

TITLE IV-A STRONGER CONNECTIONS GRANT (SCG)

- ❖ The Title IV Part A SCG focuses on improving conditions for student learning by encouraging schools to implement a comprehensive plan incorporating evidence-based activities, programs, and practices to create safer and healthier learning environment which promotes positive school climates as outlined in Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 4108.

DEFINITION OF HIGH NEEDS

❖ OPI proposes the following criteria for defining “high need” based on ED Guidance:

- LEAs with high rates of poverty (40 % or more) OR
- TWO or more of the following characteristics:
 - 1) a high student-to-mental health professional ratio;
 - 2) high rates of chronic absenteeism, exclusionary discipline, referrals to the juvenile justice system, bullying/harassment, community and school violence, or substance abuse; or
 - 3) where students recently experienced a natural disaster or traumatic event

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

- ❖ SCG must be used to develop, implement, and evaluate programs within “high need” LEAs. These competitive grants will carry the same “supplement, not supplant” and equitable share requirements as the formula Title IV-A grants.
 - There was be a minimum of \$10,000 per LEA per year with a maximum of \$350,000 total (\$175,000) per year.
 - All funds are required to be used under Title IV-A Safe and Healthy guidelines (many schools are hiring counselors and SROs).

AWARD NOTICE

- ❖ The grant awards were made in Egrants on 7/14. All LEAs were notified of award notice by 7/11 and non-awarded LEAs were called and notified by 7/7.
- ❖ The OPI was able to award 25/31 schools.
 - ❖ 18 LEAs were awarded at 100% of their requested funds (after looking at allowable uses)
 - ❖ 7 LEAs were awarded at 65% of their requested funds
 - ❖ 6 LEAs were not awarded based on not hitting the minimum point threshold
- ❖ The OPI will be awarding these 25 schools with \$2,273,702 per year for two years.
- ❖ All applications were graded by three separate readers from around the state. Many being MT teachers.

FUNDED SCHOOLS

Funded at 100% (based on reader scores)

- Billings Elem
- Bridger K-12
- Dutton Brady K-12
- Evergreen Elem
- Hamilton K-12
- Helena Elem
- Huntley K-12
- Lavina K-12
- Libby K-12
- Lockwood K-12
- Missoula Elem
- Roberts K-12
- Sidney Elem
- Sidney HS
- Wibaux K-12
- White Sulfur Springs K-12
- Lame Deer HS
- Lame Deer Elem

Funded at 65% (based on reader scores)

- Florence-Carlton K-12
- Eureka Elem
- Frontier Elem
- Jefferson HS
- Hellgate Elem
- Harrison K-12
- Fromberg K-12

GRANTEE REPORTING

Recipients will submit annual progress reports to the OPI in Egrants

❖ School Year 23/24:

- completion of a School Climate Survey
- end of year program report (assigned in Egrants)
- updated goals and objectives for the 24/25 SY

❖ School Year 24/25:

- completion of a School Climate Survey
- end of year program report (assigned in Egrants)
- an explanation of sustainable practices - how partnerships functioned including strengths and challenges, if applicable

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