

SCHOOL SAFETY OVERVIEW

Overview of School Safety in Indiana

In 2023, important statutory changes were made to improve school safety in Indiana. These changes will assist in protecting Indiana's students, teachers, and school employees. Below are highlights of some of the changes.

Increase in Funding

Funding for the Secured School Safety Grant increased to \$25 million for both FY 2024 and FY 2025.

Expanding Uses of the Secured School Safety Grant (SSSG)

In 2022, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) reviewed previous grant applicants to gauge what types proposed uses of the funds were commonly denied due to not aligning with statutorily-mandated categories of eligible uses. As a result of the review, several commonly requested uses of the fund were added to statute to ensure the program is meeting the needs of schools. Such new eligible uses include the ability for schools to:

- Purchase equipment, hardware, materials, and tech to:
 - Restrict access to classrooms
 - Expedite access to school property for first responders
 - Detect fire, chemical, visual, or audible threats
 - Assist with emergency medical response on school property
- Purchase or provide training for a canine trained to detect drugs and illegal substances, explosives, or firearms, or to otherwise provide protection for students and school employees
- Design and construct additions or renovations on school property if primary purpose is to enhance the physical security of the school building

Aligning School Safety Policies for School Corporations and Charter Schools

HEA 1492 better aligns school safety policies between school corporations and charter schools. For example, the bill requires charter schools to have the following in place by July 1, 2024:

- School Safety Specialist
- School Safety Plan
- Safe School Committee

Moreover, school corporations and charter schools now have the same emergency preparedness drill requirements.

Local Involvement in School Safety

HEA 1492 requires all counties to establish a County School Safety Commission by December 31, 2023. The commissions shall submit annually to the Secured School Safety Board (SSSB) the following:

- Meeting minutes
- Certain meeting agenda materials
- Summary of its activities and accomplishments.

Consolidates School Safety Requirements and Programs

HEA 1492 merged the Indiana Safe School Fund into the Indiana Secured School Fund program. Doing so streamlined the programs to make it easier for schools to navigate. Additionally, HEA 1492 simplified school safety by relocating certain programs and requirements into the same section of code.

Secured School Safety Grant

The SSSG was established in 2013 to increase the safety of Indiana schools. The SSSG provides matching grants to school corporations, accredited non-public schools, charter schools, and coalitions of school corporations and charter schools to enhance school safety.

For FY 2024, the SSSG received 474 applications, a record number, including 40 new schools. All 474 applications were either fully or partially funded for a total of \$29.8 million. The total funding amount awarded surpassed the \$25 million appropriated as de-obligated funding from previous years was used.

Data regarding SSSG awards from FY 2014-2024 is located on page 4.

Aggregate School Resource Officer Data

In accordance with IC 20-26-18.2-5(d), school corporations and charter schools reported the following information regarding school resource officers (SRO) and law enforcement officers (LEO) from 2022-2023 school year.

Aggregate SRO Data Reported

Total number of SROs employed	=	1,202
Number of school corporations employing a SRO	=	321
Number of charter schools employing a SRO	=	27
Number of SROs employed by school corporations	=	535
Number of SROs employed by one or more school corporations	=	29
Number of SROs employed exclusively by a charter school	=	47
Number of SROs employed by a coalition of charter schools	=	3
Number of SROs employed by a combination of 1 or more schools	=	2

Aggregate LEO Data Reported

Total number of LEOs employed	=	234
Number of school corporations employing a LEO	=	13
Number of charter schools employing a LEO	=	5
Number of LEOs employed exclusively by school corporations	=	101
Number of LEOs employed by one or more school corporations	=	5

Number of LEOs employed exclusively by a charter school	=	6
Number of LEOs employed by a coalition of charter schools	=	0
Number of LEOs employed by a combination of 1 or more schools	=	2

Overview of Funds Used for SROs or LEOs

Number of schools that reported SSSG as the exclusive source of funds for SROs	=	76
Number of schools that reported SSSG and another means of funding SROs	=	218
Number of schools that reported Local Funding as the source of funds for SROs	=	167
Number of schools that reported State Tuition as the source of funds for SROs	=	71
Number of schools that reported Local LE as the source of funds for SROs	=	54
Number of schools that reported Federal dollars as the source of funds for SROs	=	8
Number of schools that reported Other as the source of funds for SROs	=	27

Number of schools that reported SSSG as the exclusive source of funds for LEOs	=	8
Number of schools that reported SSSG and another means of funding LEOs	=	12
Number of schools that reported Local Funding as the source of funds for LEOs	=	20
Number of schools that reported State Tuition as the source of funds for LEOs	=	8
Number of schools that reported Local LE as the source of funds for LEOs	=	4
Number of schools that reported Federal dollars as the source of funds for LEOs	=	2
Number of schools that reported Other as the source of funds for LEOs	=	4

For more information on school safety efforts in Indiana, please visit:

- <https://www.in.gov/schoolsafety/home/>
- <https://www.in.gov/doe/students/school-safety-and-wellness/school-building-physical-safety-and-security/>
- <https://www.in.gov/dhs/grants-management/secured-school-safety-grant-program/>

Fiscal Year	SRO/LEO	Equipment Technology Hardware	Student Parent Support Services	Training	Firearms Training for Staff	Active Event Warning System	Site Vulnerability Assessment	Bullying Prevention	Design and Construction	Post-Incident Counseling Services	Total
2024	\$ 19,425,611.83	\$8,325,667.02	\$1,150,253.41	\$160,820.29	\$101,979.00	\$ 100,737.50	\$ 20,962.82	\$17,000.00	\$521,771.80	\$0.00	\$ 29,824,803.67
2023	\$ 15,567,558.92	\$6,468,821.16	\$ 834,873.00	\$ 37,161.37	N/A	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,500.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 22,911,714.45
2022	\$ 13,440,128.88	\$4,926,399.15	\$ 642,369.22	\$ 6,233.33	N/A	\$ 43,678.47	\$ -	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 19,058,808.05
2021	\$ 12,228,339.85	\$5,091,836.13	\$1,650,215.69	\$ 14,850.00	N/A	\$ 250,270.00	\$196,610.87	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 19,432,122.54
2020	\$ 12,173,333.84	\$5,480,943.40	\$1,189,285.68	\$ 3,300.00	N/A	\$ 89,951.10	\$144,656.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 19,081,470.02
2019	\$ 7,438,514.68	\$6,690,809.12	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$115,400.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 14,244,723.80
2018	\$ 4,146,552.94	\$3,237,503.75	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 63,001.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 7,952,283.06
2017	\$ 3,574,821.47	\$2,750,273.75	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 7,169.87	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 6,332,608.84
2016	\$ 3,919,338.40	\$4,034,805.57	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ -	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 7,958,281.97
2015	\$ 3,604,205.31	\$4,922,719.36	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 5,756.59	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 8,532,681.26
2014	\$ 2,681,240.85	\$5,649,861.65	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 25,878.27	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 8,357,377.21