

School Safety FAQs

1) Q: **What should I do if my child is being bullied at school?**

A: **Gather the Facts:** Talk to your child. Encourage him/her to tell you what happened. Ask questions about who was involved, who witnessed the incident, who was told what happened, where the incident occurred, when it occurred, and what was or was not done. Listen to your child and compile a chronological list of the information.

Read the school and district policies and procedures regarding bullying. Become familiar with how the school documents and investigates reported incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying per Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) §15-341 (40).

Talk to the School: Contact the school and learn who you should speak to about the situation. Arrange for you and your child to meet with the appropriate person. Bring the list of bullying incidents with you. Document who you meet with and what is discussed. Work with your child and school personnel to find out what your child needs in order to feel safe. Review the school and district bullying policies and procedures with school personnel and ask what specific actions will be taken to ensure the bullying does not continue.

Follow Up: Schedule a follow-up meeting to review the progress made so far. If additional support is needed, ask to meet with a school counselor or school social worker. In some cases it may be necessary to bring the matter to the attention of the school principal, the district office, the district superintendent, or the local school board. Law enforcement should be contacted if an assault, a serious injury, or other criminal offense occurs. Schools are responsible for teaching and protecting all students on their campuses.

2) Q: **What is the School Safety Program application process for this year?**

A: The School Safety Program application will be a competitive process open to all public school districts and charter schools. Grants will be awarded for a three-year cycle. Applications are submitted online through the grants management section of the Arizona Department of Education website: <https://www.azed.gov/GME/> .

A fund alert will be posted and will be mailed to all districts and charter

holders. Pre-application trainings will be announced in the fund alert.

3) Q: What are the sexuality education requirements for the state?

A: Arizona does not have a law that requires schools to teach sexuality education or sexually transmitted disease (STD)/HIV education.

However, Arizona law does state that if a school chooses to teach these topics, instruction must be age-appropriate and abstinence must be stressed (State Board of Education Rule R7-2-303). Further, if a school chooses to teach HIV education, such instruction must be medically accurate and other requirements must be met per Arizona Revised Statute § 15-716.

The School Safety and Prevention Unit provides training on research-based sexuality education programs and provides technical assistance to schools on the development/revision of curricula. Click here to learn more:

<https://devweb1/sa/health/prevPrograms.asp#HivStdSexEdProgram>

4) Q: Why is a safe school environment important?

A: A safe school is one that is free from violent and criminal behaviors and allows staff, students and community members to feel connected to the school and able to participate in its major functions – teaching and learning. Violent or criminal behaviors at school compromise the learning environment and put health and safety in jeopardy. More information on the “Top 10 Things Schools Can Do” to make a safer school is located at https://www.azed.gov/sa/health/downloads/What_Schools_Can_Do_4.pdf

5) Q: Where can I find the Az SAFE data requirements for schools?

A: Az SAFE requirements is located at <http://www.ade.az.gov/sa/health/AZSafeImplementManual.asp>.