

REFERENCE TITLE: school safety program; selection priorities

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
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HB 2566

Introduced by
Representatives Gutierrez: Austin, Cano, De Los Santos, Hernandez M,
Mathis, Salman, Sandoval, Schwiebert, Sun, Terech, Travers, Senator Marsh

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-154, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL
SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-154, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-154. School safety program; law-related education;
5 proposals; requirements; annual report; definitions

6 A. The school safety program is established within the department
7 of education to support, promote and enhance safe and effective learning
8 environments for all students by supporting the costs of placing school
9 resource officers, juvenile probation officers, school counselors and
10 school social workers on school campuses. A school district or charter
11 school may apply to participate in the school safety program as provided
12 in this section for up to three fiscal years by submitting by April 15 a
13 program proposal to the department of education. A school district or
14 charter school that receives approval for a three-year program under this
15 subsection may annually submit a modified spending plan for its approved
16 program.

17 B. A program proposal submitted by a school district or charter
18 school for supporting the costs of placing school resource officers or
19 juvenile probation officers, or both, on a school campus shall contain:

20 1. A detailed description of the school safety needs of the charter
21 school or school district.

22 2. A plan for implementing a law-related education program or a
23 plan that demonstrates the existence of a law-related education program as
24 a school safety prevention strategy.

25 3. A plan to use trained school resource officers or juvenile
26 probation officers in the school, or both.

27 4. If the school district or charter school has already
28 participated in the school safety program, information on the success,
29 compliance and implementation of the most recent grant.

30 C. A program proposal submitted by a school district or charter
31 school for supporting the costs of placing school counselors or school
32 social workers, or both, on a school campus shall contain:

33 1. A detailed description of the school safety needs of the charter
34 school or school district.

35 2. A plan for implementing a school guidance and counseling program
36 that includes the following:

37 (a) A detailed description of the relationship between the school
38 counselor or the social worker, or both, and local community resources.

39 (b) A plan for using school counselor and school social worker
40 services in the school, or both.

41 (c) A detailed description of the methods for evaluating the
42 effectiveness of the school guidance and counseling plan.

43 (d) Policies on confidentiality under the school guidance and
44 counseling plan.

1 (e) Policies on notifying parents and other family members of
2 issues or concerns as identified in the school guidance and counseling
3 plan.

4 (f) A detailed description of the school's, school district's or
5 charter school's referral procedures to the appropriate community entities
6 and state agencies.

7 3. If the school district or charter school has already
8 participated in the school safety program, information on the success,
9 compliance and implementation of the most recent approved program
10 proposal.

11 D. The department of education shall review and administer the
12 school resource officers and juvenile probation officers program proposals
13 in cooperation with the courts, law enforcement agencies and law-related
14 education providers awarded a contract pursuant to section 41-2534,
15 subject to review and approval by the state board of education. The
16 department of education shall use relevant crime statistics to assess the
17 needs of each program proposal and shall visit school districts and
18 charter schools that submit program proposals in order to verify the
19 information contained in the program proposals. The department of
20 education shall contract to provide guidelines, curricula and support
21 resources for school resource officers and juvenile probation officers to
22 use in implementing a law-related education program.

23 E. The department of education shall review and administer the
24 school counselors and school social workers program proposals in
25 cooperation with school administrators, principals, teachers, parents and
26 community mental health professionals. The department of education shall
27 use relevant school-level academic, social and emotional statistics to
28 assess the needs of each program proposal and shall visit school districts
29 and charter schools that submit program proposals in order to verify the
30 information contained in the program proposals.

31 F. The department of education, subject to the review and approval
32 of the state board of education, shall distribute monies to the school
33 districts and charter schools that are in compliance with program
34 requirements and whose program proposals have been approved by the state
35 board of education. IF THERE ARE INSUFFICIENT MONIES TO FULLY FUND ALL
36 APPROVED PROGRAM PROPOSALS, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL PRIORITIZE
37 THE PROGRAM PROPOSALS THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED SUBSECTION C
38 OF THIS SECTION.

39 G. The department of education shall review program proposals
40 submitted by school districts and charter schools for participation in the
41 school safety program and shall select school sites that are eligible to
42 receive funding based on school safety needs pursuant to this section,
43 EXCEPT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MAY NOT SELECT A SCHOOL DISTRICT
44 OR CHARTER SCHOOL WHOSE PROGRAM PROPOSAL MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED
45 IN SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION BEFORE, OR TO THE EXCLUSION OF, A SCHOOL

1 DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL WHOSE APPROVED PROGRAM PROPOSAL MEETS THE
2 REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION C OF THIS SECTION. WHEN EVALUATING
3 PROGRAM PROPOSALS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION B OF THIS SECTION, the
4 department of education may prioritize program proposals for school
5 resource officer and juvenile probation officer grants to school districts
6 and charter schools that have agreements to share the cost of the school
7 resource officer or juvenile probation officer with a law enforcement
8 agency or the courts.

9 H. The department of education shall evaluate the effectiveness of
10 all the approved program proposals submitted pursuant to subsections B and
11 C of this section within the school safety program and report on the
12 activities of the program and the participants in the school safety
13 program to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of
14 representatives and the governor on or before November 1 of each year and
15 shall provide a copy of this report to the secretary of state. The
16 evaluation and report shall include survey results from participating
17 schools and data from participating schools on the impact of participating
18 in the school safety program. The department shall establish data
19 guidelines for school safety program participants to follow in reporting
20 pursuant to this subsection.

21 I. The school safety program established by this section shall
22 include a school safety program guidance manual adopted by the department
23 of education that requires a dispute resolution process to be included in
24 the service agreement between a school district or charter school that
25 submitted a program proposal and received a school resource officer grant
26 from the school safety program and the law enforcement agency that
27 provides services to the school district or charter school.

28 J. Any appropriations that are made to the department of education
29 for the approved program proposals within the school safety program are
30 exempt from the provisions of section 35-190 relating to lapsing of
31 appropriations. All monies that are not used for an approved program
32 proposal within the school safety program during the fiscal year for which
33 the monies were appropriated revert to the department of education for
34 distribution to the program in the following fiscal year.

35 K. Monies received by a school district or charter school under the
36 program shall be spent to implement the approved program proposals.

37 L. The auditor general shall include the school safety program as
38 part of its ongoing sunset review of agencies and programs.

39 M. For the purposes of this section:

40 1. "Law-related education" means interactive education to equip
41 children and youth with knowledge and skills pertaining to the law, school
42 safety and effective citizenship.

43 2. "Law-related education program" means a program designed to
44 provide children and youth with knowledge, skills and activities
45 pertaining to the law and legal process and to promote law-abiding

1 behavior with the purpose of preventing children and youth from engaging
2 in delinquency or violence and enabling them to become productive
3 citizens.

4 3. "School counselor" means a professional educator who holds a
5 valid school counselor certificate issued by the department of education.

6 4. "School guidance and counseling program" means a counseling
7 program that supports, promotes and enhances the academic, personal,
8 social, emotional and career development of all students.

9 5. "School resource officer" means a peace officer or a
10 full-authority reserve peace officer who is certified by the Arizona peace
11 officer standards and training board.

12 6. "School social worker" means a professional educator who holds a
13 valid school social worker certificate issued by the department of
14 education.

15 Sec. 2. Existing programs

16 Notwithstanding section 15-154, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended
17 by this act, a school district or charter school whose application to
18 participate in the school safety program pursuant to section 15-154,
19 subsection A, Arizona Revised Statutes, was approved before the effective
20 date of this act may continue to participate until the expiration of the
21 term provided in the school district's or charter school's application.