

REFERENCE TITLE: mental health professionals; school safety

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2023

## **SB 1676**

Introduced by  
Senators Epstein: Miranda, Terán; Representative Salman

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-154 AND 15-155, 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; purpose; program proposals;  
5 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~~ AND SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS on school  
11 campuses. A school district or charter school may apply to participate in  
12 the school safety program as provided in this section for up to three  
13 fiscal years by submitting, ~~by April~~ ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 15, a program  
14 proposal to the department of education. A school district or charter  
15 school that receives approval for a three-year program under this  
16 subsection may annually submit a modified spending plan for its approved  
17 program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 1. A detailed description of the school safety needs of the charter  
36 school or school district.

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

39 (a) A detailed description of the relationship between the school  
40 ~~counselor or the social worker, or both,~~ MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL and  
41 local community resources.

42 (b) A plan for using school ~~counselor and school social worker~~  
43 MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL services in the school, ~~or both.~~

1 (c) A detailed description of the methods for evaluating the  
2 effectiveness of the school ~~guidance and counseling~~ MENTAL HEALTH  
3 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES plan.

4 (d) Policies on confidentiality under the school ~~guidance and~~  
5 ~~counseling~~ MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SERVICES plan.

6 (e) Policies on notifying parents and other family members of  
7 issues or concerns as identified in the school ~~guidance and counseling~~  
8 MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SERVICES plan.

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

12 3. If the school district or charter school has already  
13 participated in the school safety program, information on the success,  
14 compliance and implementation of the most recent approved program  
15 proposal.

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

28 E. The department of education shall review and administer the  
29 school ~~counselors and school social workers~~ MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS  
30 program proposals in cooperation with school administrators, principals,  
31 teachers, parents and community mental health professionals. The  
32 department of education shall use relevant school-level academic, social  
33 and emotional statistics to assess the needs of each program proposal and  
34 shall visit school districts and charter schools that submit program  
35 proposals in order to verify the information contained in the program  
36 proposals.

37 F. The department of education, subject to the review and approval  
38 of the state board of education, shall distribute monies to the school  
39 districts and charter schools that are in compliance with program  
40 requirements and whose program proposals have been approved by the state  
41 board of education.

42 G. The department of education shall review program proposals  
43 submitted by school districts and charter schools for participation in the  
44 school safety program and shall select school sites that are eligible to  
45 receive funding based on school safety needs pursuant to this section.

~~1 The department of education may prioritize program proposals for school  
2 resource officer and juvenile probation officer grants to school districts  
3 and charter schools that have agreements to share the cost of the school  
4 resource officer or juvenile probation officer with a law enforcement  
5 agency or the courts.~~

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

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

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

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

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

36 M. For the purposes of this section:

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

40 2. "Law-related education program" means a program designed to  
41 provide children and youth with knowledge, skills and activities  
42 pertaining to the law and legal process and to promote law-abiding  
43 behavior with the purpose of preventing children and youth from engaging  
44 in delinquency or violence and enabling them to become productive  
45 citizens.

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

3 3. "SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL" MEANS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

4 (a) A PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR WHO HOLDS A VALID SCHOOL COUNSELOR  
5 CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

6 (b) A PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR WHO HOLDS A VALID SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER  
7 CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

8 (c) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HOLDS A VALID SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST CERTIFICATE  
9 ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

10 (d) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MEETS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

11 (i) IS A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WHO IS LICENSED PURSUANT TO  
12 TITLE 32, CHAPTER 33.

13 (ii) PROVIDES CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEATH SERVICES PURSUANT TO  
14 SECTION 36-3436.

15 (iii) PROVIDES OR WILL PROVIDE SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
16 PURSUANT TO A CONTRACT WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL

17 4. "School ~~guidance and counseling~~ MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS  
18 program" means a counseling program that supports, promotes and enhances  
19 the academic, personal, social, emotional and career development of all  
20 students.

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

24 ~~6. "School social worker" means a professional educator who holds a~~  
25 ~~valid school social worker certificate issued by the department of~~  
26 ~~education.~~

27 Sec. 2. Section 15-155, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
28 read:

29 15-155. School safety program; funding

30 A. The department of education shall cooperate with the county  
31 school superintendent, the county sheriff and the local chief of police to  
32 allow a law enforcement agency, with the consent of the school, to assign  
33 a peace officer or a full authority Arizona peace officer standards and  
34 training board certified reserve peace officer to participate in the  
35 school safety program in each school in the county. The cost of the peace  
36 officer is a state charge that is funded by the department of education,  
37 except for agreements to share the cost of the school resource officer  
38 ~~pursuant to section 15-154, subsection G.~~

39 B. In cooperation with the department of education and the county  
40 school superintendent and with the consent of the school, the presiding  
41 judge of the juvenile court may assign juvenile probation officers to  
42 participate in the school safety program in each school in the county.  
43 The cost of juvenile probation officers is a state charge that is funded  
44 by the department of education, except for agreements to share the cost of  
45 the juvenile probation officer ~~pursuant to section 15-154, subsection G.~~