



Securing Aid For Every (SAFE) School Act FAQs

- **What will the SAFE School Act do?**
 - *The SAFE School Act establishes a \$900 million grant program that will provide both **public and private schools** with the resources they need to enhance school security and keep our children safe.*
 - *States may use the grant funds to train and hire veterans and former law enforcement officers to serve as school safety officers. States may also use the grant funds to hire off duty law enforcement officers as school safety officers.*
 - *In addition to training and hiring school safety officers, states may use these grant funds to harden schools and increase physical security. The legislation will allow each state to decide what security measures work best for individual schools. Examples include, but are not limited to: surveillance systems, silent alarms, automatic locking mechanisms, metal detectors, ballistic film etc.*

- **Who would train and supervise school safety officers? What authority would they have? What would their training consist of? Would these officers be armed?**
 - *The SAFE School Act will allow each state to establish, if necessary, and implement a certification program that allows for veterans and former law enforcement officers to become certified school safety officers.*
 - *Each state's department of education, or relevant agency, would be responsible for determining the qualifications school safety officers must have and for designing the certification, licensure, or training program.*
 - *Each state will decide what authority and duties school safety officers will have. This includes deciding whether these officers would be armed. The legislation encourages states to include firearm and de-escalation training in their certification program, but they are not required to do so.*

- **Why veterans and former law enforcement?**
 - *Veterans and former law enforcement officers across the country have been eager to once again step up and serve their communities. These individuals have unique skill sets that will better enable them to help keep our children safe.*

- **How would this legislation be implemented in Tennessee if signed into law?**



- Tennessee already has a [training program](#) for school resource officers. The SAFE School Act would not disrupt this program in any way. The SAFE School Act is designed to provide supplemental resources in addition to the resources provided by other programs, like Tennessee's [Safe Schools Act](#).
- Tennessee would have the option of creating a certification, licensure, or training program for veterans and former law enforcement officers to serve as school safety officers. Regardless of whether the state chooses to implement such a program, Tennessee would also have the option of using grant funds to hire off duty law enforcement officers to serve as school security officers.
- Tennessee could also use these grant funds to harden schools (e.g., securing access points, enhancing emergency responsiveness, etc.).
- **How would this legislation be implemented in other states if signed into law?**
 - That would be up to the relevant state agency responsible for school safety.
- **Is this new legislation?**
 - This legislation continues Senator Blackburn's efforts to keep our children safe at school. Senator Blackburn introduced similar legislation in the prior Congress.
- **Where can I find the full press release on the legislation?**
 - You can find the full release [here](#).