

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HB 2142

Introduced by
Representative Gress

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 15-154, 15-154.02 AND 15-155, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES;
AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 2, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 15-249.20; 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; school safety center;**
5 **program proposals; requirements; annual report;**
6 **public records exemption; definitions**

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

22 B. A program proposal submitted by a school district or charter
23 school for supporting the costs of placing school resource officers,
24 juvenile probation officers or school safety officers, or any combination
25 of these officers, on a school campus shall contain:

26 1. A detailed description of the school safety needs of the charter
27 school or school district.

28 2. A plan to provide the current school building blueprints, floor
29 plans and school safety assessments for each school site to the local law
30 enforcement agency, emergency medical services provider and fire
31 department that provides services to the school site.

32 3. A plan for implementing a law-related education program or a
33 plan that demonstrates the existence of a law-related education program as
34 a school safety prevention strategy.

35 4. A plan to use trained school resource officers, juvenile
36 probation officers or school safety officers, or any combination of these
37 officers, in the school.

38 5. A plan to train school resource officers, juvenile probation
39 officers or school safety officers, or any combination of these officers,
40 on the family educational rights and privacy act, civil rights and
41 adolescent mental health issues.

42 6. If the school district or charter school has already
43 participated in the school safety program, information on the success,
44 compliance and implementation of the most recent grant.

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

4 1. A detailed description of the school safety needs of the charter
5 school or school district.

6 2. A plan to provide the current school building blueprints, floor
7 plans and school safety assessments for each school site to the local law
8 enforcement agency, emergency medical services provider and fire
9 department that provides services to the school site.

10 3. A plan for implementing a school guidance and counseling program
11 that includes the following:

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

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

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

19 (d) Policies on confidentiality under the school guidance and
20 counseling plan.

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

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

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 approved program
30 proposal.

31 D. If a school district or charter school whose program proposal
32 pursuant to subsection B or C of this section was approved by the state
33 board of education cannot place one or more of the school resource
34 officers, juvenile probation officers, school safety officers, school
35 counselors or school social workers, or any combination of these
36 individuals, as included in the approved program proposal, the school
37 district or charter school may submit an alternative program proposal for
38 supporting the costs of purchasing safety technology, safety training and
39 infrastructure improvements for its school campus or campuses. An
40 alternative program proposal submitted pursuant to this subsection shall
41 contain:

42 1. A detailed description of the safety needs of the school
43 district or charter school.

44 2. A detailed description of the proposed expenditures and capital
45 improvements, including:

- (a) The safety needs that each proposed expenditure will address.
- (b) The specific technology or training program that the school district or charter school seeks to acquire.

(c) For infrastructure improvements, all costs associated with the improvements, including architectural and engineering fees, safety evaluations and equipment for securing entrances and exits.

3. Any other information requested by the ~~department of education~~
SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER.

E. The ~~department of education~~ SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER shall review and administer the school resource officers, juvenile probation officers and school safety officers program proposals in cooperation with the courts, law enforcement agencies and law-related education providers awarded a contract pursuant to section 41-2534, subject to review and approval by the state board of education. The ~~department of education~~ SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER shall use relevant crime statistics to assess the needs of each program proposal and shall visit school districts and charter schools that submit program proposals in order to verify the information contained in the program proposals. The ~~department of education~~ SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER shall contract to provide guidelines, curricula and support resources for school resource officers, juvenile probation officers and school safety officers to use in implementing a law-related education program.

F. The ~~department of education~~ SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER shall review and administer the school counselors and school social workers program proposals in cooperation with school administrators, principals, teachers, parents and community mental health professionals. The ~~department of education~~ SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER shall use relevant school-level academic, social and emotional statistics to assess the needs of each program proposal and shall visit school districts and charter schools that submit program proposals in order to verify the information contained in the program proposals.

G. The ~~department of education~~ SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER shall review and administer the safety technology, safety training and infrastructure improvements program proposals. The ~~department~~ SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER shall use relevant crime statistics to assess the needs of each program proposal and may visit school districts and charter schools that submit program proposals in order to verify the information contained in the program proposals. The ~~department~~ SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER may approve all or part of a safety technology, safety training or infrastructure improvement program proposal.

H. The ~~department of education~~ SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER, subject to the review and approval of the state board of education, shall distribute monies to the school districts and charter schools that are in compliance with program requirements prescribed in this section and in section

1 15-154.02 and whose program proposals have been approved by the state
2 board of education.

3 I. The ~~department of education~~ SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER shall review
4 program proposals submitted by school districts and charter schools for
5 participation in the school safety program and shall select school sites
6 that are eligible to receive funding based on school safety needs pursuant
7 to this section. The ~~department of education~~ SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER may
8 prioritize program proposals for school resource officer, juvenile
9 probation officer and school safety officer grants to school districts and
10 charter schools that have agreements to share the cost of the school
11 resource officer, juvenile probation officer or school safety officer with
12 a law enforcement agency or the courts.

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

25 K. The ~~school safety program established by this section shall~~
26 ~~include~~ SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER SHALL ADOPT a school safety program guidance
27 manual ~~adopted by the department of education~~ FOR THE SCHOOL SAFETY
28 PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY THIS SECTION that requires a dispute resolution
29 process to be included in the service agreement between a school district
30 or charter school that submitted a program proposal and received a school
31 resource officer grant or school safety officer grant from the school
32 safety program and the law enforcement agency that provides services to
33 the school district or charter school.

34 L. Any appropriations that are made to the department of education
35 OR THE SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION for the
36 approved program proposals within the school safety program are exempt
37 from the provisions of section 35-190 relating to lapsing of
38 appropriations. THE SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER MAY USE NOT MORE THAN TEN
39 PERCENT OF THE MONIES APPROPRIATED FOR THE SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM EACH YEAR
40 FOR THE COSTS OF ADMINISTERING THE SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM. All monies that
41 are not used for an approved program proposal within the school safety
42 program during the fiscal year for which the monies were appropriated
43 revert to the ~~department of education~~ SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER for
44 distribution to the program in the following fiscal year.

1 M. ~~Monies received by~~ A school district or charter school ~~under~~
2 THAT RECEIVES MONIES PURSUANT TO the school safety program shall ~~be spent~~
3 USE THE MONIES to implement the SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OR CHARTER SCHOOL'S
4 approved program ~~proposals~~ PROPOSAL.

5 N. The auditor general shall include the school safety program as
6 part of its ongoing sunset review of agencies and programs.

7 O. Notwithstanding any other law, school building blueprints and
8 floor plans are not public records and are exempt from title 39,
9 chapter 1.

10 P. For the purposes of this section:

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

14 2. "Law-related education program" means a program designed to
15 provide children and youth with knowledge, skills and activities
16 pertaining to the law and legal process and to promote law-abiding
17 behavior with the purpose of preventing children and youth from engaging
18 in delinquency or violence and enabling them to become productive
19 citizens.

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

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

25 5. "School resource officer" means any of the following:

26 (a) A peace officer.

27 (b) A full-authority reserve peace officer who is certified by the
28 Arizona peace officer standards and training board.

29 (c) An individual who was previously employed as a peace officer in
30 this state, who retired in good standing and who is assigned to
31 participate in the school safety program by a law enforcement agency
32 pursuant to section 15-155.

33 6. "School safety officer" means a school resource officer who is
34 working in an off-duty capacity.

35 7. "School social worker" means a professional educator who holds a
36 valid school social worker certificate issued by the department of
37 education.

38 Sec. 2. Section 15-154.02, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
39 read:

40 15-154.02. Emergency response plans; school safety
41 assessments; approved providers; triennial
42 safety assessments

43 A. Each school district and charter school that receives monies
44 pursuant to section 15-154 for an approved school safety program shall do
45 both of the following:

1 1. Develop an emergency response plan pursuant to section 15-341,
2 subsection A, paragraph 31 or section 15-183, subsection E, paragraph 10
3 ~~to satisfy the requirements prescribed in this paragraph.~~

4 2. Every five years, contract with a school safety assessment
5 provider from the list compiled pursuant to subsection B of this section
6 to conduct a school safety assessment, including an assessment of the
7 physical security of each school site and a review of the emergency
8 response plan for each school site.

9 B. The **SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER WITHIN THE** department of education
10 shall compile a list of approved school safety assessment providers and
11 shall make the list available to school districts and charter schools that
12 participate in the school safety program established by section 15-154.

13 C. Every three years, the ~~department of education~~ **SCHOOL SAFETY**
14 **CENTER** shall select a random sample of school districts and charter
15 schools that are participating in the school safety program established by
16 section 15-154 and shall conduct a safety assessment of the selected
17 school districts and charter schools. The ~~department~~ **SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER**
18 shall provide a copy of the safety assessment results to the respective
19 school district's governing board or charter school's governing body and
20 the administrators of each school site that was assessed.

21 Sec. 3. Section 15-155, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
22 read:

23 15-155. School safety program: funding

24 A. The **SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER WITHIN THE** department of education
25 shall cooperate with the county school superintendent, the county sheriff
26 and the local chief of police to allow a law enforcement agency, with the
27 consent of the school, to assign a peace officer, a full-authority reserve
28 peace officer who is certified by the Arizona peace officer standards and
29 training board or an individual who was previously employed as a peace
30 officer in this state and who retired in good standing to participate in
31 the school safety program in each school in the county. The cost of the
32 peace officer is a state charge that is funded by the ~~department of~~
33 ~~education~~ **SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER**, except for agreements to share the cost of
34 the school resource officer pursuant to section 15-154, subsection I.

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

1 Sec. 4. Title 15, chapter 2, article 2, Arizona Revised Statutes,
2 is amended by adding section 15-249.20, to read:

3 15-249.20. School safety center: duties

4 THE SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER IS ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF
5 EDUCATION. THE SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER SHALL:

6 1. USE SCHOOL SAFETY SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE TO IDENTIFY BEST
7 PRACTICES FOR ENHANCING SCHOOL SAFETY IN THIS STATE.

8 2. PROVIDE STATEWIDE TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO
9 SCHOOL SAFETY PERSONNEL, INCLUDING TRAINING RELATED TO EMERGENCY
10 PREPAREDNESS, THREAT RESPONSE AND CAMPUS SAFETY PROTOCOLS.

11 3. ADMINISTER THE SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY SECTION
12 15-154, INCLUDING REVIEWING GRANT APPLICATIONS, MONITORING GRANT
13 RECIPIENTS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH ALL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS, REVIEWING
14 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AND ENFORCING CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUIREMENTS.

15 4. PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER
16 SCHOOLS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMS PROPOSALS FOR THE SCHOOL SAFETY
17 PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-154.

18 5. PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER
19 SCHOOLS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS PURSUANT TO
20 SECTION 15-183, SUBSECTION E, PARAGRAPH 10, SECTION 15-341, SUBSECTION A,
21 PARAGRAPH 31 AND SECTION 15-154.02, SUBSECTION A, PARAGRAPH 1.

22 6. RESEARCH AND EVALUATE SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES AND
23 OUTCOMES.

24 7. CONDUCT SCHOOL SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENTS. THE SCHOOL SAFETY
25 CENTER MAY OFFER SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS TO A SCHOOL BASED ON THE
26 FINDINGS OF A RISK ASSESSMENT THAT IS CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO THIS
27 PARAGRAPH.

28 8. ADOPT GUIDELINES FOR THREAT PREVENTION, VULNERABILITY MITIGATION
29 AND PHYSICAL CAMPUS SECURITY PLANNING.