



School Safety Task Force Overview

April 1, 2024



Superintendent Tom Horne

Tom Horne served twenty-four years in the state's third-largest school district board and ten years as president.

He served in the legislature and was chairman of the academic accountability committee. He was the State Superintendent of Schools from 2003 to 2011 and was elected State Attorney General. While Attorney General, he argued in every court: Superior Court, Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, and US Supreme Court.

He has served in every branch of government:

- Executive:** State Superintendent of Schools and Attorney General.
- Legislative:** Member of the legislature. On July 11, 2000, the Arizona Republic wrote that Tom Horne “raises the level of debate at the state Legislature by several notches all by himself.”
- Judicial:** judge pro-tem in the Superior Court and the Court of Appeals.
- Local:** School Board Member and President.

Director Mike Kurtenbach



- Over 32 years with the Phoenix Police Department
- Six years as the Executive Assistant Chief in charge of day-to-day operations
- Appointed as the Director of School Safety in February 2023
- Oversees the state School Safety Program (\$240 million over 3 years) and federal Stronger Connections Grant (\$22 million)

Task Force Goals & Objectives

1. Review expanding the definition of a School Resource Officer beyond the current language codified in ARS 15-154 (a peace officer or a full-authority reserve peace officer who is certified by the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board. AZ POST)
2. Review allowing schools and school districts to hire, train and support School Safety Officers (SSOs) for their schools.
3. Review training models.
4. Review integration of school counselors/social workers into an effective School Safety Program.
5. Review Law Related Education (LRE) for developing important relationship-based aspect of being an SRO/SSO.

School Safety Task Force Members

- Steve Dieu, Arizona School Resource Officers Association
- Matt Giordano, Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board (POST)
- Lance Spivey, Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police
- Wes Brownfield, Rural Schools Association
- Wendy Miller, Arizona Charter Schools Association
- Jill Broussard, Arizona Association of County School Superintendents
- John Croteau, Dysart School Superintendent
- Christina Culbertson, Arizona School Counselors Association
- Frank Lomeli, Friendly House Academia del Pueblo school
- Rev. Gerald Richard, Esq
- Representative Matt Gress LD 4
- Representative Laurin Hendrix LD 14
- Representative Leo Biasiucci LD 30
- Representative Jennifer Pawlik LD 13
- Senator Lela Alston LD 5
- Senator Ken Bennett LD 1
- Senator David Gowan LD 19
- Senator Catherine Miranda LD 11
- Ann O'Brien, Phoenix City Council
- Carine Werner, SUSD Board Member



Working Groups

- **Operations/Staffing**
- **Funding/Grants**
- **Training**

Support Type	Current Grantees (Original \$30 Million)		New Applicants (\$50 Million)		Total Funded	Awarded Amount
	Applications	Funded	Applications	Funded		
SRO	190	190	111	111	301	\$39,190,268
JPO	0	0	2	2	2	\$100,916
SC/SW	565	456	289	110	566	\$45,223,667
Totals	755	646	402	223	869	\$84,514,851

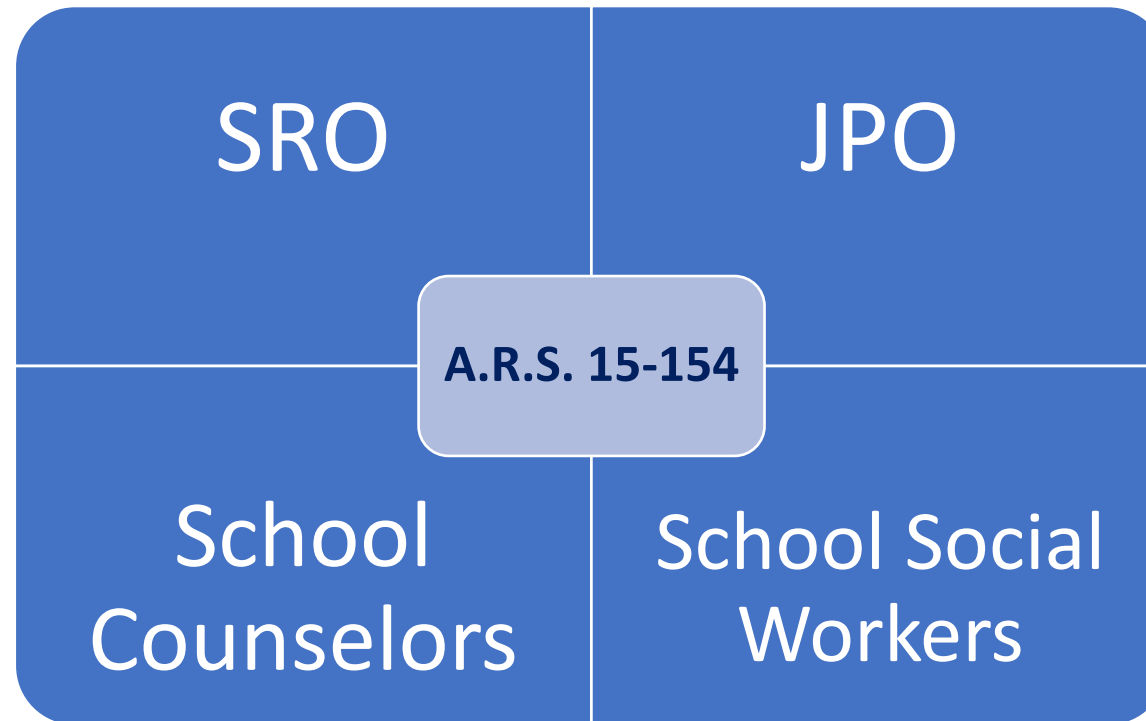
Success & Challenges

- Expanded number SRO's that have been funded/awarded
 - 190 under previous administration to 301 under SPI Horne
- Maintained school counselors/social workers
- A.R.S 15-154 Limitations
- Staffing for SRO's and school counselors/social workers
- Funding gap leaves positions unfilled

Retirees & SSP Grant

- The task force members came to a consensus that retired police officers could potentially serve as a valuable resource to alleviate the shortage of School Resource Officer (SRO) positions.
- As of September 9, 2023, 138 Arizona schools had been granted funds for an SRO but were unable to find a suitable candidate to fill the available position. This led to the creation of a statewide School Safety Officer (SSO) model.
- While the off-duty SSO model presents a viable short-term fix, it is not a sustainable solution for the long-term.
- Statutes governing retirement and reemployment have been identified as barriers to allowing retirees to reengage their service as SROs.

School Psychologist & School Safety Officer



***SRO, JPO, School Counselors, School Social Workers are within the ADE School Safety Program**

School Psychologist & School Safety Officer

A.R.S. 15-154

Add School Psychologist and School Safety Officer to the school safety program

- A. The school safety program is established within the department of education to support, promote and enhance safe and effective learning environments for all students by supporting the costs of placing school resource officers, **SCHOOL SAFETY OFFICER**, juvenile probation officers, school counselors, school social workers, **AND SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST** on school campuses.....

• Increased Mental Health Reporting

Add increased mental health training for school safety grant recipients

A.R.S. 15-154

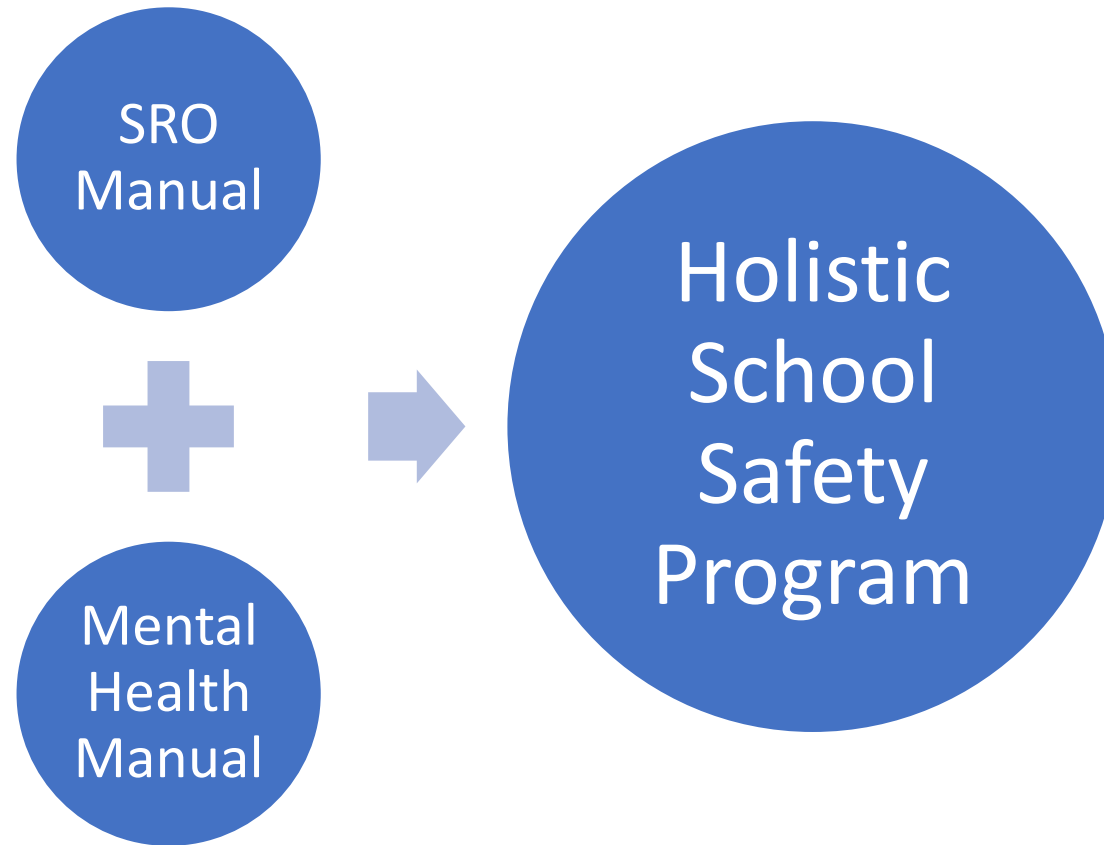
B. A program proposal submitted by a school district or charter school for supporting the costs of placing school resource officers or juvenile probation officers, or both, on a school campus shall contain:

1. A detailed description of the school safety needs of the charter school or school district.
2. A plan for implementing a law-related education program or a plan that demonstrates the existence of a law-related education program as a school safety prevention strategy.
3. A plan to use trained school resource officers or juvenile probation officers in the school, or both.

4. A PLAN TO TRAIN SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS OR JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICERS IN FERPA, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.

~~4.~~ 5. If the school district or charter school has already participated in the school safety program, information on the success, compliance and implementation of the most recent grant.

Mental Health Professional Manual



Mental Health Professional Manual

Adding a mental health professionals guidance manual that incorporates a multi-disciplinary safety approach.

A.R.S. 15-154

I. The school safety program established by this section shall include a school safety program guidance manual **AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS GUIDANCE MANUAL THAT INCORPORATES A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY SAFETY APPROACH** adopted by the department of education that requires a dispute resolution process to be included in the service agreement between a school district or charter school that submitted a program proposal and received a school resource officer grant from the school safety program and the law enforcement agency that provides services to the school district or charter school.

Adding Physical Safety and Technology

A.R.S. 15-154

A. The school safety program is established within the department of education to support, promote and enhance safe and effective learning environments for all students by supporting the costs of placing school resource officers, **SCHOOL SAFETY OFFICER**, juvenile probation officers, school counselors, school social workers, **AND SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST** on school campuses, **PHYSICAL SAFETY AT SCHOOLS INCLUDING ARCHITECTURE, SECURING INGRESS AND EGRESS, AND SAFETY TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING**. A school district or charter school may apply to participate in the school safety program as provided in this section for up to three fiscal years by submitting by April 15 a program proposal to the department of education. A school district or charter school that receives approval for a three-year program under this subsection may annually submit a modified spending plan for its approved program.

• ADE SSP Guidance

- ADE will review supplemental training materials available to school safety teams and provide access to additional training for their school community.
- ADE will host an annual meeting to help facilitate and coordinate good relationships between administrators, SROs, and mental health professionals.
 - This would be opportunity to review manuals, templates, and best practices.
- ADE will pursue partnerships with entities that can assist with workforce pipeline growth for SW/SC and mental health providers.

Task Force Outcomes

- HB 2400 – Modification of ARS 15-154 (SSP)
- SB 1105 – Addition of School Psychologists
- SB 1414 – Modification of ARS 38-849 (PSPRS)
- SB 1469 – Addition of Veterans
- SB 1600 – Disability training for SROs



Thank You

Mike Kurtenbach, Director of School Safety
mike.kurtenbach@azed.gov
(602) 373-8622