

Safe and Drug-Free Schools (SDFS) Report Fact Sheet

What is the SDFS Report and who completes it?

The SDFS Report includes information on school policies and practices relative to health, safety and prevention, as well as incident data. Some version of the SDFS Report has been collected since 1989. It is requested of school-level administrative personnel on an annual basis to obtain data for state and federal reporting requirements. These requirements have changed over time and the report has changed in response to the changes in reporting requirements. All public and charter schools are asked to complete the report. Schools that receive federal education monies are required to complete the report as a condition of their funding.

Why is the information collected and how is it used?

The primary purpose of the SDFS Report is to meet Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and US Department of Education (USDOE) reporting requirements. The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) completes the USDOE Consolidated Report and the Gun-Free Schools Act Report annually. The data included in these reports are state-level information only and do not contain any school-level results.

ADE staff use information collected on health, prevention and safety policies to provide technical assistance and training to school district and charter school staff. Some data are shared with the Arizona Department of Health Services for additional technical assistance and program planning. The data will also be used as a component of the school safety study required by ARS 15-231.03, beginning with the report due in 2007.

How are the data gathered?

The SDFS Report data is collected on-line via the ADE web site. The report is made available to schools in the spring of each year and is due June 30 of each year. Notification of the availability of the on-line application is sent to district/charter holders, who are held responsible for ensuring that all schools within the district/charter submit a completed report to ADE.

Can the school-level data be used to measure a school's safety level?

The information is not gathered to measure individual school safety, therefore it is not recommended that the data be used in that manner. While school district and charter personnel are offered training each year on how to complete the report, not all districts and charters attend. The report form includes definitions for incident data, however, different interpretations on how to enter this data may still occur. In addition, anecdotal reports indicate some schools over-report while others under-report their data. Since the ADE is reporting state summary information, differences in school-level reporting are not of significant concern.