



On Jul 18, 2023, staff of the Utah State Board of Education selected 31 LEAs as awardees for the Stronger Connections grant. The Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) promotes the use of local evidence-based strategies for creating safe, healthy, and supportive schools, as well as engagement between LEA leadership, educators, students, parents, families, and community members. These connections are vital for ensuring that the action plan for the SCG is tailored to local conditions, lived experiences, and needs. Action plans must be well-designed, effectively implemented, and clearly communicated to families. Additionally, LEAs will describe how they will collect or use existing data to monitor the equitable impact of these goals on underserved and diverse students. LEAs are required to conduct active and specific engagement with students, families, and educators — including but not limited to parents and students of color, multilingual learners, students with disabilities, American Indian students, Alaska Native students, Native Hawaiian students, students in foster care, students in correctional facilities, students experiencing homelessness, and beyond.

In 2022, President Biden signed into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA). Through this legislation, Congress authorized \$1 billion in funding under Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), to the State Educational Agencies (SEAs) to provide students with safer and healthier learning environments. Under the BSCA, SEAs must award these funds competitively to high-need LEAs to fund activities allowable under section 4108 of the ESEA. This competitive grant provides Utah with \$5,100,063 through September 2026. The purpose of the funding is to improve student health and safety through measurable outcomes. LEAs are eligible based on the identification of two or more factors of high needs.

Areas of High Needs that selected LEAs will focus on:

- high student-to-mental health professional ratio;
- evidence of student suicidal behavior;
- bullying and harassment;
- community and school violence;
- students experiencing trauma;
- substance abuse;
- high rate of poverty;
- students experiencing health disparities;
- high rate of chronic absenteeism;
- exclusionary discipline;
- other categories mentioned in Section 4108 20 U.S.C.7118 Activities to Support Safe and Healthy Student



Utah State Board of Education

Students that will be directly served by grant funding: 231,794

List of selected LEAs:

Alpine School District	Davis County SD	C.S. Lewis Academy
Canyons School District	Tintic School District	Kane County SD
North Sanpete SD	Washington County SD	Ogden City SD
Guadalupe SD	Gateway Preparatory Acad	Box Elder SD
Walden School	South Sanpete SD	Treeside Charter Sch
Nebo School District	Monticello Academy	Garfield County SD
Salt Lake City SD	Murray School District	Utah Connections Acad
Granite School District	Freedom Preparatory Acad	Endeavor Hall
Iron County SD	Duchesne County SD	Esperanza Elem. School
Logan City SD	Juab School District	
Cache County SD	Promontory School	

Awarded funds are subject to a set of assurances:

1. Compliance with federal and state laws and regulations, including [Title IV, Part A Statute](#), and [20 USC 7101: General provisions](#).
2. Access to equitable services for private schools within the boundaries of selected school districts.
3. All educational activities conducted through this grants funding are in compliance with the following federal laws:
 - a. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - b. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
 - c. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
 - d. Age Discrimination Act of 1975
 - e. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
 - f. Improving America’s Schools Act of 1994
4. Use of grant funds, if applicable, are supplemented, not supplanted by funds from non-federal sources.
5. Program development focuses on underserved high-need populations as identified in the comprehensive needs assessment and prioritizes the distribution of funds to schools consistent with section (section 4106(e)(2)(A) of Title IV, Part A statute.
6. The applicant will retain records of the program for seven years and will allow access to those records for purposes of reporting, review, and audit.

All awards will be approved and maintained in Utah Grants Management System.

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ADA Compliant July 2023