

Safer Georgia Schools Grant

Office of Whole Child Supports
2023-2025



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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

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

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:

Invitations/Contact Log	Due with Application	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.
Initial Consultation	Due during Monitoring	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.
Affirmations (Form A)	Due with Budget Submission	LEAs must submit PDF copies of signed affirmations for participating private schools with budget submission.
Proportionate Share Calculations	Due during Budget Submission	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.
Ongoing Consultation & Other Documentation (Inventory, Expenditures, etc.)	Due during Monitoring	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.
Affirmations (Form B)	Due in September 2025 at the close of the original grant period	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.

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.

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.

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.

Rubric & Scoring Components

Application Item		Available Points
Description of Need	<p>Applicant clearly articulates why they need Safer Georgia Schools Grant funds.</p> <p>Applicant provides relevant data or input that describes the need to enhance school health and safety measures/practices within the LEA.</p>	0-10
Selection of Grant Category	Applicant selects at least 1 available category.	N/A
Brief Description of Proposed Expenditures	Applicant adequately describes their proposed expenditures and how they align to the parameters provided in the application document.	0-10
Budget	Applicant demonstrates an appropriate use of funds.	0-10
Description of Intended Outcomes of Grant Funding	Applicant adequately describes what they aim to accomplish through this grant funding. At least 3 goals are preferred in this response.	0-10
Community Engagement	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.).	0-5
Letters of Support	Applicant provides at least 2 letters of support from key stakeholders (examples: local law enforcement, local Emergency Management Agency, etc.).	0-2
Priority for School Safety-Focused Applications	Applicant provides an application that focuses on school safety-related activities aligned to their school safety plans.	0 or 5
	Maximum Points Available	52

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.

Grantee Information		
Name of LEA		
LEA Superintendent	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>
LEA Point of Contact for Grant	<i>Name</i>	<i>Email</i>
LEA Geographic Locale		
LEA Total Enrollment		
LEA Total Schools		

Description of Need (1-2 paragraphs)

	Funding Category	Description of Proposed Expenditures (2-3 sentences per line)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Programs & Activities: <i>Foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free environments that support student academic achievement, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the involvement of parents and families in the activity or program. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Professional Development & Training <i>For school, specialized instructional support personnel, and interested community members related to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Personnel <i>Including school resource officers and/or site resource coordinators who provide a variety of services, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Equipment <i>Facilities upgrades and equipment that meet the following definitions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “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 	

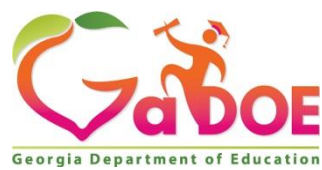
	<p>building. The term also includes the extension of utility lines, such as water or electricity, from points beyond the confines of the space in which the minor remodeling is undertaken but within the confines of the previously completed building. The term does not include building construction, structural alteration to buildings, building maintenance, or repairs. See 34 CFR §77.1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See list of other available items on Page 4. 	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	

Proposed Budget (\$50,000 - \$250,000)			
Item	Cost per Unit	# of Units	Total Cost
	Total Anticipated Cost		

Description of Intended Outcomes of Grant Funding	
Goal #1	
Goal #2	
Goal #3	

Community Engagement	
Name of Collaborator/Group	Description of Intent to Involve Collaborator in Grant Implementation
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.



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Richard Woods, State School Superintendent
Educating Georgia's Future