



## School Safety Officer

### Position Description & Requirements

Arizona's Stronger Connections Grant **School Safety Officer (SSO)** model is designed to enhance safety in and around Arizona schools through the **placement, training, and support** of a **peace officer or a full-authority reserve peace officer** who is **certified by the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board**, in 'High-Need' Local Education Agency (LEA) schools.

'High Need' LEAs are defined for the Stronger Connections Grant as public, non-profit LEAs (school districts or charter schools) with **no School Resource Officers (SROs) at one or more of their schools**.

**The components of the School Safety Officer (SSO) model are as follows:**

- **Enhanced Police Response and Presence in Schools**

The SSO model will be used in schools that do not have a dedicated School Resource Officer (SRO). The SSO shall perform the same duties as an SRO as required by existing School Safety Grant protocol, albeit in an off-duty or extra-duty capacity.

- **Site Assessments to Reinforce a Safe Environment for Schools**

The SSO shall work with school personnel to conduct site assessments of their respective schools. From these assessments, participating officers will provide recommendations to their schools to reinforce a safe school environment.

- **Support Emergency Response Plans as Required by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE)**

The SSO shall work with school staff and other appropriate personnel to ensure their assigned school has an updated Emergency Response Plan.

- **Foster Partnerships with Students, School Staff, and Parents to Build Meaningful Relationships with Law Enforcement**

**Please also note the following from the US Department of Education:**

"LEAs must ensure school-based officers (e.g., law enforcement, security, or school resource officers and others with arresting powers), like all school employees or other individuals with whom a recipient contracts or otherwise exercises some control over, comply with Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability\*." (*Bipartisan Safer Communities Act – Stronger Connections Frequently Asked Questions; C-21*).

*\*Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin by recipients of Federal financial assistance. 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d–2000d-7. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination based on sex by recipients of Federal financial assistance. 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 – 1688. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 both prohibit discrimination based on disability, the former by recipients of Federal financial assistance, the latter by State and local governments, regardless of whether they receive Federal funds. 29 U.S.C. § 794; 42 U.S.C. §§ 12131 –12134.*

## **Additional Requirements:**

### ➤ **Annual Trainings**

The following personnel from Stronger Connections Grant participating LEAs are required to attend annual trainings each year during the grant term:

- **District/Charter Holder Administrator**
- **Site Administrator or Site Administrator Designee**
  - Joint Site Administrator or Joint Site Administrator Designee (*if awarded as a joint site*)
- **Stronger Connections Grant funded School Safety Officer(s) (SSOs)**
- **Police Agency Supervisor**

### ➤ **Quarterly Meetings**

The following personnel from Stronger Connections Grant participating schools are required to establish a **School Safety Team** that meets Quarterly (*recommended Monthly*):

- **Site Administrator** (*Principal, Assistant Principal, or Dean of Students*)
- **Stronger Connections Grant funded School Safety Officer(s) (SSOs)**
- **School prevention coordinator, or school mental/behavioral health expert, or registered nurse, or similar role**

### ➤ **Annual Program Reporting – School Safety Officers (SSOs)**

Stronger Connections Grant participants are required to quantify activities implemented under the grant and report on the implementation of the grant. Data collected will be utilized for grant end-of-year reporting and for program evaluation purposes:

- **Law-Related Education (LRE)**

Each officer is required to complete at least 180 hours of LRE instruction per year. The development and implementation of LRE must be based on a need's assessment.
- **Officer Weekly Log**

Officers are required to complete a weekly activity log that tracks LRE instruction hours, teacher and subject, the topic of each LRE lesson, and the time the officer is off their assigned campus during their duty hours, regardless of the reason.

### ➤ **Annual Program Evaluation**

Schools awarded funding under the Stronger Connections Grant agree to participate in all program evaluation activities. The evaluation shall include survey results and additional data that may be required to gauge the impact of schools participating in the grant. The following is included as a required Assurance in the FY24 Stronger Connections Grant application: *“The LEA ensures it will participate, as requested, in any US Department of Education or ADE evaluation of the SCG program and will cooperate with any audit or examination of records with respect to such funds.”*