

February 20, 2026

RFI Number: 1163.1
Due Date: March 13, 2026
Open Time: 2:00 p.m.

To: Prospective Respondents:

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to gather information from experienced vendors that provide, install, and facilitate training for an Integrated System to be considered for high schools, middle schools, central office locations, at Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) through the Department of Security and Emergency Management (DSEM). MCPS is seeking information that will improve student, staff, and visitor safety. This system will be installed at locations where applicable.

Please respond according to the instructions provided in the attached. Submissions must be received on or before 2:00 p.m., on March 13, 2026. Submissions received after this date and time will not be considered. Responses to the RFI shall not be construed as an obligation by MCPS to issue a solicitation or award a contract.

In the event of emergency closing of the MCPS Board of Education offices, this RFP will open at the same time on the next regular working day.

Sincerely,



Angela McIntosh Davis, Director
Department of Procurement

AMD: se

Copy to:
RFP File

**Division of Financial Management
Department of Procurement
45 W. Gude Drive, Suite 3100
Rockville, Maryland 20850**

**Request for Information RFI #1163.1
Crisis Alert Systems for Montgomery County Public Schools**

1.0 INTENT

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to gather information from experienced vendors that provide, install, and facilitate training for an Integrated System comprising of the following:

1. Critical Incident Management (Crisis Alert System) – Expected Implementation by March 2027.

The above-mentioned system is to be considered for high schools, middle schools, central office locations, at Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) through the Department of Security and Emergency Management (DSEM). MCPS is seeking information that will improve student, staff, and visitor safety. This system will be installed at locations where applicable. MCPS intends to discover the latest and best tools and features available in the market and plans to subsequently issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to obtain the products and/or services that will meet our current and future needs.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is the 15th largest school system in the United States, serving over 110,000 students across more than 211 schools. As part of its commitment to student, staff, and visitor safety, MCPS is exploring safety systems to enhance security measures within its schools and central office locations. The district seeks to implement a state-of-the-art safety solution that can efficiently and accurately ensure a safe environment for all individuals.

This initiative is part of MCPS's ongoing efforts to improve safety and emergency management protocols. Through this RFI process, the district aims to identify the most effective and reliable safety and emergency management technology available on the market. The selected system will be integrated into the district's existing security infrastructure, with a focus on scalability, ease of use, and minimal disruption to daily operations. After reviewing the information gathered, MCPS plans to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to procure the appropriate products and services that meet the district's current and future security needs. MCPS is committed to ensuring the safety of its students, staff, and visitors by exploring Critical Incident Management System (Crisis Alert).

- MCPS is looking to implement Critical Incident Management Systems (Crisis Alert) across over 200 schools, central office locations, and select events within the district.
- The district aims to enhance security by integrating this system at key access points, ensuring safety while maintaining a welcoming environment for students and staff.
- Over the course of the 2026-2027 school year, MCPS will evaluate the latest technologies to identify the most effective and scalable solution.
- The district plans to implement this system in alignment with safety policies and regulations, ensuring that the technology is deployed appropriately in schools based on specific safety needs and risk factors.
- Currently, MCPS is assessing the integration of the Critical Incident Management System (Crisis Alert) alongside its existing security infrastructure to enhance the district's overall emergency management and safety protocols.

3.0 SCOPE OF REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The proposed Critical Incident Management System(s) (Crisis Alert) shall be capable of providing the following options/features, but not limited to:

- **Wearable/Handheld Panic Buttons** that can be worn by staff or installed in select rooms, and capable of silent or audible alert activation.
- **Mobile & Web Emergency Management Application (EMA)** with real-time monitoring dashboards, incident reporting, communication tools, and the ability to provide post-event analytics.
- **Cloud-Based Backend Platform** to support device management, alert routing, secure data storage, and role-based access controls.
- **First Responder Interface** for secure portal or API integration with 911 centers, geo-location mapping, and incident data transmission.
- **Real-time safety and emergency management capabilities** at schools, offices, and event venues to accurately identify potential threats.
- **Integration with existing security systems**, enabling seamless communication and coordination between the safety systems and school security teams.
- **Automated alerts and notifications** for security personnel with the ability to quickly escalate incidents as needed.

- **Scalable deployment options** to accommodate varying security needs across different facilities, including high schools, middle schools, and central office locations.
- **User-friendly interface** for monitoring and managing alerts or detected threats, ensuring that staff can easily navigate and respond to potential security breaches.
- **Data reporting and analytics capabilities** for generating incident reports, tracking history, and providing insights into trends for continuous safety improvements.
- **Integration with current safety protocols** and emergency management systems, ensuring that the system can complement existing procedures for managing security threats.
- **System flexibility** to accommodate future technological advancements and additional features that may be necessary to enhance the system and overall safety.

3.1 Functional Operational Requirements

The Critical Incident Management System (Crisis Alert) shall include support for the following areas:

- **Single Sign-On:** Secure, centralized access for authorized personnel to manage and monitor the system across all facilities, ensuring efficient user management and system security.
- **Data Integration:** The system shall integrate with student, staff, and visitor data to enhance security measures, including the ability to identify and flag individuals associated with security alerts.
- **Safety Points (Schools, Offices, Events):** The system should support multiple entry and exit points, including high-traffic areas such as school entrances, central offices, and event venues, with customizable detection features to suit the security needs of each location.
- **Schedules:** The system should be flexible and capable of adjusting safety protocols based on school schedules, special events, and various operational hours to ensure ongoing security.
- **User Data:** The system shall have the ability to track personnel, including security staff and school officials, ensuring that appropriate responses are activated when alerts are triggered.
- **Monitoring and Coordination:** The system shall provide a real-time view of all active safety points, enabling security personnel to monitor and respond to threats efficiently.
- **Integration with MCPS Systems:** The system must integrate seamlessly with existing MCPS safety, security, and emergency management systems to provide a unified response to potential threats.
- **Reports and Analytics:** The system shall generate detailed reports, incident timelines, automatic post-incident reports, device activation logs, staff response time metrics. All reports must be downloadable in CSV/ Excel and PDF formats for review and continuous improvement of safety protocols.
- **Security Features:** The system must ensure data security and integrity, including secure communication of safety alerts, system activity logs, and restricted access to sensitive information, and comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA),

Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) for data shared with law enforcement, and the Maryland Student Data Privacy Act.

3.2 Technical Requirements

At a minimum, the proposed solutions must:

- **Integration with Existing Security Platform:**
 - Integrate with the existing MCPS security platform and backend monitoring system (Maxis).
 - Any new components (beacons, sirens) must be interoperable with current infrastructure.
- **Active Directory (AD) and Identity Integration:**
 - Support integration with Microsoft Active Directory for user authentication and access management.
 - Support centralized management of accounts (single sign-on or equivalent).
 - Support multi-factor authentication
- **Database / Infrastructure Compatibility:**
 - Be compatible with Microsoft SQL or equivalent database infrastructure to align with MCPS standards.
 - Support secure, reliable integration with existing IT environments.
 - Guarantee secure data storage.
- **Security and Access Management:**
 - Streamline integration with job codes for automated access provisioning.
 - Employ encryption with the following standards: At-rest: AES-256, In-transit: TLS 1.2 or higher
 - Support and maintain role-based access controls.
 - Provide auditable logs of all access.

4.0 RFI RESPONSE FORM ITEMS

- Brief, relevant background information about your organization and prior work experience or products you offer related to our needs.
- 2-3 References of Public Schools in other jurisdictions where the systems have been implemented in the last 3 years.
- Please identify any outsourced services or products your company would need to utilize to provide all required products.
- Describe the level of service you propose for the implementation period and technology support and response time.

- Other information you think is relevant, such as providing visual examples of reports and data generated from your system (examples from other school districts).
- Please provide High level Project Management methodology details, such as project schedule, team structure, testing, training.

5.0 SOLUTION REQUIREMENTS

The Solution shall provide at a minimum the following:

5.1 Operating System & Technology

- The system must be compatible with existing MCPS infrastructure and support integration with systems currently in use, including Microsoft® SQL Server.
- The system must support integration with MCPS's Active Directory for authentication, allowing for secure access and management of user roles and permissions.
- The system should have the ability to export detailed detection reports in formats such as Microsoft Word, Excel, HTML, and text for further analysis and record-keeping.

5.2 Geographic Information System (GIS) Mapping

- The system must support integration with MCPS-provided street maps and allow for updates to the security areas around schools and offices, where the systems are deployed.
- The system should allow for real-time adjustments to security perimeter settings based on location-specific needs.
- Ability to view aerial imagery of the campus and surrounding areas to assess potential risk zones for better detection coverage.

5.3 Safety Algorithms & System Functionality

- The system must have customizable settings to define different alert protocols based on the security requirements of different locations (e.g., schools, offices, special events).
- The system should be capable of dynamically adjusting alert protocols based on different days and times, such as school hours, special events, or non-standard hours.
- The system must offer real-time safety alerts, with the ability to analyze and prioritize alerts based on severity.

- The system should allow for automated alerts to security personnel with the ability to escalate or notify the appropriate authorities immediately.

5.4 Data, Reporting & Safety

- The system must allow for generating custom security reports, including event histories, incident tracking, and overall system performance analysis for decision-making.
- The system should store detailed logs of all detected incidents and responses, including time/date stamps and actions taken.
- The system must store data securely, ensuring that all threat detection information is protected from unauthorized access.
- Ability to integrate with existing MCPS safety and emergency management systems to ensure consistent and timely responses to potential security breaches.

5.5 Security and Integration

- The systems must integrate seamlessly with MCPS's existing security infrastructure, including surveillance cameras, alarms, and communication systems, ensuring coordinated responses to security incidents.
- The system must include secure access controls, limiting user permissions based on roles within the MCPS security framework.
- The system must ensure data encryption and protection for sensitive data, including real-time alerts, incident logs, and security personnel communications.

5.6 Global Positioning System (GPS) Integration

- The system should allow integration with existing GPS technology used by MCPS to track the location of devices, including those at high-traffic areas and events.
- Real-time tracking data from GPS-enabled security devices should be available for security personnel to monitor and respond to alerts in real-time.

This system will ensure that MCPS can efficiently manage, monitor, and respond to security alerts across its campuses and events while integrating smoothly with existing technological and operational systems.

6.0 TIMELINE

This RFI will be active from February 20, 2026 through March 13, 2026. MCPS will review responses and begin utilizing information to inform the district of the all of the options for consideration when issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP). As stated above, MCPS plans to issue an RFP following the conclusion of this RFI. This RFI will not result in an award. MCPS reserves the right to reconsider an RFP following the review of information provided.

All materials shall be submitted to Saudy Espinal, Buyer II at saudy_espinaldeveloz@mcpsmd.org and the Department of Procurement, procurement@mcpsmd.org during the active timeframe stated above. When submitting your materials, the subject line must indicate the following: **“RFI #1163.1 Crisis Alert Systems for Montgomery County Public Schools”**. Submissions will be accepted through March 13, 2026 at **2:00pm**. Submissions received after that timeframe will not be considered.

7.0 REVISIONS TO THE RFI

If it becomes necessary to revise the RFI before the due date for responses, MCPS shall provide addenda to all prospective participants that were sent this RFI or which are otherwise known by the point of contact to have obtained this RFI. In addition, addenda to the RFI will be posted on the MCPS Open Solicitations Webpage and eMaryland Marketplace Advantage (eMMA). It remains the responsibility of all participants to check eMMA for any addenda issued prior to the submission of responses.

8.0 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Maryland Code General Provisions Article, 15-508 (b) (2) provides an exemption for the submission of “written or oral comments on a specification prepared by an agency or on a solicitation for a bid or proposal when comments are solicited from two or more persons as part of a request for information or a pre-bid or pre-proposal process” such that submitting a response to this RFI will not preclude a participant from participating in a subsequent solicitation.

9.0 INCURRED EXPENSES

MCPS will not be responsible for any costs incurred by any participant in preparing and submitting a response to this RFI, in providing a demonstration, or in performing any other activities related to submitting a response to this RFI.