



2025 SECURED SCHOOL SAFETY BOARD REPORT

SCHOOL SAFETY OVERVIEW

Overview of School Safety in Indiana

Indiana has long stood as a national leader in school safety – a reputation rooted in the launch of the School Safety Specialist Academy (SSSA) in 1999. With the creation of the Office of School Safety (OSS), Indiana is entering a new chapter defined by urgency, innovation and responsiveness. In a very short time, sweeping changes have been implemented that reflect national best practices, legislative updates and the real-world needs of community across the state. This document offers a snapshot of how Indiana is transforming school safety by building smarter systems, delivering better training and offering stronger support than ever before.

Office of School Safety

With the passage of HB1637 (P.L. 238-2025), which created the Office of School Safety (OSS), and added four new positions to the Secured School Safety Board (SSSB), the Indiana legislature has shown its continued commitment to the safety of Indiana school students, staff and community. The new positions on the SSSB include:

- An employee of a charter school
- A school resource officer
- An emergency medical responder
- A firefighter

To promote operational excellence, the OSS is organized under the leadership of the director, who provides strategic vision and overall direction for the office. The director oversees the duties of the office, coordinates school safety resources across the state and offers leadership on critical school safety matters. Supporting this mission are two deputy directors. The deputy director of operations oversees internal systems, enforcement and interdepartmental coordination. Meanwhile, the deputy director of programs and outreach leads efforts in training, cross-sector collaboration and stakeholder engagement. Additional priorities for the office include maximizing the strengths of current staff and aligning roles and responsibilities with both the language and intent of HB1637 (P.L. 238-2025).

Among the major initiatives underway is a complete overhaul of the Basic SSSA curriculum. This redesign reflects current training needs and emphasizes key areas such as behavioral threat assessment, emergency operations planning and implementation, school law and the development and sustainability of school safety programs.

Advanced SSSA training is also being reimagined. The training will now be delivered regionally, eliminating the need for every specialist to travel to Indianapolis at the same time. This shift reduces time and cost burdens for districts, minimizes disruption to school safety professionals during critical school hours and increases accessibility and responsiveness to local needs. To date, the OSS has received over 40 training requests, underscoring the strong demand for localized support and the desire for districts to identify their own training gaps/needs under the OSS guidance.

In response to a legislative mandate requiring threat assessment teams by July 1, 2025, the OSS is organizing a statewide Behavioral Threat Assessment Summit (BTAM). This initiative will provide critical (and overdue) training, equip teams with a ready-to-use toolkit and address gaps in resources and

preparedness. A recent incident in Mooresville showed there were gaps demonstrating that information provided at BTAM could have had a positive impact reducing the gaps.

The OSS's website is undergoing a digital transformation to become more user-friendly and resource rich. Enhancements include better organization, functional tools tailored to district needs, best practice resources, tabletop exercises and live training opportunities. Additionally, preliminary conversations/plans have been made for a secure area of the website to house sensitive documents in accordance with HB1637 (P.L. 238-2025).

Another key advancement that is underway is data modernization. The OSS identified early on that the existing record-keeping system for School Safety Specialist (SSS) was outdated and inaccurate. In response, all data is being transitioned to the ACADIS record-keeping system, which will allow districts to track hours and certification status, streamline processes and improve accuracy and efficiency. It is the OSS's goal to complete this by December 2025 as we work alongside IDHS technology professionals.

Our office is currently exploring a statewide recommendation for one or more anonymous reporting tools or applications. We are aware of several platforms currently in use across Indiana, with varying degrees of success, and will take those experiences into account as we work to identify appropriate resources for Hoosier schools. Ideally, these tools would be available to schools at no cost or at a reduced rate, which will require further discussion and a potentially time-consuming procurement and bidding process. At this early stage, we are initiating those conversations.

This is just the beginning. The Office of School Safety remains committed to continuous improvement, collaboration and innovation, ensuring that every school in Indiana is equipped to meet today's challenges and tomorrow's threats with confidence and clarity.

Local Involvement in School Safety

P.L. 150-2023 mandated all counties in Indiana to establish a County School Safety Commission by December 31, 2023. The commission shall submit annually to the Secured School Safety Board (SSSB) the following:

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

During the 2025 legislative session the legislature passed HB1016 (P.L. 27-2025), which provides for the appointment of a fire chief, or the fire chief's designee, to the commission.

There were 90 county school safety commissions that submitted the required data. Listed below are some of the prominent programs identified for the 2024/2025 school year. While many successful efforts were made by schools to keep staff, students and the community safe, some challenges were also revealed.

Current Programs Reported to Improve School Safety

There are various programs to improve school safety utilized by various school systems across the state. Some of these identified programs include:

- Indiana Department of Health's "Handle with Care" program
- "I Love You Guys" reunification training
- "Hidden in Plain Sight," an interactive drug education program
- Flock camera systems
- "Tall Cop Says Stop" drug education program
- "Strategies for Youth" LEAD program
- "Catch My Breath" vaping cessation program
- "Impact Teen Drivers"
- "PREPARE," a crisis intervention program
- "Safe Sport Zone" afterschool event security program

There are additional programs that were locally developed in school systems within the following counties:

- Blackford County – "Go Bags" in every classroom
- Dubois County – EVAC SAFE evacuation maps with color-coded routes
- Knox County – Students Having an Alternative Positive Experience (SHAPE)
- Montgomery County – Juvenile Prime4Life substance abuse program
- White County – EPIPENs are in with all the AEDs

Challenges Identified/Areas for Growth

The following issues were identified as increasing or continuing concerns in multiple school systems across the state:

- Vaping – THC – Gummies – students are finding ways to get around vape detectors
- Bus stop arm violations
- Before/After school events
- Tik Tok trends
- Bullying

Secured School Safety Grant

The Secured School Safety Grant (SSSG) program 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. To date, over \$214 million in state funding has been dedicated to the matching grant program.

For FY26, the total amount of eligible funding requests exceeded the amount of funding for the program. Due to this, schools were funded at 92.5% for their top priority items. Applicants to the

program ranked the priority of items to help the SSSB better understand the greatest need for school districts.

This fiscal year, the SSSG received 502 applications, a record number, including 24 new schools. All but eight of the applicants were partially funded at 92.5% for a total of \$27,031,881.25.

Data regarding the SSSG awards from FY2014 to FY2026 are located later in this report. \$27 million has been allocated to the SSSG for both FY26 and FY27.

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 the 2024-2025 school year. A total of 350 reported this year compared to 373 last year and 345 in the 2022-2023 school year.

*Aggregate SRO Data Reported

	2023	2024	2025
Total number of SROs employed	1,039	1,216	955.5
Number of school corporations employing a SRO	246	285	331
Number of charter schools employing a SRO	27	35	37
Number of SROs employed by school corporations	498	515	425
Number of SROs employed by one or more school corporations	17	26	42
Number of SROs employed exclusively by a charter school	50	49	48
Number of SROs employed by a coalition of charter schools	3	2	2
Number of SROs employed by a combination of 1 or more schools	2	2	2

*Aggregate LEO Data Reported

	2023	2024	2025
Total number of LEOs employed	179	222	183.5
Number of school corporations employing a LEO	27	32	29
Number of charter schools employing a LEO	6	6	5
Number of LEOs employed exclusively by school corporations	164	203	160.5
Number of LEOs employed by one or more school corporations	3	3	3
Number of LEOs employed exclusively by a charter school	0	13	0
Number of LEOs employed by a coalition of charter schools	0	0	0
Number of LEOs employed by a combination of 1 or more schools	2	2	2

**SROs and LEOs can also be funded through a contract or MOU with a law enforcement agency as well as a contract or MOU with a private entity or nonprofit organization that employs persons who meet the qualifications of a SRO.”

Overview of Funds Used for SROs or LEOs

	2023	2024	2025
Number of schools that reported SSSG as the exclusive source of funds for SROs	62	65	45
Number of schools that reported SSSG and another means of funding SROs	228	273	271
Number of schools that reported Local Funding as the source of funds for SROs	130	143	142
Number of schools that reported State Tuition as the source of funds for SROs	60	65	60

Number of schools that reported Local LE as the source of funds for SROs	42	46	34
Number of schools that reported Federal dollars as the source of funds for SROs	9	10	4
Number of schools that reported Other as the source of funds for SROs	24	45	22
Number of schools that reported SSSG as the exclusive source of funds for LEOs	11	5	3
Number of schools that reported SSSG and another means of funding LEOs	15	12	12
Number of schools that reported Local Funding as the source of funds for LEOs	15	18	17
Number of schools that reported State Tuition as the source of funds for LEOs	7	7	5
Number of schools that reported Local LE as the source of funds for LEOs	3	4	4
Number of schools that reported Federal dollars as the source of funds for LEOs	2	2	0
Number of schools that reported Other as the source of funds for LEOs	3	3	6

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

- <https://www.in.gov/dhs/school-safety/>
- <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
2026	\$19,680,873.18	\$5,579,308.18	\$1,368,668.38	\$0	\$32,116.00	\$87,227.50	\$6,475.00	\$13,714.98	\$263,498.03	\$0	\$ 27,031,881.25
2025	\$16,799,158.42	\$5,720,446.55	\$882,050.11	\$0	\$47,019.80	\$0	\$6,050.00	\$5,670.00	\$746,193.07	\$0	\$24,206,587.95
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	\$ 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