Safer Georgia Schools Grant
Office of Whole Child Supports
2023-2025

May 2, 2023
# Table of Contents

Safer Georgia Schools Grant ...................................................................................................................... 3  
Contact Information ................................................................................................................................. 3  
Program Guidance: Safer Georgia Schools Grant .................................................................................... 4  
  Program Description ................................................................................................................................. 4  
  Eligibility Criteria ................................................................................................................................. 4  
  Allowable Usage of Funds ....................................................................................................................... 4  
  Grant Period ........................................................................................................................................... 6  
  Timeline of Activities ............................................................................................................................. 6  
  Grant Award Notifications ...................................................................................................................... 6  
  Accountability and Monitoring the Use of Federal Funds ................................................................. 6  
  Equitable Services .................................................................................................................................. 7  
  Reporting Requirements ......................................................................................................................... 8  
Applicant Guidance .................................................................................................................................... 8  
  Application Components ......................................................................................................................... 8  
  Budget .................................................................................................................................................... 9  
Scoring & Funding Recommendations ...................................................................................................... 9  
  Scoring Process ..................................................................................................................................... 9  
  Rubric & Scoring Components ............................................................................................................. 10  
Application Document for Reference ......................................................................................................... 11
Safer Georgia Schools Grant
2023-2025

Application Release: May 1, 2023
Application Due: June 2, 2023

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Program Guidance: Safer Georgia Schools Grant

Program Description

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022 (BSCA) provided Stronger Connections Grant funds to the United States Department of Education (USED) in September 2022. USED then allocated funds to every State Education Agency (SEA) to create their own unique grant programs. This funding has been provided under Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), but has some requirements related to areas beyond Title IV, Part A. The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) has created the Safer Georgia Schools Grant in order to award this funding to local education agencies (LEA). This funding will be managed by the Office of Whole Child Supports in partnership with Federal Programs.

This competitive grant will allow LEAs to apply for funds particularly related to supporting the health and safety of students in Georgia, as per Section 4108 of the ESEA. Funds will be eligible for reimbursement from the time of notice of award through September 30, 2025.

Eligibility Criteria

Any LEA in Georgia eligible to receive a Title IV, Part A formula allocation may apply for these funds. The primary criteria for eligibility requires that the applicant be able to clearly articulate their need for funding as it relates to supporting the health and safety of students. See Scoring and Funding Recommendations section for more details.

Allowable Usage of Funds

Under Stronger Connections guidance, funds may be used only for activities authorized under Section 4108 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). For a list of FAQs on the Stronger Connections Grant, see this link.

All items under Section 4108 are allowable within this grant opportunity, however, GaDOE will prioritize the following use of funds in a Safer Georgia Schools grant application:

1. **Programs & Activities**
   * Foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free environments that support student academic achievement, including:
     - Drug and violence prevention activities and programs that are evidence-based;
     - Help prevent bullying and harassment;
     - Improve instructional practices for developing relationship-building skills, such as effective communication, and improve safety through the recognition and prevention of coercion, violence, or abuse, including teen and dating violence, stalking, domestic abuse, and sexual violence and harassment;
     - Mentoring and school counseling to all students, including children who are at risk of academic failure, dropping out of school, involvement in criminal or delinquent activities, or drug use and abuse;
     - Promote the involvement of parents and families in the activity or program.
2. **Professional Development & Training**

For school, specialized instructional support personnel, and interested community members related to:

- Drug and violence prevention;
- Suicide prevention;
- Crisis management;
- Human trafficking (defined, for purposes of this subparagraph, as an act or practice described in paragraph (9) or (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102);
- School-based violence prevention strategies;
- Drug abuse prevention, including educating children facing substance abuse at home;
- Bullying and harassment prevention.

3. **Personnel**

Including school resource officers and/or site resource coordinators who provide a variety of services, such as:

- Establishing partnerships within the community to provide resources and support for schools;
- Ensuring that all service and community partners are aligned with the academic expectations of a community school in order to improve student success; and
- Strengthening relationships between schools and communities.

4. **Equipment and Supplies to Improve District Safety Practices & Infrastructure**

Facilities upgrades and equipment that meet the following definitions:

- “Tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes, or $5,000.” 2 CFR 200.1.
- Minor remodeling refers to minor alterations in a previously completed building. The term also includes the extension of utility lines, such as water or electricity, from points beyond the confines of the space in which the minor remodeling is undertaken but within the confines of the previously completed building. The term does not include building construction, structural alteration to buildings, building maintenance, or repairs. See 34 CFR §77.1.
- Crisis alert programs/hardware
- Updated locks
- Window and door replacement to include shatterproof window/resistance
- Technology/software to implement safe monitoring and surveillance measures of students, staff, and visitors to the building.
- Identification/visitor management
- School facility mapping
- Video monitoring technology
- Entry control
- Intrusion alarm systems
- Evaluation tools for readiness and emergency management for schools
- Two-way communication devices and software designed to directly interface with emergency responder radio systems
- Mass notification telephone systems equipment
- Content filtering and/or services
- Cybersecurity tools and/or services
It is recommended that school safety-related activities are in alignment with school safety plans. The fundamental requirements of Title IV, Part A also apply to these funds, including the supplement, not supplant requirement (ESEA section 4110); the maintenance of effort requirement (ESEA section 8521); and the requirement to provide equitable services to private school students and personnel (ESEA section 8501 et seq.).

Grant Period

Awardees are expected to fully implement the grant funding before September 30, 2025.

Timeline of Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity/Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 1, 2023</td>
<td>Grant application released</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2, 2023</td>
<td>Grant application closes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 19, 2023</td>
<td>Grant allocations to be approved by State Board of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 31, 2023</td>
<td>Grantees to receive Grant Award Notification (GAN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 31, 2023</td>
<td>Funds made available to grantees via ConApp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 31, 2024</td>
<td>LEA should have expended at least 50% of its grant funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 31, 2025</td>
<td>LEA should have expended at least 75% of its grant funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 30, 2025</td>
<td>Funds expire</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grant Award Notifications

Grant awards are not final until approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE), and an award notification is sent from GaDOE. Grant Award Notifications (GAN) will be uploaded into the Consolidated Application (ConApp) on the MyGaDOE Portal. The level of funding and effective dates of the grant will be included in the GAN. Grantees may not obligate funds before receiving the official GAN.

Accountability and Monitoring the Use of Federal Funds

GaDOE is responsible for establishing and monitoring the Safer Georgia Schools Grant application, scoring process, distribution of funds to awardees, approving plan implementation, monitoring progress towards meeting goals/objectives/intended outcomes, data collection/results, and fiscal responsibilities.

This grant award is made subject to the provisions of all applicable federal and state laws and regulations and is contingent on federal funding.

Each applicant receiving funding through this grant must:
- Meet the eligibility requirements for the grant described herein, and the applicant has provided all required assurances that it will comply with all program implementation and reporting requirements established through this application.
 Appropriately use these funds as described in this document.
Implement activities funded through this proposal within the timeline in which the funds provided are to be used.

Should circumstances warrant any changes to the approved plan, the awardee must initiate a plan amendment request. It is important to note that the SBOE-approved grant plan cannot be changed or altered by any party without an approved amendment. Furthermore, because the grant plan is approved by the SBOE, be aware that amending the budget and/or implementation plan will be limited.

**Equitable Services**

LEAs applying for the Safer Georgia Schools Grant must meet ESEA equitable services requirements. The following actions must take place and be documented:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Invitations/Contact Log</th>
<th>Due with Application</th>
<th>LEAs must contact all private schools in their geographic boundaries in writing and document this contact on a contact log submitted with this application. Copies of invitations should be kept on file locally.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial Consultation</td>
<td>Due during Monitoring</td>
<td>All LEAs with private schools that affirm attendance or who do not decline attendance at initial consultation must host and document hosting initial consultation. Copies of consultation topics and outcomes should be kept on file locally.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affirmations (Form A)</td>
<td>Due with Budget Submission</td>
<td>LEAs must submit PDF copies of signed affirmations for participating private schools with budget submission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportionate Share Calculations</td>
<td>Due during Budget Submission</td>
<td>If awarded a grant, LEAs must submit excel worksheets with proportionate share calculations as an attachment in ConApp during budget submission. If participation status changes, LEAs must update the worksheet and submit a budget amendment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing Consultation &amp; Other Documentation (Inventory, Expenditures, etc.)</td>
<td>Due during Monitoring</td>
<td>All LEAs with participating private schools consult through implementation and document topics and outcomes consultation including information relevant to implementation and effectiveness. Copies of consultation topics and outcomes, inventory, and expenditures on behalf of private schools should be kept on file locally.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affirmations (Form B)</td>
<td>Due in September 2025 at the close of the original grant period</td>
<td>If an LEA is awarded a grant and has participating private schools, LEAs must submit PDF copies of signed affirmations in September 2025 as an attachment in ConApp.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reporting Requirements

Data on how grant funds have been expended will be collected through annual surveys and budget completion reports. More reporting may be required throughout the grant period, dependent on any future requirements from the US Department of Education.

Applicant Guidance

Please review the following directions very carefully before submitting the proposal. The deadline for submission is **June 2, 2023 at 5:00PM**. The proposal must be submitted on or before the deadline via the link provided below. Applications not submitted through the online link will not be accepted.

**SUBMIT EARLY.** Applications will not be accepted after the deadline. GaDOE is required to enforce the established submission deadline to ensure fairness to all applicants. Faxed, emailed, or paper proposals are not acceptable and will not be reviewed by GaDOE.

**PLAN COLLABORATIVELY.** It is recommended to include multiple school and district-level stakeholders in the development of this grant application. At minimum, Federal Programs and district-level financial staff are highly recommended.

LEAs applying for the Safer Georgia Schools Grant will submit their completed application online by using the following link: [application link](#).

Application Components

1. **Description of Need**
   In this section, LEAs will be asked to describe why they are in need of a Safer Georgia Schools Grant. Applicants may consider referencing data or relevant input, such as high rates of chronic absenteeism, referrals to the juvenile justice system, bullying, or substance abuse in the LEA and/or community; a high percentage of students classified as homeless or in foster care; or a recent traumatic, violent or natural disaster-related event in the school or surrounding community.

2. **Selection of Grant Category**
   Applicants will be provided a list of categories to select how they intend to use grant funds. Applicants will be able to select as many categories as applicable. These categories will include:
   - Programs & Activities
   - Professional Development & Training
   - Personnel
   - Equipment
   - Other

3. **Brief Description of Proposed Expenditures**
   Applicants will be asked to briefly describe their needs-based, activity-related expenditures (2-3 sentences) as it applies to each category they have selected above.
4. **Budget**
   Applicants will be provided with a basic budget template to detail their proposed expenses.

5. **Description of Intended Outcomes of Grant Funding**
   Applicants will be asked to describe what they aim to accomplish through this grant funding by listing at least 3 goals.

6. **Community Engagement**
   Applicants will be encouraged to provide a list of at least three collaborators along with a brief (2-3 sentences) description of how they plan to collaborate on the development and implementation of this grant. These collaborators may include, but are not limited to: students, staff, parents/families, local law enforcement, community organizations.

7. **Letters of Support**
   Applicants must include at least two letters of support from key stakeholders.

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**Budget**

Applicants may apply for grants for no **less than $50,000 and not to exceed $250,000.** Grants will be awarded based on available funds and grant priorities.

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**Scoring & Funding Recommendations**

**Scoring Process**

Each application will be reviewed and scored by a GaDOE-approved and trained reviewer. The reviewer will individually assign and record points (0-52) using the scoring rubric. Reviewers may ask grant organizers clarifying questions regarding allowability; however, grant organizers may not speculate or offer opinions regarding the proposal's intention.

Grants will be awarded to applicants with the highest scores until the maximum amount of funds available has been reached. Applications must have a minimum score of 32 points to be considered for funding.

Questions regarding the award process or scoring may be sent to Mary Lauren Salvatore, Assistant Director of the Office of Whole Child Supports, via email: mary.salvatore@doe.k12.ga.us.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Item</th>
<th>Available Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description of Need</strong></td>
<td>0-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant clearly articulates why they need Safer Georgia Schools Grant funds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant provides relevant data or input that describes the need to enhance school health and safety measures/practices within the LEA.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selection of Grant Category</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant selects at least 1 available category.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brief Description of Proposed Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>0-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant adequately describes their proposed expenditures and how they align to the parameters provided in the application document.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Budget</strong></td>
<td>0-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant demonstrates an appropriate use of funds.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description of Intended Outcomes of Grant Funding</strong></td>
<td>0-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant adequately describes what they aim to accomplish through this grant funding. At least 3 goals are preferred in this response.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Engagement</strong></td>
<td>0-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant demonstrates the intention to and description of plans to collaborate with at least 3 relevant community stakeholders (examples: parent organizations, school councils, school governance teams, local non-profits, etc.).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Letters of Support</strong></td>
<td>0-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant provides at least 2 letters of support from key stakeholders (examples: local law enforcement, local Emergency Management Agency, etc.).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority for School Safety-Focused Applications</strong></td>
<td>0 or 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant provides an application that focuses on school safety-related activities aligned to their school safety plans.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum Points Available</strong></td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Application Document for Reference

Safer Georgia Schools Grant

The Georgia Department of Education, Office of Whole Child Supports is providing all LEAs with the opportunity to apply for a grant between $50,000-250,000 per LEA to improve school health and safety measures, practices, and support.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grantee Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of LEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEA Superintendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEA Point of Contact for Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEA Geographic Locale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEA Total Enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEA Total Schools</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Description of Need (1-2 paragraphs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Category</th>
<th>Description of Proposed Expenditures (2-3 sentences per line)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ Programs &amp; Activities: Foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free environments that support student academic achievement, including: • Drug and violence prevention activities and programs that are evidence-based; • Help prevent bullying and harassment; • Improve instructional practices for developing relationship-building skills, such as effective communication, and improve safety through the recognition and prevention of coercion, violence, or abuse, including teen and dating violence, stalking, domestic abuse, and sexual violence and harassment; • Mentoring and school counseling to all students, including children who are at risk of academic failure, dropping out of school, involvement in criminal or delinquent activities, or drug use and abuse;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Promote the involvement of parents and families in the activity or program.

**Professional Development & Training**

*For school, specialized instructional support personnel, and interested community members related to:*

- Drug and violence prevention;
- Suicide prevention;
- Crisis management;
- Human trafficking (defined, for purposes of this subparagraph, as an act or practice described in paragraph (9) or (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102));
- School-based violence prevention strategies;
- Drug abuse prevention, including educating children facing substance abuse at home;
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**Personnel**

*Including school resource officers and/or site resource coordinators who provide a variety of services, such as:*

- Establishing partnerships within the community to provide resources and support for schools;
- Ensuring that all service and community partners are aligned with the academic expectations of a community school in order to improve student success; and
- Strengthening relationships between schools and communities.

**Equipment**

*Facilities upgrades and equipment that meet the following definitions:*

- “Tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes, or $5,000.” 2 CFR 200.1.
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- See list of other available items on Page 4.

☐ Other

### Proposed Budget ($50,000 - $250,000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost per Unit</th>
<th># of Units</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Anticipated Cost

### Description of Intended Outcomes of Grant Funding

- Goal #1
- Goal #2
- Goal #3

### Community Engagement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Collaborator/Group</th>
<th>Description of Intent to Involve Collaborator in Grant Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attach at minimum 2 letters of support from key collaborators.

### Equitable Services

**Attachment:** Invitations/Contact Log

LEAs must contact all private schools in their geographic boundaries in writing and document this contact on a contact log submitted with this application. Copies of invitations should be kept on file locally.