grant money
136. We would not have been able to do all of the projects. We would have had to re-prioritize and postpone some important projects.
137. We would not have had funds.
138. We would probably have proceeded at the same pace.
139. With sales tax funds not coming in as high as estimated, projects would have been delayed without grant funds.
140 With the limitations caused by state reductions and the rollback in land valuation, our PPEL funds were significantly reduced.
141. With the rising cost of energy and manufactured goods we purchase, many of our resources are stretched to their limits so we would have had to push back the completion of these items.

142. Without grant, we would have had to do the needed work in segments.
143 Without it we would not have been able to make the improvements
144. Without the funds, the project would have been at least 4-5 years later.
145. Without the funds, we would not have been able to complete the project.
146. Would have been completed but the timeliness would have been an issue.
147 Would have had fewer funds to spend and would have taken more time.
148. Would have had to wait 1-2 years for money to become available.
149. Would have likely been delayed one or more years.
150. Would probably eventually have been able to take care of it ourselves, but issues were resolved more quickly by receiving the grant.
151. Yes
152. Yes -- these problems needed to be addressed as soon as possible, however, it would have placed a financial strain on the district
153. Yes, but a slower pace.
154. Yes, but it helped to alleviate funding problems.
155. Yes, but it would have been a challenge.
156 Yes, but other needs would have been ignored
157. Yes, they were safety issues.
158. Yes. But the monies used for the fire alarm system could have been used in other areas.
159 Although they would have eventually been completed, we were able to keep projects moving. The safety of our school has increased
160. At the time we were awarded the grant we did not have available funds to complete the projects. We would have developed a plan to complete the projects over a five-year period.
161. Due to a decision to invest schoolhouse and PPEL funds over a period of five years to pay for the construction of new facilities, a tremendous backlog of maintenance, transportation, and technology needs developed! There were way too many needs to be addressed for the funds available. Without the grant money, I doubt the project would have been done.
162. Eventually, but in small spurts.
163. Grant funds have reduced competition for available district funding and allowing life safety projects to remain a top priority, while maintaining the life safety concerns of our students.
164. I am sure that because of the citations, the board of directors would have found a way to address them. However, I think it would have taken longer periods of time to make the improvements, and other facility projects would have been left undone.
165. It would have taken us longer to budget the money and plan for the remedies to the fire marshal's concerns.
166. Not likely, as all our resources are/were earmarked. We still have one big item to take care of from the fire marshal report, but otherwise we have dealt with all other citations.
167. Since we received the funding, we were able to do all the work at one time. Had we not received the grant, it would have taken several years to complete the work from general funds.
168. We are so tight with infrastructure needs in this district that resources such as this one are the only way some of these items can be effectively accomplished.
169. We have made many changes over the years in the area of fire safety that could not have been done without these funds
170. We would have had to complete these projects to be in compliance with the fire marshal's most recent report dated December 18, 2001 With the fire life safety grant, we were able to complete the projects in a timely manner without depleting all the funds in the Physical Plant and Equipment Fund or the Local Option Fund. This allows us funds for replacing buses and other needed building repairs
171. Without the funds we would have needed to prioritize the citations and deal with those most urgent.

Appendix II: Fire (Life) Safety Survey Comments - (All Districts Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety Grant)

D. Are there other citations (or potential citations) not resolved that additional grant monies might address in your district? Please explain and describe your priority order to address them.

1. Doors to provide a barrier; Expansion of the alarm system
2. Electrical concerns in elementary; Phone -- communications concerns; Locks on building concerns.
3. Safety issues and security in all buildings; Heating system upgrades.
4. 70 year old building that has needs.
5. A huge safety issue concerning our bleachers could be addressed if awarded grant money. We applied in 03, but were denied the grant to fix the bleachers.
6. A really old high school with only pull stations. Lack of door controls at high school as well. Lack of sufficient security cameras at all buildings.
7. A recent inspection cited issues never mentioned in any previous reports i.e. warning lights in restrooms, replacement of fire doors, etc.
8. Additional fire safety alarms. Have not been cited, but there is difficulty in hearing.
9. As people change and rules change, there will be more funding needed We have need of a P.A. System to more easily inform rooms when an emergency arises.
10. At this time all citations are being addressed.
11. Classroom doors.
12. Completion of a fire lane at our middle school.
13. Completion of the fire doors throughout the jr-sr high building; lower ceilings and improved lighting; air condition to improve our quality; restrooms need to be remodeled and be handicap accessible; parking lot and bleachers
14. Connecting our fire detection system to our fire department or law offices. Updating our older systems.
15. Continued updating of boilers and fire alarm systems.
16. Currently applying based on spring 04 visit.
17. Door hardware replacement.
18. Electrical for our oldest building.
19. Electrical panels at the high school are in need of replacement. Cost is prohibitive.
20. Electrical.
21. Elementary fire code issues.
22. Eventually we would like to close a 1915 building (wood construction) and replace with new state-of-the-art elementary building We would also like to replace doors in our 1967 high school that presently have louvers at their bottoms.
23. Fire doors and closures.
24. Fire rated doors throughout the building.
25. Have applied for FLSG for 2005 to resolve them.
26. High school fire alarm system. An elementary fire alarm system.
27. I am not aware of any at this time.
28. I have a current application being considered for another alarm system in 2 buildings, corridor emergency lighting, and drywall as per our citation.
29. Installing smoke detection devises, heat detection devices, sprinkler systems, audible horn/strobe indication devices and emergency lighting These will be addressed as buildings become part of the renovation project.
30. Lighted exit signs with battery backup; Emergency lighting; Door hardware (panic bars)
31. Listed this year's application -- more smoke and fire detectors.
32. Lockers in hallways; upgrading detection system; new exit signage.
33. Many classroom and hall doors are louvered. So far the fire marshal has expressed a safety concern but not to the point of a citation.
34. More sprinklers are needed at the middle school.
35. Need a new fire escape.
36. New citations have been given. We will apply for another grant.

37. New citations have been received within last year. Fire doors are needed for classrooms and kitchen
38. Not at the present time. But each new inspection will find something.
39. Not at this time but we have not had a recent inspection.
40. Not at this time.
41. Not at this time.
42. Not at this time.
43. Not at this time; however, we have not had an inspection at this time.
44. Not currently.
45. Not now. We have used PPEL money to complete the old list and to take care of most recent concerns.
46. Not sure.
47. Not sure. New to the district
48. Not that I am aware of.
49. Not to our knowledge.
50. Not yet. Striving to put together a 5-year plan.
51. Our greenhouse for the vocational agricultural program has several electrical issues that we hope to address.
52. Our inspector is overseas and we have not had inspection for about a year We have glass above the hallway walls, which are not fire rated windows in our elementary.
53. Our list always has additional items we need to deal with.
54. Outside doors in high school building.
55. Repair and replacement of old fire and safety equipment.
56. Replace wooden hollow core doors and replace interior glass in hallways and office areas.
57. Since the 1996 visit, we had another inspection in 2002, which was very thorough, and numerous issues resulted. We have applied for another $25,000 to start addressing those areas of noncompliance.
58. Smoke and heat detectors; replace doors; install and connect door holders to fire alarm system.
59. Some items at our elementary and some small fixes at the high school. We will be applying again.
60. Some of the less critical, but important, areas could be addressed with additional funds.
61. Sprinkler systems in gyms are not a priority although they were recommended.
62. Still have fire issues as cited by fire marshal.
63. Still in process, some really mean it would be better to demolish than maintain.
64. Termination of a gas line so we have only one gas service to the district -- with one shut off location. Skeleton brace for portion of the old building. Construction of new rural school buildings.
65. The 1916 building has a large number of issues but if we receive the construction grant we will be able to take care of it.
66. The completion of a consistent building wide alarm system is a concern and the reason for the second application. The district is committing to a match for this second application.
67. The district still has some minor citations that need to be addressed.
68. The fire marshal is making a list.
69. The fire marshal has not returned to reexamine our facilities.
70. There are a few citations within our science room yet to be addressed. Our insurance company has also made recommendations that these monies would be very helpful to complete.
71. There are always potential citations and a few stragglers from the old list. For instance, we have replaced the wood paneling in some but not all areas. This past summer we addressed that issue on the second floor by incorporating it into a remodeling project, which was paid with LOSST/SILO funds. We will continue to address safety issues in future remodeling projects as well.

72. There are large open staircases that possibly should be addressed depending on how the high school (1916 building) is used.
73. Too many citations with too little money Davis/Bacon also a factor.
74. Update the fire alarm system at the elementary school. High priority -- have submitted a grant proposal.
75. We applied for another grant in November 2004.
76. We are currently with a FLS grant for our most recent citations by the State Fire Marshall's Office (Nov. 04)
77. We are not aware of any areas at the present
78. We fund the more critically needed first and beg forgiveness to the local fire marshal for those we have no funds to address.
79. We have a couple of very old buildings and the potential for citations exists.
80. We have a new building that is pretty much up to code.
81. We have a potential situation regarding emergency indoor lighting when there is a power failure.
82. We have additional issues that the money could address, but they are not necessarily cited in a Fire Marshall's report.
83. We have applied for a new grant to continue to meet our district needs.
84. We have applied for another grant to assist in rectifying another serious citation.
85. We have applied for funding in 04-05 to address concerns in our high school building
86. We have been able to complete most of each project for the $25,000 amount. Only once we had to pay the remaining $3,000 balance.
87 We have citations covering exit doors to our building. We are applying for the fire-life safety grant due Dec 2004 to address them.
88. We have citations to add illuminated exit signs and door closures. Due to the amount that needs to be installed, it would take us a couple of years to complete without grant monies.
89. We have four-year-old boilers that need to be replaced. Two of the boilers have been identified as potential problems.
90. We have made application for funds to correct the latest citations.
91. We have many safety concerns. Most fire concerns are corrected. We may have additional wiring.
92. We have one outstanding citation left to correct. The old walls in middle school have deteriorating plaster and have many large cracks. Obtaining a grant allows us to take care of the problem this next year. Otherwise, we must wait another year.
93. We have reapplied for a new fire-safety award.
94. We have received additional citations from the Fire Marshal this past year and have applied for a grant this year to correct.
95. We have to replace all of the classroom doors in our high school. $55,000!
96. We have two other buildings needing work
97 We have ventilation and safety issues in our kitchen area and nursing station.
98. We just finished the last $25,000 grant. It was great, thanks!
99. We need a new fire alarm system at one of our facilities. The requirements for more devices are overloading our old panel.
100. We need a new fire alarm system at two of our elementary buildings as well as fire door and fire door hardware replacement, along with electrical distribution upgrades.
101. We need new fire-rated doors in our middle school, but if our referendum for a new middle school is successful we will focus on the new building.
102. We need to extend our fire system to more classrooms and the gym
103. We need to update our fire alarm system and will be applying for the fire grant.
104 We probably won't know until after our next fire safety visit.
105. We still have a citation dealing with adequate doors to meet the standards necessary in our elementary school.

106. We still have citations to deal with. Tried for grant the last year and did not receive funding. Will try again next year!
107. We still have electrical issues in two buildings. Our fire alarm system is outdated in one elementary. Windows at another -- need to be replaced in order to be sufficient " econd exit" options.
108. We still have issues -- and actual or potential citations -- concerning fire-rated corridors, door placements, and automatically closing doors.
109. We still have several buildings that need attention.
110 We unsuccessfully applied for a grant last year and we currently have an application pending to resolve citations issued.
111. We will apply again to complete projects.
112. We would like to expand our smoke detectors and fire alarms.
113. When dealing with older buildings, there are always issues.
114. When modernizing our district facilities, the design and discovery portion of construction planning many times identifies deficiency of existing buildings not recognized by citation and inspection processes.
115. While we have no other citations, we would like to update some of our windows and doors. We would also like to add an alarm system to our welding/small engines shop.
116. Wiring and emergency lighting -- high priority!
117. With the 1916 building being torn down, no.
118. Yes -- we applied last year -- not enough funds for ours. We are applying again Grant, PPEL, and sales tax $$ committed.
119. Yes, meeting handicap accessibility requirement through widening doorways and updating restrooms.
120. Yes, We have applied for the current grant. This will help us come to code on the remaining citations.
121. Yes, we have some exit lighting issues and panic bar issues that still need to be resolved.
122. Based on Sept. 2003 fire marshal's inspection, we have several citations that need to be addressed, e.g. upgraded heat ejectors in the jr/sr high auditorium and gymnasium and remodeling at the rec center to provide 1 hour fire retarded material.
123. Each school that has significant remodel work planned will receive a complete fire sprinkler system as requested by the Fire Marshal.
124 Fire and safety issues still remain. Fire alarm systems, fire doors, many items listed in the last fire inspection that we are trying to address but will take time. The safety of the kids is also a concern when it comes to inadequate security systems. We have very little.
125. Fire escape upgrade, sprinkler for the entire structure, alarm system upgrade, smoke/heat detectors.
126. Hood suppression over cooking stove; replace/repair doors; additional detection equipment.
127. Major problems have been corrected. There are always projects on our need-to-do list.
128. Not at the present time. However, the facilities are old and new deficiencies may be discovered at the next inspection.
129 Replace non-fire rated hallway walls in the science wing; glass separating classrooms from corridors need to be replaced with fire rated; elementary needs fire corridors with 2-hour separation; need walking corridor in paper warehouse; need to install automatic door closing device. We prioritize in accordance with funds and highest safety issues.
130. The district still has citations in several buildings. These citations will be addressed as local or grant funds become available. Priority is given to the buildings with the most severe citations and greatest safety concerns

131. The fire marshal's office or inspectors always find something and some are very expensive.
132. We need additional funding to add additional sensors They have changed the law since our building was built and they need to be closer together. Our current alarm system is full and to permit expansion we need to replace the system. To be in compliance we should replace our system
133. We need to keep working on the list that the fire marshal presented We plan to do them all starting with the largest first.
134. We recently had a propane gas leak that made us realize that we needed gas detectors, shut off valves, fire proof doors in several areas, additional fireproofing and panic bars on corridors.
135. Yes! We definitely can use additional grant dollars to solve present unresolved fire citations. Have several rooms in secondary building that must have walls completely redone.

Appendix II: Fire (Life) Safety Survey Comments - (All Districts Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety Grant)

E. Were other non-cited issues able to be resolved as a result of addressing the cited problem(s)? Please explain.

1. Absolutely The grant monies freed up PPEL funds for other facilities issues.
2. Added a sprinkling system to third floor at the elementary/middle school. This was necessary for the overall safety of the entire building.
3. Additional corrections made.
4. All issues were resolved.
5. All monies were spent on cited issues.
6. All were addressed.
7. Appearance of hallway in K-3 building.
8. Asbestos removal for a large part of our building and bus purchasing were directly aided.
9. Because of the citation, staff is more aware of the needs.
10. Because we did not need to spend PPEL funds on alarms we could spend it for other needs.
11. Because we use fire (life) safety funds to provide greater egress, we were also able to include more community people in school activities because of greater access with a ramp instead of stairs.
12. Centralize alarm system
13. Devoted all $ to the project (covered about 75% of total costs).
14. First year as superintendent in this district. Would assume $$ from grant savings (or at least some portion of savings) were used in addressing other infrastructure problems
15. Grant funding allowed us to accomplish more items on our list.
16. Having these funds allow other issues (wiring) to be addressed sooner.
17. I was not here at the time.
18. In our recent grant, additional early elementary classroom space needs were/are being addressed -- see construction grants.
19. In school buildings that have gone through the remodeling process issues have been resolved.
20. In the past we addressed electrical wiring problems Some were listed by the fire marshal.
21. Issues such as creating more classroom space and creating a better educational environment -- this grant has made those things possible, at least more of a reality.
22. Money had to be focused on fire safety. Demonstration construction did include alternative school facility and other classrooms.

23. Money was used to finish other projects because it was freed up by FS money.
24 N/A
25. No additional funds available.
26. Non-cited issues were not related to cited problems.
27 None noted at the time.
28. Not enough funding available to cover all
29. Not yet, still have cited items to correct.
30 Not yet
31. Overloading of old panel. New zones and divide some large zones is a must.
32. Plans are in the process of being determined for next steps.
33. Possibly. Most of the work was completed prior to my arrival to the district.
34. Project was a fire/safety project only Had no direct impact on educational environment.
35. Remodeling and renovation.
36. Replacement of fire doors in high school gymnasium.
37. Replacements of fire doors, new fire alarm system.
38. Safety issues.
39. Security of the building.
40. Several related areas were made a part of the bid packages and addressed with other funds.
41. Some door replacements from wooden to metal.
42. Some small items were addressed when citation items were corrected.
43. Some work was done with PPEL/SILO funds. Not sure of complete project.
44. Sure. Because the board then began to see all that was needed.
45. The district needs grant monies to resolve safety issues.
46. The installation of the new alarm system also allowed us to add a storm warning system in the same package. We were also able to fix some ceilings (plaster) that were letting loose.
47. There were no others at the time.
48. Upgrade the fire alarm system. Upgrade electrical and mechanical systems necessary to support fire safety improvements.
49. Upgrades to exit and emergency lighting.
50. We added on a security system to the new fire alarm system. They became compatible.
51. We are now able to reset the system from a more appropriate location in the building.
52. We are starting on some other issues as soon as we finish the cited issues.
53. We could divert other dollars to projects we were putting off.
54 We could use other money to help us do what we can't do with the grant.
55. We felt securing used explosion-proof lights at a very reasonable cost penalized us. We had priced new over in the grant. Therefore, we had quite a bit of grant monies left and had to send it back. We were not able to use the money for other non-cited issues
56. We fixed several things that needed attention since the building was under construction or in the process of having repairs.
57. We followed the items that were cited and written in the grant. We did not deviate from the grant application to fix other areas that arose after sending in the grant application.
58 We have been cited for all of our repairs by either the state or by our local fire department.
59. We have better communication with every part of our jr-sr high school now with new intercom/clock system.
60. We have continued to improve district needs.
61. We improved the aesthetics of the areas that we worked -- including lighting, flooring and heating.
62. We now have a modern addressable system.
63. We only addressed cited problems.

64. We only addressed the critical items
65. We redid the entire fire alarm system along with adding additional smoke detectors.
66. We utilized the available funding for the purposes stated and were not able to extend beyond that.
67. We were able to bring our fire-life safety equipment into recommended alignment with ADA specifications for strobes and horns.
68. We were able to do related repairs and improvements
69. We were able to resolve exit doors.
70. We were able to take care of some doors
71. We were able to update and remove some potential areas of concern
72. We were also able to complete some work on our main fire-warning panel.
73. Yes, additional alarms added.
74. Yes, because we identified them and for the fire marshal's support this year. I am hopeful the money will enable us to continue to improve but haven't heard yet.
75. Yes, for instance all of the penetrations through the corridor walls above the ceiling were closed to prevent smoke infiltration.
76. Yes, old, outdated fire alarm systems were replaced. Although not cited, the district and fire marshal were aware of age and difficulty in repairing or replacing worn/broken components.
77. Yes. I want to make sure our schools are as safe as possible for staff and students.
78. Yes. We were able to do the minor projects after the major ones were addressed
79. You are never finished.
80. Addressing the cited issues has always taken all the grant funds as well as some local funds.
81. Because of the need to prevent a dead-end corridor situation, new construction required ADA compliance. We were required to install a handicap accessible ramp.
82. The insurance company provided suggestions. We were able to include a couple of these items.
83. Funded projects allowed for additional improvements to be accomplished by the available funds.
84. In our remodeling project, we resolved a potential citation by enlarging the windows that would be used for fire exits. We also changed our radiators to a type that could be covered, thus eliminating a potential safety hazard from burns.
85. No. However the grant funds allowed us to put our limited funds into other needed areas.
86. Other basic remodeling needs such as painting and flooring were addressed
87. Our entrance doors also addressed energy efficiency.
88. Our outdated telephone system was replaced in order to accommodate needs of the dial-up alarm system.
89. Receipt of grant money calls attention to the need for fire safety. Many non-monetary items become easier to address and more cooperation is easier to attain.
90. Some automatic door closures will now be able to be connected to alarm system we just installed
91. Some very minor issues: i.e. extra plug-ins, etc.
92. The exterior doors and some interior doors were replaced as part of our project. The district upgraded the locks on those doors at the same time and addressed school traffic issues for after school activities.
93. We replaced our telephone system in order to have a different alarm system sound for tornado warnings We were told not to use the fire alarm system for tornado drills.
94 We were able to spend money on improving our door closures, which weren't cited but needed correction.
95. Yes, as the overall security people feel when they see new doors with panic bars, new LED exit lights, etc.

Appendix II: Fire (Life) Safety Survey Comments - (All Districts Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety Grant)

F. Were there any unintended consequences or spin-offs (positive or negative) from the granted monies that were of note? Please explain.

1. Additional items addressed.
2. Additional wiring sometimes was needed in order to be able to do what needed to be done. We had to find another company to do some of the work because whom we usually worked with did not have the certification to be a Notifier.
3. Again -- when looking at renovating instead of building new -- this is not always the best solution.
4. All went well.
5. Any time you improve your facilities everyone feels better about their school.
6. As mentioned above, the staff, students and community all have an added sense of security in our facility.
7. As noted. It helped us resolve safety concerns.
8. Because of additions at two elementary schools, the attendance center was no longer needed and has been closed.
9. Enable other funds to be used to improve student learning spaces.
10. Everything was positive but that was expected!
11. Good economics for community. Used local vendors.
12. Having these funds available freed up local PPEL funds for other projects (new roofs; crucial equipment).
13. Higher costs associated with Davis-Bacon requirements.
14. I wasn't involved in 1998 and don't know.
15. I'm afraid our application was grossly overstated cost-wise. We will likely apply for this grant in the future (depending on fire marshal reports) and will try to do a better job of costing.
16. Instructional: quieter in classrooms.
17. It was nice to report to the community what we have accomplished.
18. New fire system replaced three systems in one facility. The new system is easier to monitor and can be reset from one terminal instead of three.
19. No
20. No
21. No, not really. The work was not glamorous or high profile so most people did not know it was done (wiring, etc.)
22. None as of this time.
23. None that I recall.
24. Not being able to keep award by next bond time.
25. Not to my knowledge.
26. Not to my knowledge.
27. Only positive -- community was very favorable.
28. Only the more you do to old buildings the more you need to do (or fund).
29. Our alarm system controls were relocated to a more appropriate area, which was requested by local fire department some time back.
30. Our patrons have been very pleased with the concern for student safety -- of course, we had hoped for this.
31. Positive -- assisted long term planning.
32. Positive -- I called the fire marshal and asked him to visit us. Also the board of directors were pleased with me.
33. Positive -- life safety issues were corrected. More positive feelings about facilities.
34. Positive. The appearance of the building is much improved. Thank you.
35. Staff became aware of the system working properly for their environment.
36. The biggest gain I saw was trying to fund a computer lab upgrade as tech money ended and the citations for sensors went into effect. The grant allowed $25,000 to be spent on technology that would have gone to fix the citations for hallway sensors and an improved alarm system.

37 The building looks have improved because of the new doors and locks. On our old doors, we had to use skeleton keys.
38. The construction of fire safety improvements in instructional spaces now utilized for art instruction, music classes, and physical education activities at the elementary building
39. The grants helped the district to continue to ensure the safety of its students.
40. The recent $500,000 grant provided impetus for a local successful bond referendum to address additional district instructional space needs See construction grant.
41 This grant helped free up funds to complete other projects to provide our students quality education.
42. Updating of our classroom doors not only provided fire safety, but it greatly improved the appearance of our classrooms.
43. We added on a security system to the new fire alarm system. They became compatible.
44. We also did a tie-in of the fire alarm system with our phone system, along with the intercom system.
45. We expanded the areas to be corrected.
46. We needed building update.
47. We passed a bond issue. The improvement prompted by these grants created enthusiasm and optimism.
48. We think our buildings are much safer.
49. We were able simultaneously to upgrade exit lighting and emergency lighting systems in buildings, some of which were over 100 years old.
50. We were able to both stretch our budget dollars and complete our capital projects with better quality in some cases.
51. We were able to improve the energy efficiency of our portable buildings at the same time. We have a safer school due to the grant.
52. We were able to match the fire/life safety grant money with local dollars and replace hallway doors with magnetic closures that were tied into the new fire alarm system.
53. Yes, greater community awareness of the life safety issues.
54. Davis-Bacon requirements are time consuming and add costs to the project -- not labor rate, but changes for the paper work.
55. Had to send a good deal back that could have been used for other fire prevention/safety issues not listed in the grant.
56. The only negative consequences we noted were the compliance of the Davis-Bacon Act. Some contractors were not familiar with the paperwork to be in compliance with this law.
57. We have run into some unexpected complications (asbestos). These complications caused more expense for the district.
58. I truly believe that the fire inspector gives unnecessary citations because he knows that there is money available. That has been stated to our custodians. Seems like a waste of taxpayer's dollars in some cases.
59 Negative -- after we make corrections that the fire marshal wants we then are cited the next time for areas that we could have addressed the first time with the funds if we had known that. Each year depending on who the fire marshal is that visits your school the " ules change". It would be nice to have some consistency but that does not happen.
60. Negative. The federal requirement to follow the Davis-Bacon Act for wages made the projects far more expensive than necessary
61. A discussion about the long-term needs of the facilities took place at the board level as a result of the grant.
62. Again, when I was at a previous district, we also got one of the first safety grants. As a result, we proved to the community that we were going to take care of our facilities. As a result, once we proved that, the community approved a bond issue.

63. All were positive -- by addressing fire (life) safety issues, we were able to resolve other issues, which further enhanced safety and learning environment in our school district.
64. As a spin-off of updating our fire alarm system, we also updated our burglar alarm system. Also, our updated fire alarm system now allows for two more distinctive alarms -- one for fire and one for tornado.
65. Dealing with Section 106 concerns. We are still trying to get approval to replace doors in the elementary school rather than rebuild doors that are " historically significant". The historical society seems very unreasonable and difficult to work with.
66. Good public relations always occur in our community when patrons are aware of life safety improvements in our building.
67. Improved looks of our educational facilities ... plus positive spin from community members " something district should have done a long time ago!"
68. Our electrician installed sensors in the gym and while he had his scaffolding set up we installed new lights and new scoreboards.
69. Our improved overall review of the buildings made us more aware of potential issues.
70. Positive visual impression by parents in K-3 and allowed dial in to safety center on 24 hour basis to be installed.
71. The positive consequence is that this process sends a message to everyone that we are working together to improve safety in our schools.
72. We have had numerous comments from the public who express appreciation for the fact that we are " taking care of our facilities" and doing things that improve safety.
73. With the district having such problems trying to get bond issues passed, this was one way of showing the public that we are searching for other ways of financing some of the problems we have.
74. Unforeseen and unknown problems came to light during the course of the projects. The result was a safer school for the students.
    Due to the Davis-Bacon wage requirements with the Federal money, the size of the project needed to be carefully monitored. Typically Davis-Bacon adds 7-10% to the cost of the project. This reduces the dollars to be spent on the project.
75. The main spin off was increased awareness and understanding about the scope of fire safety issues and that the cost to address them would be higher than originally anticipated. District maintenance staff has learned how to identify and address many issues.
76. We were able to add a " caller system" to our alarm system, which got our local fire department involved. We also got them involved in demonstrations and education with our students

Appendix II: Fire (Life) Safety Survey Comments - (All Districts Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety Grant)

Other Comments:

1. As renovation of buildings are started, they sometime delay in completion of project that extend the project period beyond the grant and date.
2. For the two years I've been involved now in grant writing, I've appreciated the DE staff.
3. Great program. Helps districts meet safety needs while allowing them to continue funding regular education programs.
4. I believe Department of Education is doing a great job in handling the fire (life) safety grants. Keep up the good work!

5. The DE staff is very good to deal with and is helpful.
6. The DE staff was a big help to us in applying for our grants.
7. Our buildings are old. The county still has not passed SILO. The fire safety grant program has been a godsend!
8. Our district's enrollment falls just below the barrier, which makes it eligible for only $25,000 in fire (life) safety funds. For a district with four buildings, $25,000 doesn't go far
9. Please understand that I'm a new superintendent at this district and have little knowledge of this grant that took place in 2000.
10. Process works well, and if such resources were not available the safety issues are addressed at minimum levels (affordable).
11. Since you need to show new bonds or PPEL for matching funds, that has made us ineligible for additional funds
12. Thank you!
13. The fire and safety grant was very beneficial to our district. Thank you.
14. Our school district is very grateful for grant money in the past to become compliant with citations earlier issued. We were able to make most recommendations and stay within our district budget.
15. The program was a very positive benefit to our school, as it allowed us to install a new fire alarm system covering the entire building We are hoping to receive the new grant to address our exterior door problems.
16. The district's board of directors and the community as a whole were very appreciative of receiving this grant money.
17. This program was and hopefully continues to be a great benefit to fire (life) safety issues in our school district.
18. Very important grant!
19. We appreciate the help the DE gave us.
20. We appreciate this process. This grant program has made our district a much safer place for kids and the total learning environment is much improved. Again ... thank you.
21. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to participate in this program. On behalf of the district I would like to extend our most sincere extension of gratitude. Please come visit.
22. We haven't applied this year because the fire marshal hasn't been here for several years.
23. Would like more flexibility and be rewarded for being conservative with the grant money.
24. When grants are not approved, it would be helpful to get some kind of feedback as to how to write the grant to be more competitive. $25,000 is sometimes simply not enough money to complete projects. Thank you for this opportunity.
25. Both the fire marshal and the DE staff a big help.
26. Excellent program that needs to be continued.
27. Fire (Safety) monies have proven to be extremely valuable to our small district.
28. I appreciate this grant because I am a safety " nt" and I can now sleep at night.
29. Thank you for the grant!
30. This has been an invaluable program for many Iowa school districts. Thank you for all your hard work to coordinate this program.
31. Without assistance of these kinds of grant monies, we simply would be sparring with our local fire officials, asking to be grandfathered under old codes, and unable to address essential needs. We're more than grateful.

Appendix III

Construction Survey Comments

(All Districts Awarded a Construction Grant)

Appendix III
Construction Survey Comments
(All Districts Awarded a Construction Grant)

A. Would the construction projects have been initiated without the grant money? Please explain.

1. Areas (particularly with ventilation issues) are easy to overlook
2. As remodeling is done, interest in the fire safety is considered
3. Before the passage of the LOSST, the grant monies were imperative to help fund the projects Now the grants help the projects be completed more fully.
4. We have faced several years of budget cuts. Money is very tight right now.
5. Doubtful.
6. Limited tax base would have prevailed.
7. No -- the grant dollars were essential.
8. No, because of the cost of the project and the need to coordinate with foundation and other funds.
9. No, because we would not have had the money.
10. No, construction funds wouldn't stretch that far.
11. No, money is really tight right now.
12. No, not without.
13. No, the funds were necessary
14. No.
15. No.
16. No.
17. No. Cost ... problems in financing.
18. No. The PPEL generated approximately $550,000 annually to maintain 12 buildings. When a new roof costs over half that amount, it is difficult to complete needed maintenance. Until last year, our district also had a negative fund balance.
19. Not adequate bonding capacity.
20. Our project involved several issues. Some would never have been done and others would have been piecemeal.
21. Probably not due to lack of funding source.
22. Probably, but not to extent of a better facility.
23. Some yes due to bond issue format. Most although would have been scaled back or not initiated.
24. The bond referendum would have been difficult to pass without the grant funds to help defray costs.
25. The construction grant was considerable -- had helped us to convince the public that it was time to spend some district money (1¢ sales) to assist with the additional 6 rooms and a multipurpose room at the elementary.
26. The district does have LOSST so the projects would likely have been initiated. However, they may have been less in scope. The LOSST will be insufficient to address all building needs.
27. The district was committed to making a change.
28. The district would have spent all its PPEL money on the office and the classroom projects would have suffered. It is doubtful that the 4 classroom additions would have been completed.
29. The grant enabled the district to accomplish more in new construction than otherwise would have been done, but construction would have occurred anyway.
30. The half million, while not a lot, gave an incentive for district patrons to pass the bond.
31. The project would have remained on the planned but unfunded project list.
32. The projects would have been scaled with lesser funds available.
33. The structural elements to provide improved access would not have been undertaken What would have been done would have been much smaller in scale.
34. This was for our public to build trust.

35. We are a growing district. We have no choice but to build more buildings.
36. We had already passed the local option sales tax prior to any applications.
37. We needed grant money to help.
38. We would have probably gone forward with this project at a later date.
39. Without the grant, the project would have been delayed 1-2 years.
40. Would not have been done -- simple as that. It got the election passed.
41. Yes but in a piecemeal approach.
42. Yes, a bond issue passed but the grant helped pass the bond issue.
43. Yes, but at a slower rate.
44. Yes, the need was great for the classroom space
45. Yes, we had to do some things. However, it would have been a much, much smaller project. We had to do the roof and heating and cooling.
46. Yes, we had to.
47. Yes/no. Yes to new high school. No to #2 on agriculture building and greenhouse.
48. At my previous district, the community had voted down four other attempts. The grant was the catalyst for approval.
49. A small fraction of the project would be done without the grant.
50. Most likely, but at a much slower implementation and completion schedule.
51. Need was a 5, likelihood of meeting the need a 1. We have one of the lowest property tax bases per student in the state. The one-cent sales tax has been a boon, but the particular projects helped us turn our planning around.
52. No. The finances weren't there to complete the project on our own.
53. No. The first grant led to a successful bond vote.
54. Probably not as a bond issue was rejected before.
55. The bond we passed before applying for grant #1. For grant #2 it allowed us to do additional work over and above the bond's scope.
56. The district was running so close to their bonding capability it might not have happened. Getting the grant helped with the yes vote.
57. There is no way we could have financed this project without the grant funding. The likelihood of passing a bond issue is nil.
58. We used the grant money to renovate eight science classrooms and labs at the high school. It would have been put off for ten years until we had collected enough revenue from the LOSST to fund a renovation at the high school.
59. We would have been forced to wait until the boiler broke down to replace it.
60. We would have had to scale back the first project by at least 30% without the money. The second project would not have been possible.
61. Yes, we would have completed projects, but entire plan and structure of projects would have been different.
62. Yes. We had already tried a bond issue prior to the announcement of the grants. The bond issue failed twice.
63. Even with our matching funds, it was a struggle for our district to find the revenue sources to match grant allocation.
64. The bond failed so we did not get the funds.
65. We needed the space.
66. We were going to build a new elementary. It was just a matter of how to structure the revenue.

Appendix III: Construction Survey Comments - (All Districts Awarded a Construction Grant)

B. How necessary was it that you apply for the grant to resolve the issues of constructing new schools or remodeling existing buildings that faced your district? Why?

1. Absolutely necessary.
2. Additional space was needed at the secondary building.
3. Bonds are hard to pass and communities want to see all types of other solutions.
4. We have faced ten years of declining enrollment due to many plant closings and loss of jobs in this area

5. Our elementary center had variances for serious fire (life) safety issues including having TH61, special education and lower elementary students using rooms on the 3rd floor
6. Elementary students had to have lunch in their rooms Elementary library was in portables.
7 Funding sources, our PPEL generates about $70,000 yearly. We operate 3+ facilities At the time, we did not have sales tax.
8. Grant 1 -- allowed us to keep project in the budget with necessary construction. Grant 2 -- remodeling would not have occurred without grant.
9. I do not know exactly what would have been cut from the project, but something would have been.
10. Important to modernize the school to avoid losing children to other school districts who have newer building.
11. It was essential. Extra classrooms were needed badly.
12. It was the factor that allowed the Board of Education to decide to build the fitness center addition.
13. Lack of funds in PPEL and SILO.
14. Likely wouldn't have happened without matching funds
15. Limited tax base would have prevailed.
16. More building needs than what we could bond for.
17. Our building was old, beyond repair and couldn't meet code.
18. Our district has numerous projects that will enhance our learning environments. The faster this happens, the better.
19. Provided extra funding for better quality structure than just the bond funds would have done. (Terrazzo floors, sprinkler system, etc)
20. Really this was not a decision. We did some remodeling, but our oldest building is 1979.
21. Taxes are a real issue to the community.
22. The building, which was torn down, was in bad shape. It would have cost way too much to attempt to renovate.
23. The district has unfunded capital project needs exceeding $45 mil
24. The grants have helped fund HVAC, electrical, fire/life safety, and health related projects. Without the funding, fewer projects would be completed with a smaller scope of work.
25. The grants were absolutely necessary to complete all projects.
26. The small amount of money we have to work with does not go very far.
27. There was a great need to replace windows at 3 of our buildings. We were able to actually finish 2 buildings. We would not have had the funds to cover the entire project without the grant.
28. This project allowed us to abandon a well-used portable classroom and bring our preschool children into the building.
29. Very necessary -- our preschool handicapped class is currently using the home economics room in the morning. Our afternoon preschool (regular) is also in the home economics room. We really need the two new rooms that the grant will provide, so the home economics room can be used for vocational classes again.
30. We are building a new building without any grant money. The remodeling of an existing building is where the grant $$ would be needed to finish the project. We couldn't meet all the needs of the district without the grant.
31. We are in one of the few growing areas of the state. Our patrons need the support to assist with their tax $$.
32. We had a water issue that needed to be resolved because the city was concerned about the excess water in their storm sewer system
33. We have local option sales tax
34. We must look at all grants to help fund education whether it is for instructional materials or facilities. We must be good stewards of the taxpayer's monies and look for other ways to help fund education.

35. We needed these dollars to fill the gap between bond authority and projects actual costs promised to be completed.
36. We would not have been able to do the project without the additional funding.
37. Because of the number of students in wheelchairs in our district, access to facilities is critical.
38. In the case of the addition to a new middle school, this grant helped us completely close an older, less efficient building. In the case of an HVAC upgrade, one-cent sales tax money simply was not available.
39. Inflation, rising construction costs and mandated code requirements all contribute to higher per square foot construction costs. The grant monies allowed for available local funds to purchase additional scope of work in construction designing.
40. Insufficient bonding capacity.
41. It was paramount in renovating the elementary building. The ability to generate enough funds through bond referendums is not possible.
42. Lack of space; teacher doubled up in some classrooms, other spaces inadequate for the program.
43. Only have 1¢ sales tax dollars. Community would not vote to pass bond for such improvements.
44. Our tax is pushing $18.00 per $1000 assessed valuation and we only have $12.5 million in bonding capacity. We are growing at a rate which will force us to build three schools in the next 5-6 years. Our bonding capacity will not allow it.
45. Rising construction costs from planning to implementation would have caused us to scale back considerably without the grant.
46. Very necessary. No improvements would have occurred without the grant support.
47. Yes. The available money helped make patrons look at how this would lower the property tax portion of a bond issue
48. Absolutely necessary as we could not have achieved our infrastructure goals without the matching funds.
49. As I said, the grant was the deciding factor Our four communities have had problems in cooperating on bond issues. This helped to make the decision.
50. It was important, as no construction would have been completed without the grant.
51. Local sources of revenue are insufficient to address all building needs. Without the grant funds fewer projects will be able to be undertaken and completed.
52. Our bonding capacity was limited. So these grants were very important to us. We did not have a significant reserve in PPEL, so these grants became critical for the new high school and remodeling of our old high school.
53. The grant allows the district to move forward aggressively to address identified needs.
54. The grant funding helped us to make our local $ go further.
55. This was a critical issue in our district. The average age of our buildings is over 50 years old. Most of our roofs were several years past their intended life. Without these funds, it would have been several years before we would be at the point we are today.
56. Without the carrot of grant dollars, our district would not likely passed an increase in our PPEL.

Appendix III: Construction Survey Comments - (All Districts Awarded a Construction Grant)

C. To what degree did the grant monies assist in alleviating the construction or remodeling issues? Please explain.

1. Helped us increase size of classrooms
2. Helped us to build a greenhouse.
3. Again, by passing the bond issue, we were able to do most everything on our list. Without the grant, we would still have a long list of items to do.
4. Again, the grant was a catalyst for approval

5. Allowed immediate renovation
6. Allowed the district to replace an old inadequate facility.
7. Assisted us to complete our 10-year plan.
8. Basically gave us the ability to complete the projects.
9. Between grant and QZAB program the district could show that for every $1.00 of local tax dedicated to the construction project, the state would kick in an additional 25 cents.
10. Completely for this project
11. Grant monies have only reduced the construction/remodeling needs. The district's aging facilities still require much more.
12. Great help to meet budget requirements.
13. Greatly relieved our space issues and gave the community an idea of how nice new spaces can be.
14. Helped with total finance picture.
15. I do not know exactly what would have been cut from the project, but something would have been.
16. Immensely! Helped make the project successful.
17. It allowed the project to be completed. Otherwise part would have been held up until additional funds were available.
18. It gave us a start
19. It helps but, since we are close to an urban area, our price for the building will probably be higher due to Davis-Bacon.
20. It motivated the acceptance of the construction project.
21. It took some of the pressure of growth off for a short while. The pressure is building rapidly again.
22. It was a great start.
23. Our district was not able to pass a bond issue. Our Foundation raised significant funds to do the building and this grant made it possible to do the project without raising even more funds.
24. Project would not have been initiated without the grant funds.
25. Provided $500,000 of $10,000,000 cost. Great help.
26. Provided for better quality building and allowed for the renovation of certain older areas to meet safety and ADA requirements.
27. Significant impact. Without the grant, the scope of the remodeling would have been severely limited.
28. The early childhood facility would not have happened.
29. The grant enabled us to move forward with the project.
30. The grant money really helped us make our budget work.
31. The grant monies allowed us to renovate the high school science rooms sooner rather than later. It also brought the learning and technology environment up to the 21st century.
32. The grant monies provided most of the gap money we needed
33. The grant monies were of great help to complete the drainage project sooner than waiting to save PPEL funds. The city and residential neighbors were very appreciative for alleviating the water problem.
34. The grant monies were critical to the project.
35. The grant's help was significant in both cases.
36. The grants have helped fund HVAC, electrical, fire/life safety, and health related projects. Without the funding, fewer projects would be completed with a smaller scope of work.
37. The money helped tremendously.
38. The new addition allowed appropriate space for a PK-12 library including ICN and computer lab. This then also opened up rooms in previous locations for expanding early childhood classrooms and un-doubling some spaces.
39. The projects would not have been completed -- dollars not available.
40. We have more to do but we will need a bond issue (60% is a major hurdle).
41. We were able to add facilities for one school and Head Start

42. We were able to address/resolve approximately ten infrastructure needs of our school district with PPEL, cash on hand, and grant monies.
43 We were able to eliminate 40-year-old portable buildings that were used as classrooms
44. We were able to make many improvements.
45. We were able to provide the funds to replace our antique boiler.
46 We would not be constructing two new rooms without the grant money.
47 While conditions are not ideal, this has improved conditions dramatically.
48. Would not have happened for at least 3 years.
49. The bond failed so we did not get the funds.
50. Not at all, we lost it.
51 For the 2000 grant, we had to wait on the construction of the four classroom additions for successful passage of a local option sales tax vote We had the money we needed, with the grant, to complete the project.
52. Other needs remain but quantum leaps were made with the grant.
53. Our district is a rural area with low valuations and we don't generate very much in property tax so to make the finances work we had to have the grant.
54. The grant monies enable us to stretch our local funds to undertake more projects and to ensure that all needs are being met. A remodeled building receives the resources it needs to bring it up to par with a new building.
55 The grant provided a way to address the critical needs of our district in regards to maintenance. These funds allowed us to take existing funding and stretch it to meet our many needs.
56. We will have a new elementary and middle school by the start of the 2005-06 school year. This would not have been the case without the grant funds. We still have the issues involved in updating our high school.
57. With the grant funds as a base, foundation and private donations were received to complete the construction projects.
58. Funds provided opportunity to construct buildings/rooms that would not have been feasible.
59. Grant monies opened the door to the community and board to push to set and accomplish facility goals.
60. In both cases, while identifying match monies was challenging, the grants provided the incentive and leverage to candidly approach needs and do the " ight thing".
61. It helped us pass a bond issue.
62. Voter approval was required and the grant monies were an important part of the sell for a YES vote.
63. We had been considering this project but couldn't get the approval of all until this grant was awarded.
64. We were able to get a bond issue passed with this incentive and now have a nice building.

Appendix III: Construction Survey Comments - (All Districts Awarded a Construction Grant)

D. How satisfied are the school board, educators, and community with the project? Please explain.

1 All are happy with all projects. Two additions plus major remodeling.
2. All are very pleased with what has been accomplished.
3. Everyone is pleased.
4. Everyone is proud and happy, especially the students.
5. Everyone is satisfied but would welcome any opportunities to improve school building and provide more space in classrooms.
6 Everyone was very satisfied with the drainage project. We have not had a problem.
7. Exceptionally satisfied.
8. Extremely satisfied and grateful for grant resources to assist us in our efforts.

9 Extremely satisfied as it provided something for everybody. Good use of taxpayers' money as LOSST used as matching funds
10. Funds for construction projects are inadequate to meet local needs. Any additional funds assist in addressing identified needs
11. Have had many, many community members say how nice it is. Very pleased.
12 It was a great project supported by the Board and community.
13. These groups always support new construction and remodeling projects. Timelines are a concern throughout the years.
14. Our community is very appreciative. The grants have allowed us to stretch our local option tax dollars to do several projects in a shorter time frame. Specifically -- build new science labs and art rooms at the high school Note: the science labs and art rooms were not built with the grant funds but the grant freed up additional local option dollars to make the project possible.
15. Our new middle school has been up and running for two full years and has proven to be very functional, meeting the needs of students and the community.
16. Still in progress.
17. The board and public were thrilled. We are preparing our building for the future That would not have been possible without the grant.
18. The elementary remodeling, along with the high school construction (Vision Iowa) project has made the PK-5 and 9-12 facilities one of the most outstanding facilities in the area. These projects have brought the community into the schools more!
19. The new facility is an excellent educational setting.
20. The project has been extremely well received.
21. The school board, teachers and community members are extremely pleased with (school name). It is a beautiful new shiny building.
22. The stakeholders are very satisfied with this school/community project that includes a community library and computer lab as well as meeting areas.
23. There has been nothing but accolades upon completion of the project! The visit from Senator Harkin added to the pride of our communities regarding our school!
24. They are very proud of the building.
25. They feel that we are very fortunate to have the availability of these funds to help the improvement of our facilities.
26. They love the facilities.
27. They see advances in fire safety.
28. Thrilled with the results! Alleviates some burden for taxpayers.
29. Very pleased that alternative education students will be moved to an educationally acceptable facility.
30. Very pleased with the outcome of all our $52.7 million projects to date.
31. Very pleased.
32. Very pleased. Currently the building is the high school of a whole-grade sharing arrangement negotiated since the construction.
33. Very pleased. We haven't had any negative letters to the editor in the paper and the board is very happy with the progress on the project. We involved the community from the beginning so they had their chance to complain and the grant money helps with any concerns. It's not all being paid by property taxes!
34. Very satisfied and wondering if there is any potential for additional support.
35. Very satisfied this far.
36. Very satisfied!
37. Very satisfied! Given the rate of growth and # of bond issues necessary, our public is very appreciative!
38. Very satisfied!! The new classrooms and the remodeling significantly improved the facility and the culture of the school.
39. Very satisfied, except we have at least one board member who does not like to refer to these dollars as " Harkin dollars". I wonder what political party he belongs to?
40. Very satisfied.

41. Very satisfied.
42. Very satisfied.
43. Very satisfied. We have new fitness center that continues to benefit all our student population daily as well as the athletic programs.
44. Very satisfied. We have several new roofs on buildings. There is an increased sense of pride in the district. Prior to these projects, the community thought that the district did not choose to maintain its facilities.
45. Very!
46. Very!
47. Very. People are excited about the improvements I have heard no negatives.
48. We are very pleased with the new boiler.
49. We are very satisfied. The new windows have helped greatly with heating and cooling issues.
50. We can't answer this question, as our project is not entirely completed. The new lighting and the new telephone system have been completed and everyone is very happy with those.
51. We're in the middle of it, but all groups are excited about the projects.
52. The bond failed so we did not get the funds.
53. The 4 classroom additions actually connected to the wings of the new high school. Not only has it enabled us to connect the buildings in a pleasing way, the function of it has enabled us to expand our curriculum. Every teacher now has a room and the addition looks like it has been a part of the original construction.
54. The project has been very successful. It may now help us to get a very old building closed and allow room enough for all elementary to be housed at one location.
55. The school board, educators, and community have been very pleased with the project. The community recently voted to renew the PPEL levy for another ten years. A citizens oversight committee meets regularly and helps ensure accountability City officials have been especially pleased with neighborhood revitalization after a new school has been built.
56. Very satisfied. Appreciate the efforts of the DE in overseeing the grants in a fair and easy to complete format.
57. Very satisfied. Many favorable comments by patrons. Board is pleased.
58. A point of pride.
59. Board of Education, community and neighboring communities can't believe improvements in appearance and comfort to building
60. Everyone is pleased with the newly renovated facilities. The air movement and climate control are much improved. It is so light and bright in the classroom. It is truly a learning environment.
61. It is a great incentive to improve facilities and leverage additional resources.
62. Recent district support of a $25 million bond referendum and passage of local option tax appear to be positive support by community/school board/educators, possibly triggered by visual impact of what can be accomplished when funding is available, demonstrated by projects supported by grant monies.
63. The community, staff, and board were elated over the results of our construction project. They are already suggesting ideas for upcoming projects. Our success has had a positive impact on the neighboring district's ability to pass construction levies.
64 The new facilities have resulted in at least two new major companies coming to town.
65. Very pleased, community ownership and pride is at an all-time high.
66. We need to replace two older buildings (three story). Our community has said " No" to two bond elections. Without the federal grant money, we wouldn't achieve our goal of a new elementary school.
67. Construction has not started.
68. Still in progress ... bid-letting in February 2005 with completion in August 2006
69. The project is still in its infancy.

Appendix III: Construction Survey Comments - (All Districts Awarded a Construction Grant)

E. Are there other issues not resolved that additional grant monies might address in your district? Please explain and describe your priority order to address them.

1. 1. Middle school. 2. High school multipurpose space; 3. High school auditorium.
2. Safety and security 2. Classroom remodeling and upgrades. 3. Support buildings.
3. A new addition to the elementary school to close the gap, as it is an " L shaped building. A newly constructed middle school A major renovation at the high school.
4. Accessibility problems at the high school -- people in a wheelchair only have a 1975 chair lift. Limited mobility. Persons must use stairs or multiple entrances.
5. Additional grant issues would help alleviate declining sales tax funds to remodel schools in the tail end of the 10-year project
6. Additional grant monies will help us stay under our bonding capacity.
7. Additions at elementaries and junior high as well as new/renovated high school with addition.
8. After current projects are finished, we will add a junior high gym, which is not eligible. In about 4 years we will add elementary band and vocal music rooms.
9. Although we are working toward the final years of "newer and fewer" for the elementary buildings, we have three middle schools -- two of them are ancient.
10. Another grant is being written for the high school.
11. Another infrastructure bond.
12. As good as the grants have been, other schools could benefit.
13. Bringing our high school to the standard that the new building has.
14. Bus barn renovation or new construction; rec center refurbishment; replace damaged soffit on jr-sr high school; HVAC system in the gymnasium and other areas.
15. By allowing for three equally weighted categories, districts may tailor the grant to have the greatest impact on the largest number of students.
16. Classroom space needed.
17. Demolition and replacement of 15,000 square feet of 1916 and 1924 building areas.
18. Facility equity for high school students. Our elementary and middle school will have air-conditioning when completed
19. High school remodeling.
20. Increasing enrollment -- new needs.
21. It would be nice to have some funds available for building security such as cameras, etc
22. Media center intermediate. Climate control.
23. Need a larger gym with stage.
24. Need for space to house alternative education (alternative school, at-risk program, home school assistance).
25. Not at this time.
26. Other events and structures needed for early childhood.
27. Our growth continues, we are not looking at an additional " pper middle school" . Grant application may follow.
28. Our high school building is 32 years old and renovations are needed due to obsolete equipment ... HVAC, circuit breakers, ..
29. Reducing enrollment could cause us to.
30. Remodeling of grades 1-2 classrooms for developmentally appropriate program space considerations.
31. Replace and remodel old buildings.
32. Replacement of five junior high classrooms badly needed.
33. Rods on all buildings; structural issues such as piping system replacement; infrastructure and structural needs to be addressed due to age of buildings.
34. Student recreation facilities and a performance auditorium.

35 The district needs to continue to meet preschool needs in the district. With reorganization, we now operate a preschool in a portable building. In addition, more community school areas need to be created
36 The district still has older facilities being used by students. Most pressing are 2 elementary schools constructed in 1918.
37. The one item we need to address is a gymnasium I don't expect there will ever be a grant for that.
38 The upkeep of existing buildings, meeting the changing needs required by the state, tearing down of old buildings takes more than PPEL can generate.
39. There are about $85,000,000 worth of projects to be completed. The LOSST will fund $67,000,000 worth of these needed/required projects. Forced choice activities were held community-wide to set the priority for the various types of projects.
40. Vocational center is needed (Industrial Arts)
41 We always struggle with accessibility issues and want our structures accessible to all Energy efficiency is another issue.
42. We are growing at 200+ students per year and we have space issues. Additional $ would equate to more instructional spaces.
43. We are in need of additional classroom space at our high school building.
44. We are looking to build a new high school.
45 We are quickly running out of appropriate classroom space and supporting lunchroom facilities at the middle school.
46 We had a problem with rotting windows but we had to replace the windows last summer. We also have a multipurpose room floor that needs replacing.
47. We have a new elementary building in the plans.
48. We have an old sports complex that will have to be used until we can fundraise.
49. We have conducted a facility study with the help of architects. We are currently constructing Phase I classroom projects. Phase II involves a new gymnasium and fitness center. We would welcome the opportunity to apply for grant funding but it appears the parameters would first need to be broadened.
50. We have great need to replace doors and windows in all buildings. Have 30 year-old single pane panel windows .... not energy efficient. Need to decide how long we put $ in old building.
51. We have many needs, and look forward to setting them forth in a competitive process.
52. We have one facility in need of expansion of the fire alarm, plus a new fire escape.
53. We have roof issues for our current middle school building and we will soon need to address our elementary school roof.
54. We have safety concerns that are not fire safety related, such as ventilation and changing areas for a population of special education that we need improved health and nursing stations
55. We have several old buildings that need work and expansion.
56. We need a boiler for junior high but it doesn't really fit.
57. We will try to develop a 5-year plan to prioritize our needs.
58. Yes -- we need to repair structural damage to a 19-year-old building due to earth settling conditions. Would this be eligible for grant consideration?
59. Yes, we have had a large amount of money donated for a performing arts center. However, we will need to find grant money for part of the project. We could really use additional classroom space also. Right now, money for the performing arts center is the top priority. Our school does not have an auditorium.
60. Not at this time.
61. We have a 1950 building that needs a new boiler and rewiring. We would also like to air condition it so we could extend the school year. We hope to apply for grant money to help us.
62. We have a strong need to address some roofing and wiring concerns in the secondary building We will be applying for more assistance.

63 We have other major issues with our buildings. We have tried seven times to pass bond issues and have not succeeded. We now have new administration and are going to attempt some changes again in about a year. A grant at that time would be welcomed.
64 With low bonding capacity and buildings that are over 50 years old, ongoing maintenance will be required The community thinks brick lasts forever but to keep it watertight requires constant attention. We still have several major projects to complete in the next 3-5 years.
65. Infrastructure needs, heating, cooling, plumbing, electrical continue to outstrip available funds.
66. Our district bond referendum identified $35 million of infrastructure needs; however, community supported only $25 million. Additional grant monies would allow local funds to stretch farther.
67. Our science room is in desperate need of being updated. It is still equipped with original fixtures that were installed in about 1950. Our Ag program desperately needs space for classroom and shop areas
68. The district still has many millions of dollars of unmet facility needs. Local funds (LOSST and PPEL) will be insufficient to meet all the needs before the levies expire.
69. The grant helped address issues related with a 1951 section of our building. Similar issues need to be addressed in a 1959 section of the building.
70. We have well over $100 million identified projects that remain unfunded to date. Basic needs i.e. ADA, roofs and HVAC are the top priorities.

Appendix III: Construction Survey Comments - (All Districts Awarded a Construction Grant)

F. Were there any unintended consequences or spin-offs (positive or negative) from the granted monies that were of note? Please explain.

1. Any time you remodel, issues arise concerning other problems. This occurred but only minimally.
2. Comments from area educators and public ... e.g. best looking campus in state, can't believe we have a new building.
3. Difficult to complete projects within the time parameters.
4. Due to the grant and new construction we were able to upgrade the telephone system throughout the district not just in the newly constructed buildings.
5. Grant funding was reduced from our original request. Had to access funds from Vision Iowa.
6. It always costs MORE than is estimated because you never know what you'll find in renovations. Also, when trying to renovate instead of build new ... sometimes that's the wrong solution.
7. It provided an emotional boost.
8. Large community fundraising projects!
9. Much local economic impact.
10. None that we are aware of at this time.
11. Now that we have some new spaces we want to continue to upgrade many other spaces and building.
12. Only good things.
13. Only negative was the high school staff being a little jealous of the K-8 staff for having air conditioning and a newly remodeled building. But over all, the project was a wonderful addition to not only the school district, but to the entire community.
14. Only positive: we've been able to re-conceive our entire middle school educational program through this grant
15. Our district patrons are delighted with the improvements in spite of some negative attitude of one community's residents due to closing of their building in 2003

16. Our tax levy was not as high as publicized because of the grant.
17. Positive -- we were enabled to do many items commonly considered extras that will extend the life of the projects.
18. Some of the reporting.
19. The additional classrooms are so great that at least 2 teachers (very good ones) are thinking of staying with us longer than they planned.
20. The district closed the one education center due to elementary classroom additions eliminating need for space.
21. The grant process allowed us to add a science center at the high school. Our citizens and our employees are becoming proud of our buildings and are taking better care of them
22. The negative would be there regardless of the grant and the positives are what we had hoped to see happen.
23. The positive is that what a great program it is We are benefiting our children -- our future.
24. We had planned to start an addition to the high school, which turned out to be too expensive as a result of the need for all new electrical work.
25. We had to relet bids. The first time we let bids, we only received one bid and it was way over the cost estimated by the architects and our budget. We are hoping that by reletting the bids earlier in the calendar year that we will receive more bids and that they will be competitive.
26. We were able to pass an $8 million dollar bond issue.
27. A group of taxpayers challenged the elementary project.
28. Davis-Bacon additional costs for paper work -- nothing to my knowledge on pay scale -- around $10,000 cost
29. The district was not aware of the Davis-Bacon Act and needed to do some backtracking.
30. The only unintended consequence was early in the grant program understanding and monitoring compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. The district has had to pay wages higher than the average local rate and has established a strong system for compliance.
31. Better student learning and it has really helped with pride in the community. It helps with economic development.
32. Made us aware of other infrastructure needs in the district.
33. More projects were completed than those for which funds were requested.
34. New companies came to town.
35. The district did leverage funds for a bond issue, LOSST vote and private and foundation donations.
36. Additional space provided opportunity to remodel other areas. Also positive school/community relations as we all use the school and public libraries and activity area.
37. Great community involvement and ownership. Our community is making greater and greater use of our remodeled facilities.
38. People in the community have donated many hours and funds to supplement what the construction project has done (i.e weight room equipment, score boards, trees, etc.)
39. Provided impetus for successful local bond referendum!
40. Tremendous support from our community to assist with furnishings. Positive feedback from patrons noting that we are addressing academic/classroom needs first!

Appendix III: Construction Survey Comments - (All Districts Awarded a Construction Grant)

G. Have the grant monies impacted your ability to leverage funds through a bond issue or other referendum(s)? Please explain.

1. 1¢ sales tax options.
2. But it has increased the impact of recently passed PPEL and SILO initiatives.
3. Caused it to pass!
4. Helpful in passing our bond issue.
5. I believe in a positive way as our patrons appreciate the assistance with a growing district.
6. I'm not aware of any impact but I would suggest asking (name of company)
7. It has stretched our dollars so that we are able to do more with the taxpayers' monies.
8. It helped pass the bond issue so we didn't lose the funds.
9. It was identified as a major portion of the project. It was great PR.
10. Led to a successful bond referendum in 2001.
11. LOSST monies used as matching funds with the grant allowed for a quality project instead of piecemeal fixes.
12. No, we are using the one-cent sales tax revenue for the matching part.
13. Not in our case
14. Not sure.
15. Not through bond issues, but through community consensus when using the LOSST funds.
16. Project accomplished by grant support have created visual images of potential improvements that would be accomplished, should the community support local funding and referendum approvals.
17. Project used a combination of this grant, Vision Iowa, and PPEL funds.
18. Rising construction costs from planning to implementation would have caused us to scale back considerably without the grant.
19. The bond failed so we did not get the funds.
20. The community recently overwhelming approved renewing the PPEL levy. The LOSST levy expires in 2009 and preliminary plans are underway to examine an extension of this levy.
21. The construction was much closer to meeting our immediate needs at the time because the grant and local bonding capacity made it possible.
22. The district used bond issue funds to assist grant funds in construction of an alternative high school -- during public information campaign for bond issue it was stated the grant $$ would be returned if the issue failed to pass.
23. The grant made the bond issue passable with all of the aforementioned items in the project. Any bond issue we would have passed without the grant would have been very small indeed.
24. The grant was critical to the bond issue.
25. The grant was the carrot that helped us increase our PPEL -- but we are now maxed out, so matching funds are not possible and there are still projects to be done.
26. The primary means by which we have funded our match is the LOSST, but the challenge has given an entirely new perspective to that funding source.
27. The progress on our building made it easier to pass PPEL in 2000 and local option sales tax in 2004.
28. The Vision Iowa funds helped us pass the bond referendum.
29. To complete the project we had to have funds committed.
30. Total number of grants made a difference on bond issue to remodel the elementary/middle school.
31. Tried with 1st grant to pass a bond issue It failed at 53% approval!
32. Used SILO funds as matching.
33. We got a lot more of the building done than first thought.

34 We used our local option sales tax as a match for the grant
35. We were able to help pass our local option sales tax by promoting our facility needs (4 classroom addition need) to the public This tactic included information about not being able to use the construction grant money if we could not generate the needed money for the 4-classroom addition.
36. We were able to pass an $8 million dollar bond issue. Plus SILO tax in two counties
37 We were able to pass an additional property tax levy once the public knew we had received the grant
38. Yes in both cases. I think they helped us pass the SILO 1 cent referendum.
39 Yes, but it also helped in the development of local financial partnerships. Any renovation or new construction concerning recreation or sports the YMCA and or the Booster Club will provide a dollar for dollar match. This was modeled off to the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant formula.
40 Yes We passed an $8.9 million bond.
41. The money is such a small percentage of the overall cost of the project I am not sure that had anything to do with the passage of our bond issue.
42. Due to the grant we were able to get a successful yes vote.
43. Our community has supported recently the sales tax. We've had community members mention they like how grants and sales tax combined can do some " ig" items for us.
44 SILO was passed to match the grant.
45. The fact of availing ourselves of the grant opportunities was used as a plus point when campaigning for the LOSST referendum.
46. The grant funds helped us leverage our local dollars.
47 The grant undoubtedly had a positive impact on the bond issue.
48. The matching requirement was a significant factor in getting the voters to approve the tax levy.
49. Absolutely yes. As I have stated, the grant was of great help in passing a bond issue, which had failed twice.
50. After the bond issue was approved in my previous district, the district passed both the sales tax and the income tax surtax to fund the bond issue instead of property taxes.
51. As a result of construction grant, we were simultaneously able to pass a 10-year capital loan note of $1,224,000 for new construction of 4-6 attendance center to existing secondary building. The result has been a reduction of general fund expenditures.
52. People were more willing to vote for a bond issue if they had help. We really appreciate this.
53. We need to replace two older buildings (three story). Our community has said " o" to two bond elections. Without the federal grant money, we wouldn't achieve our goal of a new elementary school.

Appendix III: Construction Survey Comments - (All Districts Awarded a Construction Grant)

Other Comments:

1. At our district we have an application pending. We know that the regional high school is the future. We want to be a part of that future.
2. Excellent program for those of us that have high needs and little resources The DE staff was excellent help. Our kids need similar opportunities as those in the rich suburbs. Thanks to this program it really helps our education too.
3. Great program.
4. I will not be in this district next fiscal year, but I have great concern about the present system of funding infrastructure needs for our district The growth has outstripped bonding capacity and the county does not have a 1¢ school infrastructure tax

5. It would be really helpful if the match could be lowered for grants awarded that are not in conjunction with a bond referendum -- perhaps to 10-15%.
6. DE staff was a great help -- made the paper work very easy.
7. Thank you for putting money into infrastructure that is so needed.
8. Thank you for your help with funding the elementary school. I would like to be notified of the next opportunity to apply.
9. Thank you!
10. Thank you, thank you for your assistance in helping us achieve some of our district infrastructure goals, for the benefit of students and patrons of our school district.
11. The combination of these grants and our bond issues has allowed our district to make great progress.
12. We appreciate any financial assistance for maintaining school facilities.
13. We are very, very appreciative of the grant program.

Appendix IV

Non-Grant Recipient Survey Comments

(All Districts Not Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety or Construction Grant)

Appendix IV
Non-Grant Recipient Survey Comments
(All Districts Not Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety or Construction Grant)

2a) If you were not aware of the Fire (Life) Safety or Construction Grant opportunity for your district, do you believe you would have applied given the appropriate information? Please explain.

1. Our school district approved a merger with a neighboring district. Both districts will complete a district facility survey with architects in March 2005. We will likely seek funding sources later -- perhaps fall of 2005. I will contact the state fire marshal soon. Your communication has been excellent.
2. We are not ready to bond yet.
3. We received a grant of $175,000 in 2001 (ed Vision Iowa)

Appendix IV: Non-Grant Recipient Survey Comments: All Districts Not Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety or Construction Grant

2b) Please describe what we could have done differently to communicate to you or others within your district?

1. We have applied in the past and have applied again this year. I hope our applications are NOT being ignored.
2. The communication is not the problem. The possibility of actually receiving a grant is! With many of us superintendents moving around the state, a good share of us have had such disappointing experiences, that we don't respond to the next year's application process.
3. Thought you could not apply if the fire marshal cited you as in need of making such improvements.
4. We applied last year and did not receive it because we had not had a bond, SILO, or ISL within the last five years. We are applying again.
5. We did apply but were not awarded a grant. We will try again this fall. We did not have any prior citations from the State Fire Marshal, so that automatically eliminated us from applying for the fire (life) safety grants. We now have citations!
6. Your records are wrong.

Appendix IV: Non-Grant Recipient Survey Comments: All Districts Not Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety or Construction Grant

3. Reasons for not applying for either the Fire (Life) Safety or the Construction Grant.

1. (In a previous district) We did receive a fire (life) safety grant one time when we had some Fire Marshal issues. However, we also applied one year when the fire marshal closed a whole wing of our building for three months and we were not funded that year. There is certainly no logical reasoning behind who receives funding and who does not. Schools with the most students appear to be funded more often than small schools.
2. An application for fire (life) safety and construction grant has been submitted for this cycle. Our bond referendum for construction was passed in 1995 prior to the this grant being available.
3. Applying for 2004-05 after first citation.

4. We only learned about the grant program this year. We were interested in participating until it was learned that the repairs of the citations had to happen after 9/28/04. We try to address major repairs during the summer without students being on campus
5. Currently an application is on file awaiting a reply (1926 building) Note: 1998 new middle school, 1963 high school and updated alternative school.
6 Did not have appropriate documentation from fire marshal indicating required need in time to apply. Applied for construction grant instead but didn't receive any funding.
7. Didn't have budget for matching funds until SILO passed.
8 I am planning to apply this year. This is my second year as superintendent of schools here We had many items needing upgrading by the State Fire Marshal
9. I am unaware of any grants my predecessor may have submitted. We may have a small need in 2004-05.
10. I have written both and sent both in last year and both were denied I attended ICN session last year.
11. Last time was 2002-03 school year. Also did not have very high FRL % nor had we held bond issue elections so lost points in those categories.
12. Need to complete merger process with neighboring district Facility planning begins in February 2005.
13. Need to complete school merger with neighboring district Strategic planning and district facility master plan will precede application for the Iowa Demonstration grant. Also .... I need to contact the State Fire Marshal. Our district is very interested in the grant for the next application period.
14. No recent fire marshal site visit.
15. Not certain of the reason, I just started July 1, 2004.
16. Our district now has a building project, which could use the grant funding, and we also have the matching funds to meet that obligation.
17. Our needs while cost prohibitive for us were not large enough to be selected. It was a time consuming process to be turned down. Also our needs were not critical.
18. The district has previously applied but was not awarded a grant because of low F/L% ages and district cash balance.
19. The district is making an application for the 2004-05 school year.
20. Timeliness
21. Very little time remained when we learned of the grants. We assumed that we would not meet the need criteria.
22. We considered an application one year but decided not to submit an application that year because of other possible options.
23. We did apply this year.
24. We did not have a need for the construction grant and had not had a fire marshal inspection since 1998. Last spring, we finally had an inspection, so this fall we have submitted an application for the FLS grant. In the near future, we plan some construction/renovation and will plan to apply for the other grant at that time.
25. We do not have the funds for the construction grant match. Regarding the fire/safety grant, we did not have a recent inspection (within the past 3 years) upon which to base the grant.
26. We have an aging building that we are trying to renovate or replace within 5 years.
    We applied last year to get some of the safety concerns addressed but did not receive the grant funds. We are now in planning to figure out how to maintain" the old building until we can build a new one.
27. We have applied in the past. Sometimes successfully, some not.
28. We have had no fire or safety citations by the State Fire Marshall.
29. We perceive that our need is much less than many other districts. I couldn't in good conscience ask for funds from this program.

30. We use the School Renovation, IDEA and Technology Grant Program for our improvement and for our fire/safety issues. We received $287,000 that we used for our handicapped improvements and fire safety issues.
31. We were ineligible previously, due to our having the local option tax and heavy weighting for low Socio-Economic Status population. We did apply in the most recent round of fire and safety grant applications and will apply in the future for construction grants.
32. You did away with the criteria on showing we had tried for SILO, ISL, etc. It took away a chance for districts without those revenue sources the opportunity to increase funding.
33. District was not directly made aware of applications and due dates.
34. I have been informed several times that it is a waste of my time to apply since we receive LOSST money! Yes, I would apply, however, why try if we don't have a chance.
35. We had not had a visit from the fire marshal for 4 years and there was no need based on no visit. The construction grant seems to have a higher priority for new construction rather than renovation and replacement of outdated components that we need. The scoring system just seems to be weighted unfairly.
36. First year in position and did not get application completed on time.
37. Did not believe we could generate enough points on the rubric due to section that includes low Socio-Economic Status qualifier.
38. Did not have a fire marshal inspection in over 6 years.
39. It has been very difficult to get area providers to give us quotes. We certainly have a need. We will apply this year if vendors will respond to us in a timely manner.
40. Looking at some of the questions dealing with PPEL elections, I doubted if we would be awarded a grant.
41. On the construction grant, I have always questioned whether or not our projects met criteria of the grant. Also confused about timing of grant application. Do you apply for grant first, then seek local match or vice versa?
42. Some of the projects that would have qualified were already underway and therefore excluded us from applying
43. The needs that qualify were not of enough significance to warrant application in the Fire/Life Safety and the construction match required was beyond our current ability to pay.
44. The time frame restriction (re: when you have to spend the money and complete the project) has not allowed me to apply for the grant. I do intend to apply in the future.
45. We applied for and received two construction grants - Vision Iowa and IDEA - and received both.

Appendix IV: Non-Grant Recipient Survey Comments: All Districts Not Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety or Construction Grant

4) Please provide suggestions as to how we could change communications, the application process, application requirements, or other aspects of the Fire (Life) Safety and Construction Grants to encourage more districts to participate.

1. As a new superintendent, I applied last year for corrections we made as a result of our fire marshal inspection. We repaired and paid for the discrepancies on August 8. I found out about the grant in September I applied, but was not approved.
2. Continue to communicate via e-mail.
3. Continue with e-mails, ICN and responsiveness to questions
4. Current form is fine

5. Expand the categories of safety issues to be addressed.
6. Extend the project completion deadline to four years.
7. I am frustrated with the historical building part of the process because our building is more than 50 years old.
8. I am somewhat confused by this survey. It seems to want more districts to apply when the overall amount of money available is becoming more limited.
9. I applied for the grant (Construction) this year. It was well publicized, understandable, and the DE was very helpful when I had a question.
10. I have been aware of the availability -- need has not existed in my 3 years in the district. Proposal for a band room addition is underway, but a conversation I had over a year ago indicated the new space probably would not qualify.
11. I have no problem with the application process. I know schools that have detailed plans seem to get a better response. Small schools may not have the resources to put plans together as quickly. How you adjust for this is probably awareness more than anything.
12. I think present system is fine
13. I think the grant process is straightforward and well implemented.
14. I was told our district missed being awarded a construction grant by one point. Therefore, if one of the receiving districts could not generate the matching funds we might be eligible for any unclaimed funds, but it would be 6-9 months before the matching funds had to be confirmed. Since our project couldn't wait due to a growing enrollment, we had to proceed without the grant funds by scaling down our original project. Therefore, if there is a quicker way to verify if schools are actually going to be utilizing the funds, it might be beneficial to other districts
15. I'm sure you've made it available before, but I could sure use a simple list of items that qualify for the grant funds. We are in the process of building upgrades and may qualify for grant dollars. I've used this funding source in another district. In general, I think many folk's get tired of the grant "mother may I" process, even when it's made as simple as possible. That's not an excuse, just an observation.
16. If application is online, then it should not be too difficult to fill out Why was the previous application not funded? That may help me/us in the future. I am new to the district and superintendancy but would like to apply. Will there be another time to apply this school year? The information may have gone to someone else.
17. If we are simply renovating and updating older equipment and system this grant doesn't appear to work with us regarding the scoring.
18. It has worked just fine for us
19. Make it simpler.
20. My understanding is that to qualify for the FLS grant your district needs to be in violation of the state fire code. As for the construction grant, matching funds at this time does not meet my budgetary outlook.
21. None
22. None, the communications were effective.
23. Our school buildings were constructed in 1967 and 1999 and are in good shape overall. It is unfortunate the grants are denied for FLS purposes. It would also be nice if funding were available for bus barns and other such projects.
24. Our secondary building is less than five years old. Our elementary has been renovated in summer of 2003 through a Q2AB loan.
25. Please keep the construction grant! We will be building in the next 3-5 years and I do plan to apply.
26. Send e-mail early in the process. I did download the app last week Seems very lengthy and we have missed some planning deadlines.
27. Simplify the application Remove some of the restrictions, if possible. (I know some things are federal requirements.)
28. Simplify the process as much as possible.
29. Since the FLS grant is geared to fire marshal citations it might be better to keep timelines conducive to fire marshal report timelines. Maybe information regarding

the grant program could be released at different times throughout the year so districts are well aware that this type of availability is out there.

30. State upfront things that disqualify an application.
31. The district receives no feedback on its failed applications. Just a " You didn't get funded" letter.
32. The FLS grant is, in my mind, at least possible to receive. I've heard of neighboring schools receiving the construction grant but have applied 3 times in two other districts to no avail. It's not likely that I'll take the time to apply when the chances of actually being awarded a grant are so slim. I think whoever reviews the applications should actually do a site visit to those locations before making determinations
33. The grant scoring process seems to make it almost impossible to get a grant unless you have a high free-reduced lunch.
34. Time to complete application is critical. The ICN is nice but assistance with applications would be better! Which fire marshal citations receive priority is also a good question to answer -- cutoffs related to F/R count & % ages.
35. Timelines are extremely difficult to meet. We got a $1 million grant and lost it due to the July 31st deadline for matching funds. We passed a bond issue 3 months later and didn't get to use the money.
36. We did apply this year.
37. We felt we had a good project and were disappointed our project was not funded.
38. We knew of the grants. I made an appointment with the DE staff to review funded grants prior to applications.
39. When I printed out the application forms, there were three different forms online. But the department preferred one form. I believe the process is very good and the timeline is very appropriate.
40. You do just fine.
41. Your recent changes are appreciated. (In LOSST and in low SES scoring weighting.)
42. A 75% match is very difficult for many districts to achieve. Fire safety requires a citation from the Fire Marshal's office. This is too restrictive. There are lots of needs that don't result in a citation.
43. Broaden the criteria for construction or make categories. The smaller, rural districts do have needs but did not fit into this grant. Example -- installing an elevator.
44. Don't send all info only to superintendents. Make application less time consuming.
45. E-mail to at least two district officials. ICN training needs to be done at least 30 days prior to application to allow for board approval.
46. I don't think there is any need to change the notification process. However, if we do not get annual or biannual fire inspections, we cannot use the grant process.
47. I understand it would be difficult, but provide feedback as to weak areas or concerns to a district regarding the application.
48. Over 70 of us were denied last year. If school has received why not open only to those who haven't first -- don't know how to be fair, though. I am not a professional grant writer and I understand schools hired one and didn't receive either.
49. Schools that have taken care of facilities as we have, difficulty meeting the requirements. We do have construction needs but this grant's requirements don't fit.
50. The grant application is far too time consuming and too long to complete. Have a web-based grant application for this process.
51. To be honest, it has been the only day that has brought me to tears since I took this position. I feel we lost $100,000 unfairly
52. Why do grants have to be competitive? Either there is a need or there is not. Schools with talented grant writers have a huge advantage.
53. Continue with e-mails, ICN and responsiveness to questions.

54. From the application I submitted this cycle, I would say the application process is fine. I hope our grant request is funded. Thanks.
55. I believe the application requirements are understandable and straightforward. No change necessary.
56. I have read the grant. We do not have a need at this time. It is well advertised and is easy to do.
57. When we finally had the required inspection, I felt the fire (life) safety grant was an easy one to apply for. All of the communication I needed was readily available. I also appreciated the ICN session on November 15th so I could make sure everything was in place for the application. I wouldn't change a thing!

Appendix IV: Non-Grant Recipient Survey Comments: All Districts Not Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety or Construction Grant

5) Other Comments:

1. All of my responses are only " guess-timates" as I only took over in this position in July. I do plan on applying in the future. Thanks.
2. Aware for the first time one week ago.
3. Between the bond passed in 1997 and LOSST in 1999, fire/life safety issues have been addressed.
4. Our staff was educated at the ICN presentation and certainly not when the fire marshal citation report was released.
5. I thought we had a good application but was not funded. We are still in need of fire safety money
6. Keep up the good work! I would like a copy of a "good" application for my file if possible.
7. Make it available to all -- even if the district has the funds in the sales tax, but the board has committed to reduce the property tax.
8. One possibility schools aren't applying is that most are operating on such a skeleton basis; there isn't anyone who has that time. Many of us used to hire grant writers on a consortium basis. 5 or 6 schools would fund someone professionally to put those applications together. However, someone in that consortium has to receive funding if those folks were going to survive. I don't think any of them exist now.
   We have very good facilities here with a bond issue passed in 2000. Our need is very minimal at this time, but my comments reflect my thoughts in two of my previous districts.
9. Our district plans to apply in the fall of 2005.
10. Re: FLS We did apply but our application was not approved. Re: Construction -- we applied in the past and were approved.
11. Seems our situation would not be a priority - others seem to meet the qualifications better.
12. Since this process began as two districts, are we currently eligible for two grants?
13. So few awards given
14. Thanks for asking for input! Hope this helps in some small way.
15. Thanks for your efforts. The workshop this past week was very helpful
16. The grant is clearly communicated.
17. This is inaccurate we have participated in both. We received a construction grant but had to turn it down as we also received a Vision Iowa grant.
18. This is my first year as superintendent. I do not know how aware in past years of the availability of the grants. Currently most all fire/life safety issues are completed. No construction or major renovations planned.
19. We anticipate assistance with the application on file.
20. We applied for FLS grant last year to allow us to update our middle school system. We added a new addition and the fire marshal informed us we needed to

upgrade the whole system We applied and were denied.

21. We appreciate the opportunity to apply again for the FLS grant, as we do need the work/items described in the grant.
22. We are preparing an application now.
23. We are thankful that Iowa schools have these national funds available to help students! Thanks!
24. We currently have an application in for the Fire (Life) Safety Grant
25. We may have need in the next few years -- so stay available Thanks.
26 We will be applying for a construction grant next fall for a planned building project and land purchase.
27 We will try to apply in December of 2005.
28 Explanations for failure would be most welcome so that any shortcomings in our application could be addressed in future applications.
29. We are trying again I felt out of my league when writing this grant. I know what we need as Fire Marshal really hit us hard at his last visit but vocabulary is different.
30. We did not get notification of the application or due dates of the last grant. E-mails to more than 1 person in the district would be best.
31. We have sent in applications for the past 3 years but have not received any grant money. We are planning to apply again this Dec.
32. I think it is extremely important to help districts with older buildings. Thanks for the input. We have modern and safe facilities. We completed a remodeling construction program before this grant became available. We don't have a need right now.
33. Previous to the 2004-05 school year, the fire marshal had not been in our schools for 5 years. We were making small improvements that did not cost much. We did not have a voted PPEL or local option sales tax that generated enough for a 75% match on the construction side so we did not apply. Now the fire marshal's been in, major cleanup on their part, so we will be applying this year

Appendix V

General Survey Questionnaire

(For All Districts Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety or Construction Grant)

Fire (Life) Safety Survey Questionnaire

(For Districts Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety Grant)

Construction Survey Questionnaire

(For Districts Awarded a Construction Grant)

Fields of Opportunities

STATE OF IOWA

THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR
SALLY J. PEDERSON, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JUDY A. JEFFREY, INTERIM DIRECTOR

DATE: November 2004

TO: Superintendents

FROM: Judy Jeffrey, Interim Director

SUBJECT: Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program Project Evaluation

The Iowa Department of Education has been involved with the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program (fire [life] safety and construction grants) for six years. Many of you may know this program as the Harkin Grant Program since Senator Harkin was instrumental in securing these funds. As part of our responsibility with the U.S. Department of Education, we are conducting a project evaluation so that we may improve the process and maximize the benefits of the program.

Surveys are being sent to all school districts. If a district has not participated in the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program, we hope to determine reasons for their non-participation. For districts that have participated, we hope to learn the value of the program as well as your thoughts regarding the grant process.

A preaddressed stamped envelope is enclosed for your convenience in returning the response. The survey is simple and direct and should take a minimal amount of time to complete.

Please take a few minutes of your time to assist us with this project.

If you have any questions, please contact Milt Wilson, Consultant, School Facilities at milt.wilson@iowa.gov or (515) 281-4743.

J.J.

Enclosure

Grimes State Office Building - Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146
PHONE (515) 281-5294 FAX (515) 242-5988
www.state.ia.us/educate
Helping Communities Meet the Learning Needs of All Their Children and Adults

Fields of Opportunities

STATE OF IOWA

THOMAS J. VILSACK, GOVERNOR
SALLY J. PEDERSON LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JUDY A. JEFFREY DIRECTOR

DATE: January 10, 2005

TO: Superintendents

FROM: C. Milton Wilson, Consultant

SUBJECT: Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program Project Evaluation second request.

The Iowa Department of Education has been involved with the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program (fire [life] safety and construction grants) for six years. Many of you may know this program as the Harkin Grant Program since Senator Harkin was instrumental in securing these funds. As part of our responsibility with the U.S. Department of Education, we are conducting a project evaluation so that we may improve the process and maximize the benefits of the program.

Surveys were sent to all school districts. If a district has not participated in the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program, we hope to determine reasons for their non-participation. For districts that have participated, we hope to learn the value of the program as well as your thoughts regarding the grant process.

A preaddressed stamped envelope is enclosed for your convenience in returning the response. The survey is simple and direct and should take a minimal amount of time to complete. I appreciate your time in filling out this survey. This is our second request.

If you have any questions, please contact me, at milt.wilson@iowa.gov or (515) 281-4743.
Thanks,

C.M.W.

Enclosure

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PHONE (515) 281-5294 FAX (515) 242-5988
www.state.ia.us/educate
Helping Communities Meet the Learning Needs of All Their Children and Adults

Fire (Life) Safety and Construction Grant Survey

District: **«District» School District**

Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Participation

The Iowa Department of Education Demonstration Construction Grant program for schools in Iowa was originally authorized by Title III of Public Law 105-78 for $8,000,000 and was effective September 28, 1998. Subsequently, the federal government has authorized annual allocations of $10,000,000; $9,249,813; $9,000,000; $50,000,000, $6,954,499 and $6,958,699, with grant periods running through September 30, 2007. The purpose of the program is to help school districts correct fire (life) safety problems and to help school districts leverage local resources to construct new schools or remodel existing buildings. Approximately 35 percent of the available funds have been allocated each year for addressing fire (life) safety issues and 65 percent for construction.

Due to the magnitude of the total grant and its importance to the education and safety of our Iowa school children, the Iowa Department of Education is requesting your assistance in determining the success, value, and efficacy of the project

Our records indicate that the **«District»** School District has been a participant «TF» time(s) in the Fire (Life) Safety and «TC» time(s) in the Construction grant opportunities that have been available since 1998 as shown below:

FLS-98	FLS-99	FLS-00	FLS-01	FLS-02	FLS-03	CON-98	CON-99	CON-00	CON-01	CON-02	CON-03
«F98»	«F99»	«F00»	«F01»	«F02»	«F03»	«C98»	«C99»	«C00»	«C01»	«C02»	«C03»

Due to your involvement in the Fire (Life) Safety and/or Construction program, we are asking you to assist us by responding to the applicable enclosed questionnaires and returning the completed documents as soon as possible.

Thank you for your assistance.

Part I: Fire (Life) Safety and Construction/Remodeling Survey

(To Be Completed By All Districts)

General Impact/Satisfaction *(Please circle your response to each item followed by your comments or explanation)*

Less Flexible	*As Is*	*More Flexible*	A. Do you believe that the infrastructure grant program should be changed? Please explain.
Yes	*?*	*No*	B. Was the time allowed to complete the grant application adequate? If not, what would you suggest? Comments:
Yes	*?*	*No*	C. Has the turn-around time from application to award been satisfactory? Comments:

Yes *?* *No* D. Were the interim and final reports reasonable to prepare and provide adequate information? If not, what would you suggest? Comments:

L		*M*		*H*
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*

E. To what extent do you feel that the grant monies have positively impacted the educational environment? Comments:

Other Comments:

Please complete Parts II and/or III as applicable to your district.

Part II: Fire (Life) Safety Grant Survey

(Complete only if you received a Fire (Life) Safety award)

Need/Impact/Satisfaction: *Please respond to the following questions by circling one of the response choices and including a brief rationale for your choice (1 = Low, Not Likely, 5 = High, Very Likely). Use additional paper if needed.*

L		*M*		*H*		**Item**
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	A.	How necessary was it that you apply for the Fire (Life) Safety grant to resolve your district's citation(s)? Why?
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	B.	To what degree did the grant monies assist in alleviating the problems indicated in the fire (safety) citation(s)? Please explain.
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	C.	Would the project(s) have been completed in a timely manner without the grant money? Please explain.

Yes ? *No* D Are there other citations (or potential citation) not resolved that additional grant monies might address in your district? Please explain and describe your priority order to address them.

Yes ? *No* E Were other non-cited issues able to be resolved as a result of addressing the cited problem(s)? Please explain.

Yes ? *No* F. Were there any unintended consequences or spin-offs (positive or negative) from the granted monies that were of note? Please explain.

Other Comments:

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return Parts I and II (and III if applicable) by December 13, 2004.

Part III: Construction Grant Survey

(Complete only if you received a Construction award)

Need/Impact/Satisfaction: *Please respond to the following questions by circling one of the response choices and including a brief rationale for your choice (1 = Low, Not Likely 5 = High, Very Likely). Use additional paper if needed.*

L		*M*		*H*		**Item**
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	A.	Would the construction projects have been initiated without the grant money? Please explain.
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	B.	How necessary was it that you apply for the grant to resolve the issues of constructing new schools or remodeling existing buildings that faced your district? Why?
1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	C.	To what degree did the grant monies assist in alleviating the construction or remodeling issues? Please explain.
Yes		*?*		*No*	D.	Were the school board, educators, and community satisfied with the project? Please explain.

Yes ? *No* E Are there other issues not resolved that additional grant monies might address in your district? Please explain and describe your priority order to address them.

Yes ? *No* F Were there any unintended consequences or spin-offs (positive or negative) from the granted monies that were of note? Please explain.

Yes ? *No* G Have the grant monies impacted your ability to leverage funds through a bond issue or other referendum(s)? Please explain.

Other Comments:

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return Parts I and III (and II if applicable) by December 13, 2004.

Appendix VI

Non-Grant Recipient Survey Questionnaire

(For Districts Not Awarded a Fire (Life) Safety or Construction Grant)

Fire (Life) Safety and Construction Grant Survey

District: **«District» School District**

Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Participation

The Iowa Department of Education Demonstration Construction Grant program for schools in Iowa was originally authorized by Title III of Public Law 105-78 for $8,000,000 and was effective September 28, 1998. Subsequently, the federal government has authorized annual allocations of $10,000,000; $9,249,813; $9,000,000; $50,000,000, $6,954,499 and, $6,958,699 with grant periods running through September 30, 2007. The purpose of the program is to help school districts correct fire (life) safety problems and to help school districts leverage local resources to construct new schools or remodel existing buildings. Approximately 35 percent of the available funds have been allocated each year for addressing fire (life) safety issues and 65 percent for construction

Due to the magnitude of the total grant and its importance to the education and safety of our Iowa school children, the Iowa Department of Education is requesting your assistance in determining the success, value, and efficacy of the project

Our records indicate that **«District»** has not been a participant in either the Fire (Life) Safety or the Construction grant opportunities that have been available. Since part of the project evaluation includes the identification of reasons for non-participation, we are asking you to assist us by responding to the following questions and returning the completed document as soon as possible but not later than December 13, 2004.

Please respond to the following two questions by circling one of the response choices and including a brief rationale for your choice where indicated.

1. Yes No Were you or your predecessor(s) aware of the **Fire (Life) Safety and Construction Grant** opportunities for your district?

2. Yes No If not, do you believe you would have applied given the appropriate information? Please explain.

   Please describe what we could have done differently to communicate to you or others within your district?

(over)

3. If your answer to Item #1 was "Yes," please indicate your reasons for not applying for either the Fire (Life) Safety or the Construction Grant. Please check all that apply

- ❑ Did apply _____ time(s) but was not funded.
- ❑ Did not understand the grants' purposes.
- ❑ Did not have a need in either category.
- ❑ Too time consuming or difficult to complete the applications.
- ❑ Local match of monies (where required) was too difficult to achieve.
- ❑ Other (please explain)

4. Please provide suggestions as to how we could change communications, the application process, application requirements, or other aspects of the Fire (Life) Safety and Construction Grants to encourage more districts to participate.

5. Other comments

Thank you for your assistance.

Please return using the enclosed envelope by December 13, 2004