Letter of Notification to Private Schools & Participation Survey

*Please customize this letter with district letterhead. Personalize to include district specific or additional information.*

[Date]

[Name and address of private school]

Dear [name of private school official if known]:

This letter serves as an invitation for your school to participate in the [district] Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) program. The SCG is a one-time competitive grant for an award period of up to three years. Funded through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) of 2022, the grant is intended to help LEAs and schools establish safe, healthy, and supportive learning opportunities and environments through evidence-based strategies. **Allowable** uses of funds include:

* Implementing high-quality, trauma-informed, comprehensive emergency operating plans and emergency drills
* Supporting safety and violence prevention programs
* Creating and implementing anti-bullying and harassment plans and integrated practices (e.g., PBIS, mental health supports, anti-hate programs) to promote inclusion and to prevent or respond to bullying and harassment, including identity-based hate and harassment
* Expanding access to integrated social, emotional, and mental health supports for students
* Providing comprehensive systems for monitoring and supporting student well-being
* Reducing exclusionary disciplinary practices through the implementation of trauma-informed, culturally responsive discipline, including restorative practices and fair and inclusive dress codes or grooming policies
* Engaging communities and families, including those targeted by identity-based harassment, on an ongoing basis to assess and revise policies or practices with a connection to bullying or harassment, such as strict dress codes and grooming policies
* Implementing Multi-Tiered Systems of Support to support and respond to student needs
* Meeting the social and emotional needs of students
* Meeting the mental health needs of students
* Supporting strategies that meet the needs of students with disabilities.
* Supporting preschool students
* Supporting students in alternative education programs
* Increasing student connections and a sense of belonging at school
* Promoting student physical fitness
* Preventing or responding to identity-based hate and harassment
* Providing related professional development to educators, including principals and other leaders, to support strategy implementation such as trauma-informed practices.
* Developing early detection, screening, or warning systems to identify students who may be at risk or those in need of additional supports
* Providing integrated support services for students
* Hiring mental health professionals and other critical student support staff such as mentors, integrated student support coordinators, post-secondary education transition coaches and student success coaches
* Implementing threat assessment systems or teams

The SCG specifically **disallows** the following activities:

* School resource officer salaries or related expenses;
* Drug testing;
* Security services;
* Software and laptop purchases greater than 15% of total funding;
* Technology related repairs and maintenance;
* Capital assets including land; and
* Costs of rental, including rental of land, building, equipment, vehicle, computers, copier, portable classrooms, storage containers, machinery, or other rentals.

In order to participate, KDE requires a private school to meet at least one of the following criteria:

* Has a demonstrated increase in the chronic absenteeism rate, exclusionary discipline (out-of-school suspensions and expulsions) rate, referral to the juvenile justice system or Family Accountability, Intervention and Response (FAIR) Team rate, bullying/harassment rate, school violence rate, or school substance use rate since the 2018/2019 school year;
* Has experienced a natural disaster significant enough to qualify the county in which the private or home school is located for individual or public assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) since January 2021; or,
* Has experienced a school shooting, suicide cluster, terrorism, school bus accident, student homicides (off campus), or hate crimes committed against students, faculty members, and/or staff since January 2018.

The amount of funds available to provide services to participating private or home schools within the district boundary will be proportionately based on total enrollment counts. While private schools can be provided services, federal regulation does not allow funds to be distributed to private schools. In addition, title to supplies or equipment purchased through this program remains with the district.

To facilitate Stronger Connections Grant services to private and home schools, I would greatly appreciate the completion of this short survey and returning it to me by [date]. If you have questions that you would like answered about the Stronger Connections Grant before you complete the survey, please contact me at [phone number] or via email at [email address].

Sincerely,

[Stronger Connections Grant Coordinator]

Please customize this survey with district letterhead. Personalize to include district specific or additional information.

**Non-Public School Participation Survey**

Name of private or home school:

School would like to participate in the Stronger Connections Grant program during the [insert date] school year.

School does not want to participate in the Stronger Connections Grant program during the [insert date] school year.

The school meets the criteria marked below in order to participate in receiving Stronger Connections Grant services:

Has a demonstrated increase in the chronic absenteeism rate, exclusionary discipline (out-of-school suspensions and expulsions) rate, referral to the juvenile justice system or Family Accountability, Intervention and Response (FAIR) Team rate, bullying/harassment rate, school violence rate, or school substance use rate since the 2018/2019 school year;

Has experienced a natural disaster significant enough to qualify the county in which the private or home school is located for individual or public assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) since January 2021; or,

Has experienced a school shooting, suicide cluster, terrorism, school bus accident, student homicides (off campus), or hate crimes committed against students, faculty members, and/or staff since January 2018.

Name:

Signature:

Position:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address: