We all know that to truly improve safety in our schools, we need to address several complex issues such as overall wellness, emergency preparedness, and emergency response. We're pleased to announce that Penn Cambria School District has been awarded $202,124 as noted below to help address this complex issue and improve both safety and climate within our schools.

$35,000 PCCD Safe Schools Meritorious Award
This grant is being used to provide the following:
- **Mental health counseling**, provided by Impact Counseling, for K-12 students in need of service
- **Visitor management systems** (ID scanning, visitor badges) for PCPP, PCP, PCI, and PCMS. PCHS used the 18-19 PCCD funding to install a visitor management system this year.

$167,124 PCCD School Safety and Security Competitive Grant Award
This grant was awarded to fund the following four components for a two-year period.

- **Second Step Social-Emotional Learning Program in Grades K-8**
Second Step was selected based upon its strong evidence base. Second Step is designed to target many of the areas of concern being expressed by our faculty, staff, and families. A schedule for each building will be developed to include a scheduled time for a Second Step lesson each week for all students in grades K-8 in the classroom setting. Most lessons are between 25-40 minutes depending on the grade level. Teachers and principals will participate in training to implement the program.
You can learn more about the program at the link below.
https://www.secondstep.org/second-step-social-emotional-learning

- **School Police Officer**
The School Police Offices (SPO) will have three main roles based on the "triad concept" to improve and enhance safety and climate within our schools: educator, informal counselor/mentor, and law enforcement officer. The SPO will act as an important liaison between local law enforcement, state law enforcement, emergency responders, the school, and the community. The SPO will also provide proactive services by building positive relationships with students, staff, and families across our five buildings.
The SPO will patrol hallways, common areas, and outside facilities as well as interact with staff, students, and families during arrival and dismissal, breakfast, lunch, change of classes, recess and other non-instructional times. The SPO will meet with and regularly communicate with administration. In addition, the SPO will provide classroom interactions during presentations in classrooms focused on topics such as drug use, bullying prevention, careers, positive interactions, safety, the law, and other related topics.

- **App-Based Emergency Communication and Management System**
An app-based emergency communication management system will provide a way to streamline information across all five buildings. The system will provide electronic access to functional annexes and reunification procedures as well as critical secure messaging and the ability to account for students. The district has already started compiling information from vendors through an established procurement process in order to determine which communication management system will best meet the needs of the district. Upon determining the most appropriate vendor based on product information and quotes provided, the district technology staff will work with the vendor to implement the system with a full implementation anticipated for the start of the 2019-2020. Training for faculty and staff, as well as ongoing practice in use of the system will be provided.

- **Web-Based Staff and Student School Safety Training System**
https://www.safeschools.com/suite/online-safety-training/
We will implement SafeSchools Training as a web-based staff and student training and management system to help provide and track a variety of safety and security trainings. For high school students, this will provide additional options within our existing curriculum to allow for the inclusion of important topics such as digital citizenship, sexual harassment, bullying prevention, and youth suicide risk. An online system will also allow the district to assign specific topics as needed and monitor completion for compliance.