

Safer Georgia Schools Grant, Round 3

Office of Whole Child Supports
2024-2025



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Safer Georgia Schools Grant, Round 3 Overview

2024-2025

Application Release: March 11, 2024

Application Due: March 29, 2024, 5 p.m.

Grant Purpose

The Safer Georgia Schools, Round 3 grant is intended to support Georgia LEAs by providing funds for cybersecurity resources and associated training.

Grant Funds Available: A maximum of \$5,500,000 will be awarded in grants, up to \$100,000 per LEA. Funds are available through September 30, 2025.

Required Documents

- I. [Grant Application Form](#), Supplemental or revised proposal formats, attachments, or information, either from the applicant agency or other sources will not be accepted.
- II. [Cybersecurity Rubric](#), uploaded within application form
- III. **Budget**, within application form
- IV. **Documentation of Existing Products/Services**, uploaded within application form
- V. **Letter of Support**, uploaded within application form
- VI. [Signature Form](#), uploaded within application form

Contact Information

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Program Guidance

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** to award this funding to local education agencies (LEAs). This funding will be managed by the Office of Whole Child Supports in partnership with Federal Programs.

This grant opportunity will allow Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to apply for up to \$100,000, 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.

The purpose of Round 3 is to provide cybersecurity resources to LEAs within Georgia.

Eligibility Criteria

Any LEA in Georgia eligible to receive a Title IV, Part A formula allocation may apply for these funds.

Allowable Use 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](#).

Grant awards shall be utilized towards local cybersecurity efforts found in up to four (4) cybersecurity strategies as they relate to the Cybersecurity Funding categories below.

Cybersecurity Strategies	Identify	Protect	Detect	Respond	Recover
Solutions to provide reporting of student internet activities to parents (<i>*Must be FERPA certified by iKeepSafe</i>)	X				
Cybersecurity risk assessment services	X				
Internal and external penetration testing	X				
Tools for monitoring and alerting district resources for cyberbullying	X	X	X		

and/or threats (<i>*Must be FERPA certified by iKeepSafe</i>)					
Device management and inventory (<i>*Must be a certified TrustEd App from 1EdTech</i>)	X	X			
Single Sign-On or Multi-Factor Authentication solutions (<i>*Must be a certified TrustEd App from 1EdTech</i>)		X			
Firewall Upgrades		X	X	X	
Endpoint, email or network threat detection, response and/or mitigation products or services		X	X	X	
Backup Solutions					X
Cybersecurity Training* options including but not limited to: Digital Citizenship programs, Data Governance, Personally Identifiable Information, Future of Privacy Forum (FPF), Security +.	X	X	X	X	X

***Note: If private schools, pursuant to [Equitable Services in Federal Funding Guidance](#) below, wish to participate in this grant opportunity, Cybersecurity Training should be selected as one of the four (4) identified funding strategies.**

Grant Period

Awardees are expected to fully implement the grant funding before September 30, 2025.

Timeline of Activities

Date	Activity/Action
March 11, 2024	Grant application released
March 14, 2024, 1 p.m.	Grant informational webinar
March 29, 2024, 5 p.m.	Grant application closes
May 9, 2024*	Grant allocations to be approved by State Board of Education
June 2024	Grantees to receive Grant Award Notification (GAN)
June 2024	Funds made available to grantees via ConApp
December 2024*	LEA should have expended at least 50% of its grant funds.
March 2025*	LEA should have expended at least 75% of its grant funds.
September 30, 2025	Funds expire

*These dates are subject to change.

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 to the Superintendent and Federal Programs Director via the Consolidated Application (ConApp) on the MyGaDOE Portal. The level of funding and effective dates of the grant are included in the GAN. Grantees may not obligate funds before receiving the official GAN.

Grant Requirements

GaDOE is responsible for establishing and monitoring the grant application, scoring process, distribution of funds to awardees, plan implementation, progress toward meeting goals/objectives/intended outcomes, data collection/results, and fiscal responsibilities.

Grant Reporting Requirements

- Data on grant fund expenditures 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 U.S. Department of Education.

Grant Program Requirements

- Solutions to provide reporting of student internet activities to parents must be FERPA-certified by iKeepSafe.
- Tools for monitoring and alerting district resources for cyberbullying and/or threats must be FERPA-certified by iKeepSafe.
- Device management and inventory purchases must be certified TrustEd Apps from 1EdTech.
- Single Sign-On or Multi-Factor Authentication solutions must be certified TrustEd Apps from 1EdTech.

Grant Implementation: Fiscal and Impact Monitoring

- The Safer Georgia Schools Grant will be monitored through Federal Cross-Functional Monitoring (CFM). Districts will be notified of CFM dates.

Applicant Guidance

How to Apply

Please review the following directions very carefully before submitting the proposal. The deadline for submission is **March 29, 2024, at 5 p.m.** 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](#).

If you have accessibility needs to complete this application, contact mary.salvatore@doe.k12.ga.us.

Application Components

A complete application submission includes these components.

- I. [Grant Application Form](#), Supplemental or revised proposal formats, attachments, or information, either from the applicant agency or other sources will not be accepted.
- II. [Cybersecurity Rubric](#), uploaded within application form
- III. **Budget**, within application form
- IV. **Documentation of Existing Products/Services**, uploaded within application form
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Specifically, the grant application form will focus on these areas.

- I. **Needs Assessment**
The LEA shall submit a description of need utilizing the [Cybersecurity Rubric](#). The Cybersecurity Rubric serves as a guide to review a school's current cybersecurity level using the cybersecurity framework for education, which combines cross-sector standards with education systems. The LEA shall complete each category of the Cybersecurity Rubric to include Identify, Protect, Detect, Respond and Recover. A copy of the Rubric must be submitted with the application to be considered. **Note: A lower maturity level will indicate higher need.**

II. Brief Description of Proposed Expenditures

Applicants will be asked to briefly identify the solution to be implemented. If applicable, applicant should include whether the solution is included within the 1EdTech Trusted Apps database or is FERPA-certified by iKeepSafe.

III. Budget

LEA's may apply for up to \$100,000. The LEA shall provide a budget specific to the solution(s) being applied for.

IV. Goals

Applicants will be asked to provide a minimum of three (3) goals that align with the proposed project. *Note: Three (3) goals under a single category are acceptable i.e. Identify.*

V. Letter of Support from Collaborator

Applicants must include a minimum of one letter of support from a community-based, youth-serving organization or parent organization. *Note: This may include a Superintendent's Advisory Council, a Parent Teacher Association, RESA Staff, a local county Information Technology Department, and/or other partners deemed necessary, etc.*

VI. Signatures

Applicants must include [Signature Form](#) with all required signatures.

Scoring Process

Applications will be ranked based on the maturity level defined within the required [Cybersecurity Rubric](#) self-assessment. Priority will be given to those who find themselves in the Initial, Repeatable and Defined categories. If needed, BitSight scores will be used to break any potential tie in scores. Awards will be granted until all available funds have been exhausted.

Federal Funding Guidance

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.](#)).

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 no less than two times. One must be in writing and another must be a different method of communication, i.e. phone call. Document this contact on the contact log provided with this application. Copies of invitations should be kept on file locally.
Initial Consultation	Due during Monitoring (Post Award)	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 (Post Award)	LEAs must submit PDF copies of signed affirmations for participating private schools with budget submission.
Proportionate Share Calculations	Due during Budget Submission (Post Award)	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 (Post Award)	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 (Post Award)	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.

Consolidation of Funds

This grant cannot be consolidated. For additional assistance, contact consolidation@doe.k12.ga.us.

Supplement, Not Supplant

Federal funding provided through the grant shall supplement (increase the level of services) and not supplant (take the place of) state, local, and other federal funds. Awarded applicants shall not use grant funds to supplant funds that, in the absence of these grant funds, would have been spent on students.

To meet the federal requirements of supplement, not supplant, all items requested through this grant program must be supplemental in nature to products/services currently in place at the LEA. **All LEAs are required to submit documentation of cybersecurity products/services that have been purchased using local funds.**

Accountability and Monitoring of Federal Funds

GaDOE is responsible for establishing and monitoring the 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.

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 United States Department of Education.



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Educating Georgia's Future