

**OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**  
**Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items**  
**Consent Agenda**  
**June 15, 2023**

**OFFICE OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS**

- F. Approval of methodology to award Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) grant funds to support “high need LEAs” in providing students with safer and healthier learning environments, in accordance with Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015

Background: On June 25, 2022, President Biden signed into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), legislation that expands vital mental health services and provides additional support for States and districts to design and enhance initiatives that will promote safer, more inclusive, and positive school environments for all students, educators, and school staff. The BSCA includes \$1 billion through Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 for SEAs to competitively award subgrants to high-need LEAs to establish safer and healthier learning environments, and to prevent and respond to acts of bullying, violence, and hate that impact our school communities at individual and systemic levels, among other programs and activities. The Department has designated this component of the BSCA the Stronger Connections Grant Program. The grant will fund activities allowable under section 4108 of the ESEA.

Purpose: To provide funds to high need local educational agencies (LEAs) to ensure that students have a safer and healthier learning environment.

Eligibility: High-Need LEAs; LEAs with a 40% or higher poverty factor and 20% or higher chronic absenteeism rate from SY2021-2022.

Funding Source: Federal – Stronger Connections Grant (SCG)

Basis for Awarding the Grants: Competitive

Funding will be awarded based on the following methodology: Evaluators will score using a 100-point scale and the highest ranking of scores will be funded until funds are depleted.

**I. Base Allocation:**

Each grant recipient will receive a base allocation based upon the number of grants that will be awarded. Fifty percent (50%) of the LEA reservation will be

evenly distributed among all grant recipients. The base allocation will be calculated as follows:

$$\frac{50\% \text{ of the Total LEA Reservation to be Awarded}}{\text{Total \# Grant Recipients}} = \text{Base Allocation}$$

**II. Additional Allocation:**

The funds available after the LEA base allocations are awarded will be allocated to all grant recipients on a per pupil basis. The per pupil amount will be calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Total Funds Available After LEA Base Allocations}}{\text{Total \# Low Income Students Enrolled in the Districts that are Grant Recipients}} = \text{Per Pupil Amount}$$

The additional allocation will be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Per Pupil Amount} \times \text{\# Low Income Students Enrolled} = \text{Amount of Additional Allocation}$$

Recommendation: Approval up to five (5) years

Back-up material: None