The Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations’ mission is to provide safe, secure, functional, and resilient facilities that represent the U.S. Government to the host nation and support the Department’s achievement of U.S. foreign policy objectives abroad.

These facilities represent American values and the best in American architecture, design, engineering, technology, sustainability, art, culture, and construction execution.

Contact your Embassy POC or Grants Officer at headquarters immediately if something changes or if you have questions or concerns about the program.
The Overseas Schools Security Grant Program (OSSGP) is a U.S. Department of State program that provides reimbursable security grants to eligible overseas schools. Since 2003, the program has provided Federal assistance to enhance the physical and technical security of over 500 schools worldwide.

The program is intended for schools that enroll Chief of Mission students from Kindergarten through the 12th grade and provides funding for upgrades to real property. Typical upgrades include perimeter wall or fence construction, safe area construction, installing hardened doors, and public address systems. Funding is not authorized for school buses or guards, or ongoing maintenance of installed systems.

OSSGP grants are reimbursable grants, in which the school is expected to initially bear all upgrade costs. Upon successful project completion and inspection by the U.S. Department of State employee, the school will be reimbursed up to the full grant amount.

**GRANT PROCESS**

The school and the Regional Security Officer (RSO) at the Embassy will work together to determine which security upgrades are necessary.

The RSO submits a draft request with security recommendations and cost estimates to Washington for review and concurrence.

Once approved by the working group, RSO submits the official cable request to headquarters.

The request is prioritized among all other requests and considered for funding.

Upon completion of the upgrades, the school is then able to request reimbursement. The RSO or Management Officer will instruct the Financial Management Office to initiate reimbursement to the school after all invoices and financial forms are received and the work has been inspected.

Depending on the type of school, the grant will be processed by one of two offices at Washington. Grant documents will be prepared and sent to the school for countersignature.

The school point of contact will countersign the grant agreement and return to headquarters. The grant is then considered executed and the school may begin work on the approved upgrades.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

International School Manila