



# School Safety

**Mission:** Supporting, promoting, and enhancing safe and effective learning environments.

*Our **vision** is to be a leading force in promoting safe and healthy schools, committed to prevention focused initiatives that foster a culture of safety and wellbeing.*

# The School Safety Unit

## A Comprehensive Approach to School Safety ...

- School Safety Program
- School Safety Program Mini Grant
- Stronger Connections Grant
- Project AWARE, Advancing Wellness & Resiliency in Education
- Emergency Preparedness
- Arizona School Nurse Workforce & Equipment Grant
- Arizona Project Bright Futures: Garret Lee Smith Suicide Prevention & Early Intervention
- School Training & Overdose Preparedness Intelligence Task Force (STOP-IT)



# The School Safety Program

## Purpose of the Grant:

- A state-funded grant that supports, promotes, and enhances safe and effective learning environments for all students by supporting the costs of placing School Resource Officers, School Safety Officers, Juvenile Probation Officers, School Counselors, and School Social Workers on school campuses, per [ARS 15-154](#).

## Dollars Awarded and Number of Schools Funded:

- Dollars Awarded: \$80.7 million annually
- No. of Schools Funded: 835 schools (262 LEAs) across 14 counties



# Creating a Community of Safe Schools

**835 Awarded Sites (includes joint sites)  
14 out of 15 Counties!**

- 522 School Counselors/Social Workers
- 228 SROs
- 3 JPOs
- Over 800 SSOs!



# Hot off the Press: School Safety Program Mini Grant

## **264 additional positions funded**

- 198 SROs/SSOs
- 66 School Counselors / Social Workers

## **Project Period: 1.5 years**

- January 3, 2025 - June 30, 2026



# The Stronger Connections Grant

## Purpose of the Grant:

- A federal grant to enhance safety in and around Arizona schools through the placement, training, and support of School Safety Officers in “high need” local education agency schools.

## Dollars Awarded and Number of Schools Funded:

- Dollars Awarded: \$16.4 million across 3 years.
- No. of Schools Funded: 47 schools (18 LEAs) across 7 counties.



# FY25 Training Plan

- **School Safety Program Grant**

- 86 total trainings to be provided
  - 60 in person (to include out of county opportunities)
  - 26 virtual

- **Stronger Connections Grant**

- 10 total trainings to be provided
  - 7 in person
  - 3 virtual



- **Office Hours/Coffee Chats/ Electives**

- 42 virtual opportunities will be hosted

# Project AWARE, Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education

**\$9 million awarded through Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for a 5-year project period**

**Purpose:** Build capacity of state education agency in partnership with the state mental health authority (AHCCCS) and demonstration districts to:

- (1) increase awareness of mental health issues among school-aged youth;
- (2) provide training for school personnel and other adults who interact with school-aged youth to detect and respond to mental health issues; and
- (3) connect school-aged youth and their families, to needed services.

**Key Focus:** Partnerships to promote the **healthy development** of school-aged youth and **prevent youth violence**.

- PREPaRE Training and Emergency Preparedness Partnership: Crisis prevention and intervention model prepares educators and school-based mental health professionals for their specific roles and responsibilities during a crisis event.
- Collaborate with Arizona School Mental Health Professional Associations
- [ARS 15-120](#) compliance through suicide prevention training (**4319** trained in SY 2023-2024), collaborate with ADHS on State Suicide Prevention Action Plan, partner with Office of Indian Education for culturally relevant messaging.





# Emergency Preparedness

**Purpose:** The School Preparedness Program strengthens emergency operations planning and develops critical partnerships with local and statewide emergency responders, law enforcement, healthcare entities, and offices of emergency management for schools.

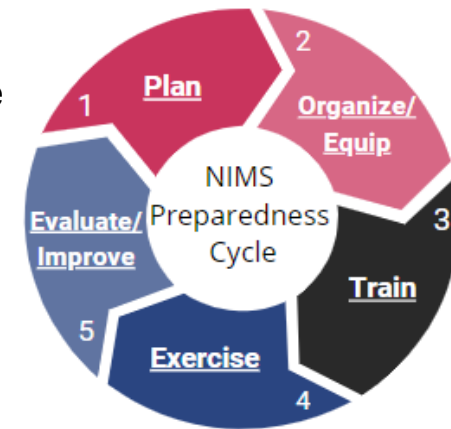
## 2024-2025 Activities:

- **Resource Development:** Emergency Operations Plan Template and Guidance, Emergency Guidelines for Schools (for school health office staff addressing medical emergencies), Drills and Exercises Guidance and Toolkit, Minimum Requirements for School EOPs, Individual Emergency Safety Plan Template (for students with disabilities).
- **EOP Technical Assistance:** To support compliance with ARS15-341(A)(31), the School Preparedness Team conducted seminars and webinars to educate on updates to the Minimum Requirements for School EOPs. Additionally, the School Preparedness Specialists conduct 1:1 reviews of school EOPs upon request to ensure compliance and promote best practices.
- **Exercise Support:** 2 Full Scale Exercises in progress in Apache and Pinal Counties on student reunification. Student safety tabletop exercises in Yuma and online.
- **Regional School Safety Consortia:** 24 regional meetings to discuss rising trends in school safety issues, promising practices from Arizona schools, and provide technical assistance to LEAs.
- **Trainings and Presentations:** Coordination of regional presentations and DEMA trainings on emergency operations planning and plan across the state, including Phoenix, Tucson, Flagstaff and Yuma.

Emergency Management Institute



FEMA



# FY25 Arizona School Nurse Workforce & Equipment Grant

\$1.9 million to support the needs of school health office staff for safe and supportive schools that foster student academic success.

- **Project Period:** December 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025
- **Eligibility:** Open to all K-12 Arizona public school districts or charter schools with registered school nurses or health office staff.
- **Summary:** Funding supports the purchase of health office equipment necessary to perform the duties of the school nurse or health office staff position and to invest in workforce development activities to augment school-based healthcare



# Arizona Project Bright Futures

## Garret Lee Smith Suicide Prevention & Early Intervention

- **Award Information**

- Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration federal grant – Cohort 19 (FY24 Application)
- \$734,992 funds awarded annually
- Total funds to be awarded = **\$3,676,960 over 5-year project period** (October 1, 2024 - September 29, 2029)

- **Project Purpose & Goals**

- **Key Purpose:** Focus on a **train-the-trainer model** of suicide prevention and early intervention for educational staff and students to build statewide suicide prevention & early intervention infrastructure

Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4
Educational staff members Trained to identify and support at risk youth	LEAs trained to provide student suicide prevention programming	Train-the-Trainer initiative to increase suicide prevention training capacity	Universal response system for at risk youth in AZ

- **Anticipated Impact:** 20,000 Cochise County (Demonstration County) students, families, staff, and community members as well as statewide impact through replication of practices throughout rural Arizona LEAs and communities.

- **Key Project Partners**

- Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc., Cochise County Education Service Agency, Arizona Department of Health Services, and The University of Arizona.

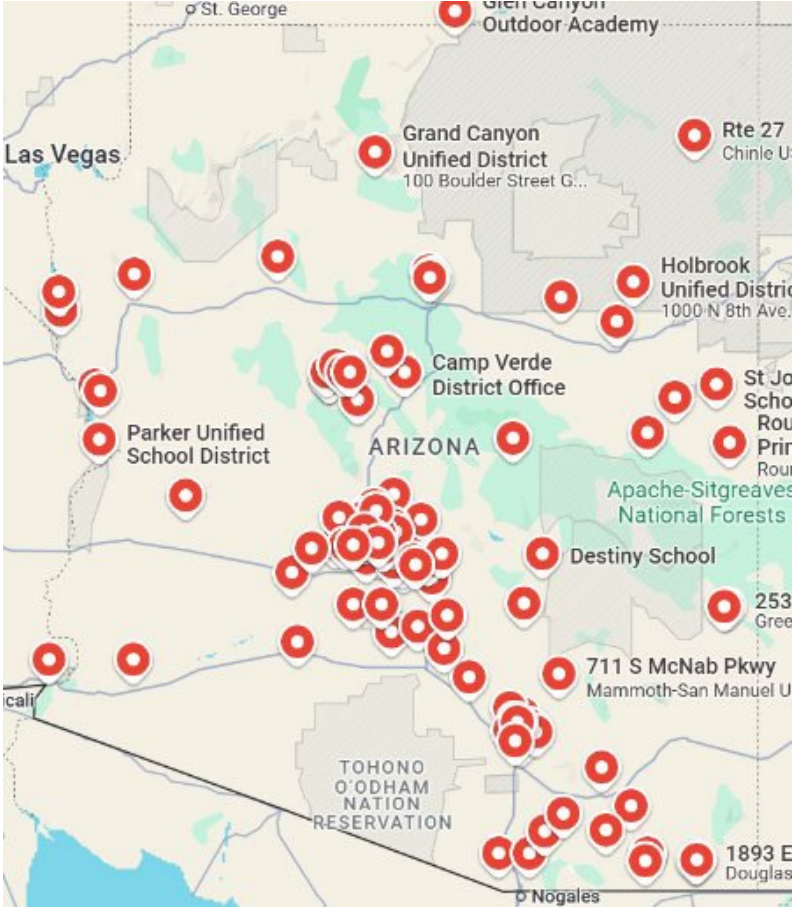


# School Training and Overdose Preparedness Intelligence Taskforce (STOP-IT)

The School Safety Team partnered with community partners to prevent overdose deaths on school campuses. 4 subcommittees targeted critical gaps in overdose prevention and intervention:

- Survey and Overdose Monitoring:** conducted a statewide needs assessment on overdose prevention, developed a reporting/monitoring form for schools to report overdoses on campus.
- Student and Staff Training:** assessed existing trainings on recognizing overdoses and drug use prevention for students and staff, with the goal of releasing a training for all schools in Arizona within a learning management system (LMS).
- Policy:** developed model policies and procedures to promote compliance with ARS 15-341(A)(43). Developed a comprehensive toolkit for schools and parents on what they need to know about opioids and opioid antagonists (e.g., Narcan).
- Procurement:** secured 16,200 Narcan kits from ADHS to distribute to schools across Arizona.

The School Safety Team coordinated the logistics of school requests, order approvals, order packing, and mapping distribution routes.



Map of districts who received Narcan.

**Partnered with the Arizona National Guard to distribute 4,206 kits to 133 districts and charter schools, supporting all 15 counties!**