

Stronger Connections Grant

Arkansas Department of Education

Safe and Healthy School Communities

On September 15, 2022, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) was awarded \$9,378,149 in federal K-12 funding from the U.S. Department of Education under the [BSCA Stronger Connections grant program](#) Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) for state educational agencies (SEAs) to provide students with safe and healthy learning environments. ADE is awarding these funds through *competitive grants* to high-need local educational agencies (LEAs) that ensure transparency and successful implementation of activities allowable under section [4108 of the ESEA](#) to support the ongoing needs of students, educators, families, and communities.

Grant Purpose

The Stronger Connections grant aims to provide funding for LEAs to develop, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive approach that prioritizes physical and emotional safety for their unique school community (SEC. 4108 [20 U.S.C. 7118]). Funded activities and practices should promote safe and supportive learning environments by prioritizing safety, creating a sense of belonging, and teaching positive behaviors in order to improve academic achievement and the well-being of all students. All grant expenditures must supplement, not supplant.

Grant Award Recipients

LEA	Award Amount
AR Arts Academy	162,375
Augusta	84,350
Blytheville	163,950
Bryant	440,175
Cedarville	117,750
Clarendon	85,800
Clinton	156,475
Conway	513,775
Cotter	116,675
Dierks	112,850

eStem	224,500
Eureka Springs	116,500
Exalt Academy	116,000
Flippin	120,925
Foreman	87,250
Gosnell	153,400
Gravette	176,325
Greenwood	245,625
Gurdon	114,550
Harrison	219,350
Horatio	116,975
Jasper	122,000
Jonesboro	359,950
Kirby	85,650
Lafayette County	112,675
Lincoln	151,650
Little Rock	83,026
Magazine	85,800
McGehee	153,900
Mena	167,800
Mountain View	163,150
Mountainburg	115,025
Mulberry	84,900
Nettleton	239,425
North Little Rock	403,900
Ouachita River	119,500
Ozark Mtn	113,275
Pine Bluff	226,325
Pottsville	169,675
Quitman	121,300
Rivercrest	150,550

Riverview	151,800
Russellville	331,025
Shirley	83,000
South Central Coop	270,925
South Conway County	214,050
Texarkana	247,850
Trumann	163,125
Waldron	159,700
Wonderview	85,750
Wynne	187,100
Yellville	123,700

Assurances

All grantees must assure participation in the Stronger Connection grant from 2023-2026 meets the following requirements:

- District will designate a team that meets periodically to review behavior and health and safety data (including feedback from students, parents, families, and educators) to make decisions for school-wide prevention practices.
- District team will engage in data-based decision making that monitors and assesses safe and healthy activities, and will participate in Safe and Healthy Schools training.
- District will complete surveys, forms and record-keeping procedures per grant requirements.
- District will provide time and/or stipends for staff to participate in ongoing training and technical assistance.
- District will participate in all aspects of training and technical assistance associated with Stronger Connections starting in 2023 and continuing through the 2026 school year. District will ensure activities and practices are delivered with fidelity and data are used to inform decisions.
- District agrees to follow all federal requirements of the Stronger Connections grant. Funds are to be used in accordance with Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide students with safer and healthier learning environments.

- District agrees that all grant expenditures meet the supplement, not supplant requirement (ESEA section 4110); 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).
- District will provide reporting as requested by the Arkansas Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education and the U.S. Department of Education.

Grant Management

For support or additional information contact:

Whitney Bordelon - SCG@ade.arkansas.gov