



2024 SECURED SCHOOL SAFETY BOARD REPORT

SCHOOL SAFETY OVERVIEW

Overview of School Safety in Indiana

Important statutory changes were made in 2023 to improve school safety in Indiana. These changes continued to have a positive impact in 2024 on the safety of Indiana's students, teachers and school employees. This report will highlight some of the ways schools are achieving those positive impacts and also will point out some issues that are of a growing concern in our schools.

Secured School Safety Grant (SSSG) Funding

The amount of funding dedicated to the program for 2025-2026 will be determined in the next legislative session. However, the program has funded school safety initiatives at record levels for the previous four years. Last year, 474 schools split an allocation of the \$25 million allocated by the Indiana General Assembly, plus \$4.8 million of de-obligated funds from previous grant cycle years for a total of \$29.8 million. For the current cycle (FY25), 499 schools received \$24.2 million in allocations.

Local Involvement in School Safety

P. L. 150-2023 mandated 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

There were 86 County School Safety Commissions that submitted the required data. Listed below are some of the prominent programs identified that were submitted for the year 2024, to date. While great strides were made to keep Hoosier children safe, some challenges were also identified.

Current Programs Reported to Improve School Safety

There were several programs to improve school safety implemented by various school systems across the State of Indiana. These identified programs included:

- Protective window film
- Jake's Law - AEDs
- A.L.I.C.E. Training-The acronym stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate in response to violent critical incidents
- Standard-Response Protocol developed by "I Love U Guys" is training related to any incident (weather, fire, intruder, etc.) by following the five components of Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate and Shelter.
- Radios (800mgz) were purchased to improve communication.
- Policing the Teen Brain Training
- Stop the Bleed Kits

There also were additional programs implemented in school systems within the following counties:

- Wells County – Developed PSA on Human Trafficking
- Monroe County – Developed STOPit, a self-reporting App
- Fulton County – Printed CPR basics on faculty keycards
- Harrison County – Put injects (scripted events used to challenge exercise participants) into school drills-PA system down and blocking exits for example

Challenges Identified / Areas for Growth

The following issues were identified as increasing concerns in multiple school systems across the State of Indiana.

- Vaping – THC – Gummies on the rise
- Communication limitations – Trying to resolve with 800mgz radios and best internet
- Stop bus arm violations
- Truancy issues
- Narcan availability

Consolidating School Safety Requirements and Programs

P.L. 150-2023 also required that as part of the School Safety Plan, each school corporation and charter school include the establishment of a multi-disciplinary threat assessment team (IC 10-21-1-10.) This is to be completed by July 1, 2025.

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. To date, \$187 million in state funding has been dedicated to the matching grant program.

For FY 2025, the SSSG received 500 applications, a record number, including 56 new schools. All but one of the applications were either fully or partially funded for a total of \$24.2 million.

Data regarding SSSG awards from FY 2014-2025 is located on pages 7 and 8. The amount of funding allocated to the SSSG Program will be determined in the FY26-27 biennium budget discussions in early 2025.

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 2023-2024 school year. A total of 373 reported this year compared to 345 last year.

*Aggregate SRO Data Reported

| | | <u>2023</u> | <u>2024</u> |
|---|---|-------------|-------------|
| Total number of SROs employed | = | 1,039 | 1,216 |
| Number of school corporations employing a SRO | = | 246 | 285 |
| Number of charter schools employing a SRO | = | 27 | 35 |
| Number of SROs employed by school corporations | = | 498 | 515 |
| Number of SROs employed by one or more school corporations | = | 17 | 26 |
| Number of SROs employed exclusively by a charter school | = | 50 | 49 |
| Number of SROs employed by a coalition of charter schools | = | 3 | 2 |
| Number of SROs employed by a combination of 1 or more schools | = | 2 | 2 |

*Aggregate LEO Data Reported

| | | <u>2023</u> | <u>2024</u> |
|---|---|-------------|-------------|
| Total number of LEOs employed | = | 179 | 222 |
| Number of school corporations employing a LEO | = | 27 | 32 |
| Number of charter schools employing a LEO | = | 6 | 6 |
| Number of LEOs employed exclusively by school corporations | = | 164 | 203 |
| Number of LEOs employed by one or more school corporations | = | 3 | 3 |
| Number of LEOs employed exclusively by a charter school | = | 0 | 13 |
| Number of LEOs employed by a coalition of charter schools | = | 0 | 0 |
| Number of LEOs employed by a combination of 1 or more schools | = | 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

| | | <u>2023</u> | <u>2024</u> |
|---|---|-------------|-------------|
| Number of schools that reported SSSG as the exclusive source of funds for SROs | = | 62 | 65 |
| Number of schools that reported SSSG and another means of funding SROs | = | 228 | 273 |
| Number of schools that reported Local Funding as the source of funds for SROs | = | 130 | 143 |
| Number of schools that reported State Tuition as the source of funds for SROs | = | 60 | 65 |
| Number of schools that reported Local LE as the source of funds for SROs | = | 42 | 46 |
| Number of schools that reported Federal dollars as the source of funds for SROs | = | 9 | 10 |
| Number of schools that reported Other as the source of funds for SROs | = | 24 | 45 |

| | <u>2023</u> | <u>2024</u> |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Number of schools that reported SSSG as the exclusive source of funds for LEOs | = 11 | 5 |
| Number of schools that reported SSSG and another means of funding LEOs | = 15 | 12 |
| Number of schools that reported Local Funding as the source of funds for LEOs | = 15 | 18 |
| Number of schools that reported State Tuition as the source of funds for LEOs | = 7 | 7 |
| Number of schools that reported Local LE as the source of funds for LEOs | = 3 | 4 |
| Number of schools that reported Federal dollars as the source of funds for LEOs | = 2 | 2 |
| Number of schools that reported Other as the source of funds for LEOs | = 3 | 3 |

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 |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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 |