Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections

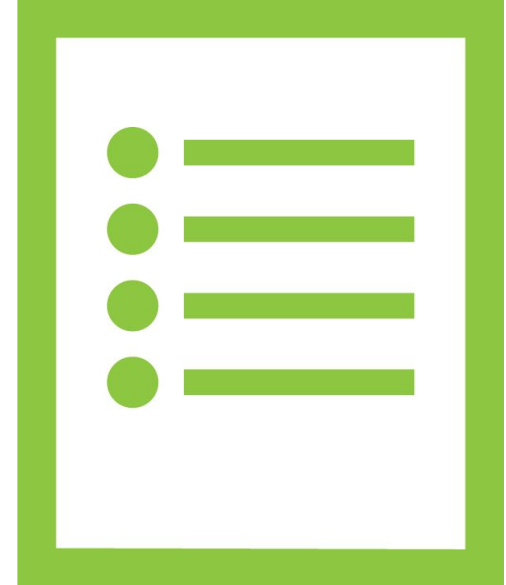# All-Grantee Meeting

Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **BSCA Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) Information**
  - Equitable Participation
  - Review Allowables
  - Minor Remodeling
  - Active Parental Consent
  - Changes to Goals or Plans
- **WISEgrants**
  - Adding a WUFAR
  - Moving forward
- **Grantee Community of Practice**
- **Annual Performance Report for SCG**
- **Questions**

Welcome!

SCG Team Members
Susan Piazza, Director, SSPW
Christine Anderson, Assistant Director, SSPW
Erick Blasing, Stronger Connections Consultant, SSPW
Steph LaHaye, Grants Specialist, SSPW
Emily Holder, Consultant, SSPW

Introductions

In the chat, please share:

a) Name

b) District

c) Role with grant

d) Favorite summer activity

Meeting Objectives

Attendees will:

➔ Know the allowable costs and where FAQ documents are located;

➔ Know how to make SCG SMART goals or Action Plan adjustments;

➔ Know WISEgrants information for 24-25; and

➔ Know expectations for Annual Performance Report for SCG.

Teams and Meeting Information

Meeting Information:

➜ Meeting will be recorded and posted to SCG webpage after closed captioning is applied.

➜ Please ensure that your mic is muted.

➜ Time will be set aside for questions throughout the presentation.

➜ Please raise your hand or use the chat feature to ask questions as we move through the presentation.
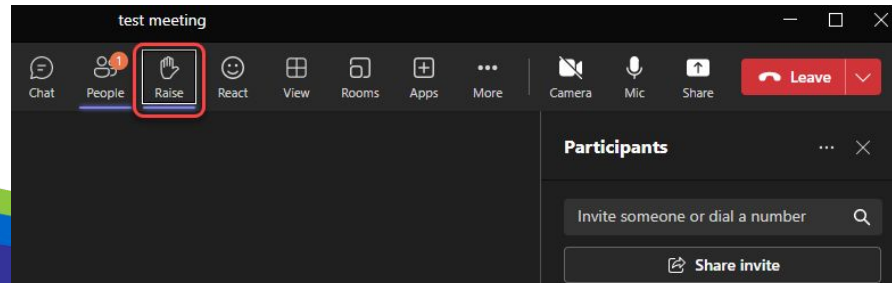
Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections

Grant Information

Authorization

- **Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), 2022**

  ○ Distributed under Title IV Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)

Purpose of this Grant Opportunity

SEA must make competitive subgrants to high-need LEAs to establish safe, healthy, and supportive learning opportunities and environments for students.

STRONGER CONNECTIONS GRANT

Project Period

February 1, 2024 - September 30, 2026

- **One time funding.**
  - $12.5 million available
- **Funds must be expended by 9/30/2026.**
  - Inclusive of the Tydings Period
- **There is no additional carryover option for these funds.**

Equitable Services for Private Schools

- **Eligible LEAs must provide for the equitable participation of private school students and educators by consulting with private school officials in LEA's attendance area.**
  - Needs of private school students and staff.
  - Interest in participating in the Stronger Connections grant activities.
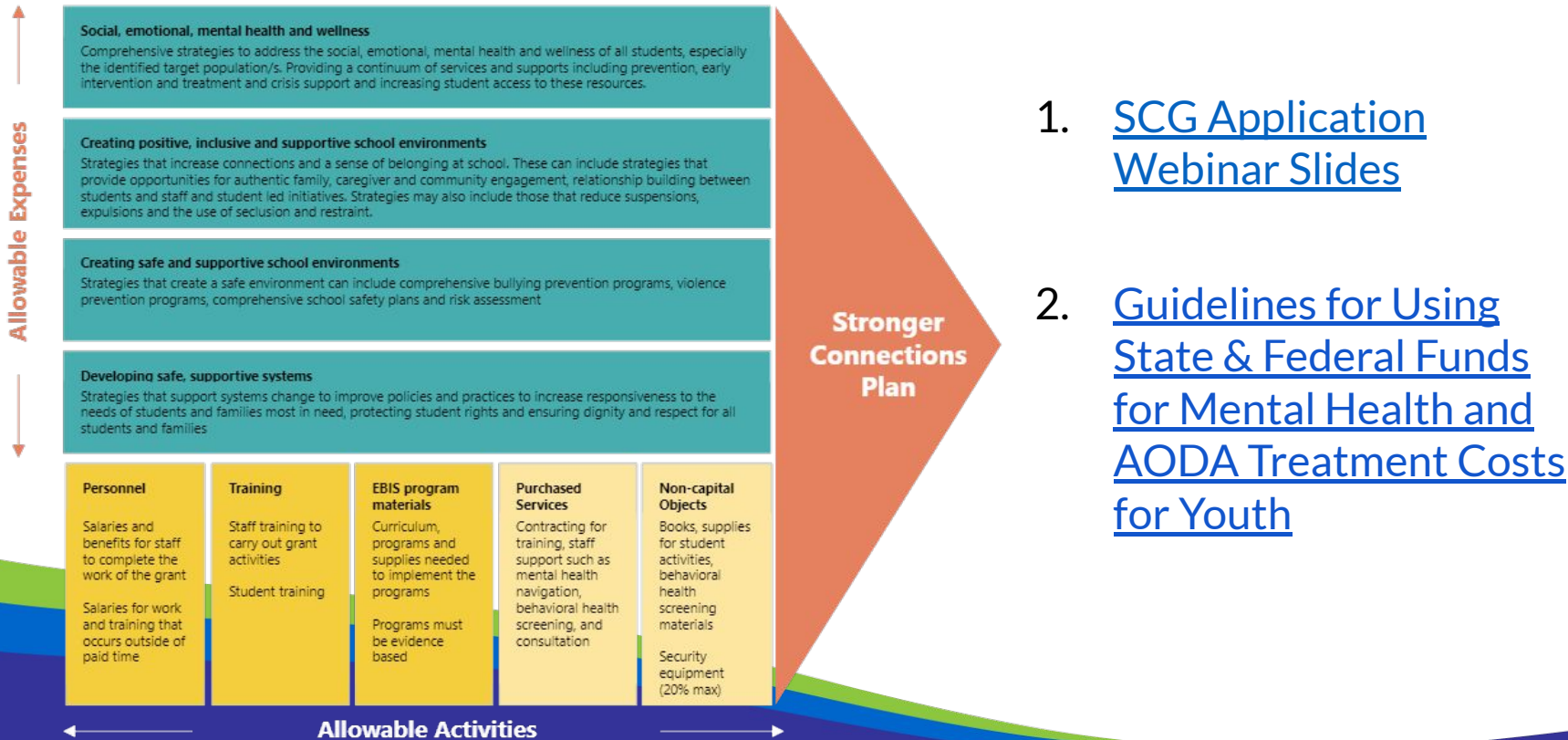 - Population of private school students to be served.

Equitable Service Share Calculator

Allowable Activities

1. **Allowable under [section 4108](#)**
   a. Foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free environments that support student academic achievement.
   b. Drug and Violence Prevention activities.
   c. High-quality training for school personnel.
2. **Reasonable and Necessary**
3. **Applicable to the Grant Goals and Objectives**
4. **Supplements and does not Supplant**

Allowable Costs and Activities

Allowable Expenses

Social, emotional, mental health and wellness
Comprehensive strategies to address the social, emotional, mental health and wellness of all students, especially the identified target population/s. Providing a continuum of services and supports including prevention, early intervention and treatment and crisis support and increasing student access to these resources.

Creating positive, inclusive and supportive school environments
Strategies that increase connections and a sense of belonging at school. These can include strategies that provide opportunities for authentic family, caregiver and community engagement, relationship building between students and staff and student led initiatives. Strategies may also include those that reduce suspensions, expulsions and the use of seclusion and restraint.

Creating safe and supportive school environments
Strategies that create a safe environment can include comprehensive bullying prevention programs, violence prevention programs, comprehensive school safety plans and risk assessment

Developing safe, supportive systems
Strategies that support systems change to improve policies and practices to increase responsiveness to the needs of students and families most in need, protecting student rights and ensuring dignity and respect for all students and families

Stronger Connections Plan

Personnel	Training	EBIS program materials	Purchased Services	Non-capital Objects
Salaries and benefits for staff to complete the work of the grant	Staff training to carry out grant activities	Curriculum, programs and supplies needed to implement the programs	Contracting for training, staff support such as mental health navigation, behavioral health screening, and consultation	Books, supplies for student activities, behavioral health screening materials
Salaries for work and training that occurs outside of paid time	Student training	Programs must be evidence based		Security equipment (20% max)

Allowable Activities

1. [SCG Application Webinar Slides](#)

2. [Guidelines for Using State & Federal Funds for Mental Health and AODA Treatment Costs for Youth](#)

Allowable Activities to Note

- Weapons training with Federal funds is <u>unallowable</u> with the following exception:
  - The activity "provides students with educational instruction or educational enrichment activities, such as archery, hunting, other shooting sports, or culinary arts."

- **Administrative Costs** capped at 5 percent of total award:
  - Grant implementation costs; and
  - Consultation for equitable participation time and effort.

Allowable Activities to Note

- **Direct Treatment Costs for Students**
    - Some specific rules around this.
    - It is capped at [20 percent of total award for services provided at the school/LEA building](#).

- **Digital Licenses**
    - Stronger Connections Grant funds must be utilized for services <u>delivered</u> during the grant period of performance, which will end on September 30, 2026.
    - The LEA would need to use local funds or another funding source to pay for any portion of the license/subscription remaining after September 30, 2026.

Minor Remodeling

- **"Remodeling" activities** related to safe and healthy students.
  - Capital and non-capital safety equipment such as security cameras and vape detectors are **limited to 20 percent of the total award**.
  - Davis-Bacon will apply for projects over $2,000 (example: installation of cameras).

- **Minor remodeling** under 34 CFR 77.1 and can not require construction, renovation, or repair, which is a prohibited use of Stronger Connections funds.
  - See the US Department of Education's Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections Grant FAQ question C-22.

Minor Remodeling - Security Cameras

- **WISEgrants action item after security cameras placed in the budget.**
  - Budget will be returned to complete following affirmation:

    "Please provide affirmation that the District has a clearly established policy on the use of video surveillance systems on school property. In addition, please state how the policy addresses student privacy concerns and FERPA."

  - Answer the affirmation as it pertains to your LEA and resubmit the budget for approval.

Unallowable Costs

- Construction, renovation or repair of any school facility:
  - "Light Remodeling" may be allowable (i.e., security cameras).
- Food except where it is part of a student activity such as a cooking or nutrition class OR when reimbursing staff for travel.
- Capital expenditures must comply with Federal Uniform Grant Guidance.
- Federal Grants Allowable Costs Checklist.

Unallowable Costs: Entertainment

- CFR [§ 200.438 Entertainment costs](#): Entertainment, diversion, and social activities are ONLY allowed when the entertainment has a programmatic purpose and are authorized in the approved budget for the Federal award.
- Examples:
  - <mark style="background-color:lime">Allowable:</mark> A district <u>may use</u> funds to pay an author to read and facilitate activities for students to help with bullying prevention.
  - <mark style="background-color:red">Unallowable:</mark> A school may <u>NOT</u> use funds to pay for a field trip to a water park as a reward for good behavior.

Unallowable Costs: Entertainment

- Programs may reward students for effort and achievement but incentives must be nominal, reasonable, necessary, and support the purpose of the grant program.
  - Unallowable Incentives:
    - Monetary rewards (e.g., cash and gift cards).
    - Expenses associated with entertainment or amusement (i.e., waterpark passes, tickets to events, etc.).
    - Door prizes or items for other such types of giveaways.

Active Parental Consent

- [Understanding the Differences: Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Competence Assessment and Social, Emotional, and Behavioral (SEB) Screening and Assessment](#).
  - Anything that is considered a SEL competency doesn't require active parental consent, however, anything under the social emotional behavior screening or services umbrella would require active parental consent.
  - [Student Support and Academic Enrichment School Mental Health Funding](#).
  - [Stronger Connections WISEgrants Start Guide](#).
  - [WI DPI AODA Webpage](#).
  - [WI DPI Mental and Behavioral Health Screening](#).

Changes to Application

- Changes should only be made if necessary to meet the objectives of the grant:
  - Funding was awarded through competitive grant process.
  - All changes must be approved by DPI staff prior to implementation.
- Changes in planned activities, SMART goals, or action plans:
  - Data informed decision.
  - Contract is not able to be fulfilled by vendor.
- Email strongerconnections@dpi.wi.gov that changes are needed:
  - Send updated SMART goals and action plan.
  - After review, staff will approve or deny.

Questions?

strongerconnections@dpi.wi.gov

Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections

WISEgrants

- **Budgets and Claims**
  - LEAs should complete an initial budget submission prior to closing out FY 24.
  - LEAs should also submit a claim (can be $0) for SCG.

- **WISEgrants Issues**
  - Any issues or errors, please email the inbox with a screenshot.
  - Individual schools are optional and not required in the budget.

- **Adding a WUFAR**
  - Not finding a pre-loaded WUFAR code combination that meets your needs?
  - Email strongerconnections@dpi.wi.gov and request an addition.

WISEgrants

- **Stronger Connections will be housed entirely in 2023-2024 fiscal year.**
  - SCG will not carryover like traditional annual grants (Title I, Title IV A, etc.).
  - Entire allocation will be available within the 2023-2024 fiscal year in WISEgrants.
  - SCG will not be loaded into any other years within WISEgrants.
  - More information about navigating a multi-year grant coming soon.

Questions?

strongerconnections@dpi.wi.gov

Grantee Community of Practice

- **Community of Practice**
  - Create Community and Support
  - Share Ideas
  - Provide Professional Development
  - Focus on Topics of Interest to LEAs

- **Tentative Agenda**
  - 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
  - Connection Activity
  - SSPW Topic Presentation
  - LEA Spotlight
  - Resources Discussion
  - Grant Information
  - Questions/General Discussion Time

Grantee Community of Practice

Community of Practice 2024-2025 School Year

- 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- October 15, 2024: *Mental Health/SEL*
- January 2025: *Topic TBD*
- April 2025 (in-person?): *Topic TBD*

Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections

Annual Performance Reporting (APR)

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction
Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent

Annual Performance Report

- Stronger Connections Grant APR
  - Reporting on February 1, 2024-June 30, 2024.
  - Submitted through Qualtrics.

- Reporting window: **June 25, 2024-August 2, 2024**
  - Technical Assistance Document
  - Virtual Office Hours, July 9, 9:00 a.m.
  - Virtual APR Support Office Hours, July 23, 9:00 a.m.

APR
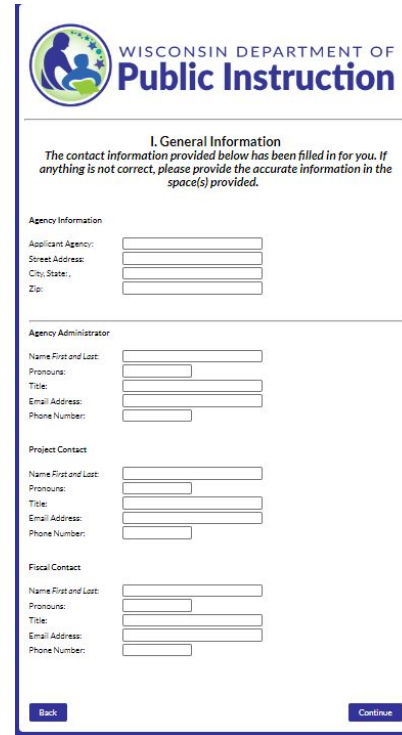
Section 1: Agency Information

APR Section 1: Agency Information

- Pre-populated from SCG Application.

    - Agency Information

    - Agency Administrator

    - Project Contact

    - Fiscal Contact

- Affirmation that this is correct.

    - Ability to change if not correct.

APR

Section 2: SMART Goals

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction
Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent

APR Section 2: SMART Goals

- SMART Goals pre-populated from SCG Application.

Questions below repeated for each SMART goal:

1) Describe progress made toward achieving the goal citing applicable data.
2) Describe successes made toward achieving the goal.
3) Describe challenges made toward achieving the goal.

II. Progress on SMART Goals

SMART Goal - Number 1:

Describe progress made toward achieving the goal citing applicable data	
Describe successes made toward achieving the goal	
Describe challenges made toward achieving the goal	

APR Section 2: SMART Goals

- If a SMART goal is incorrect or is in need of modification, answer **Yes**.
- If no changes are needed, answer **No**.
  - Should your SMART Goals or Action Plan steps need to change, please contact DPI at strongerconnections@dpi.wi.gov prior to any related purchases.
  - For all competitive grants that are awarded funds based on their application, the department must review any changes to the planned activities or expenses that were included in the application.

Do you require a modification to any of your SMART goals?

Yes

No

APR

Section 3: Grant Activities by Category

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction
Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent

APR Section 3: Activities by Category

III. GRANT ACTIVITIES

Provide a brief description of activities within the following categories:
Coordinate with other schools and community-based services and programs.

Provide a brief description of activities within the following categories:
Foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free environments that support student achievement.

Provide a brief description of activities within the following categories:
Promote the involvement of parents and caregivers in the activity or program.

1) Provide a brief description of activities within the following categories:
   a) Coordinate with other schools and community-based services and programs.
   b) Foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free environments that support student achievement.
   c) Promote the involvement of parents and caregivers in the activity or program.

APR Section 3: Activities by Category

Categories:
1. School-based mental health services providers and programs.
2. Mentoring or other relationship-building activities.
3. Programs or activities that help prevent bullying and harassment.
4. Physical security including security equipment, locks, technology, and devices (e.g., metal detectors).
5. School safety personnel including school safety/resource officers or law enforcement (contracted or non-contracted).
6. Implementation of school-wide multi-tiered systems of supports, positive behavioral interventions, and other efforts to improve positive school climates and reduce exclusionary discipline.

APR Section 3: Activities by Category

7. Programs or activities that address community violence intervention and prevention.
8. After-school programs for students (academic, enrichment, etc.).
9. School dropout prevention, school reentry programs, and other efforts to keep students on track for academic outcomes.
10. Professional development for educators and school staff, aligned with purposes of the Stronger Connections Grant Program (e.g., creating safe and welcoming school environments, promoting culturally and linguistically responsive practices, etc.).
11. Other (e.g., threat assessments, sexual abuse awareness prevention programs, anti-drug programs, healthy lifestyle, etc.):
    a. If 'Other,' please describe the activities included.

APR Section 3: Activities by Category

- Questions for all 11 Categories will be:
  - Number of personnel hired to complete these activities.
    - This will be 0 if not applicable.
    - This can be listed as less than 1.0 if a partial position was added.
  - Were funds used for the purchase of services and/or supplies?
    - Yes or No question.
  - Funding - Budgeted
    - Total amount submitted within most recent approved WISEgrants budget.
  - Funding - Expended
    - Total amount claimed to date in WISEgrants.

APR Section 3: Reporting by Category

III. GRANT ACTIVITIES

	Number of personnel hired to complete these activities. If not applicable, please enter a zero in the blank	Were funds used for the purchase of services and/or supplies?	Funding - Budgeted Total amount submitted within most recent approved WISEgrants budget	Funding - Expended Total amount claimed to date in WISEgrants
School-based mental health services providers and programs	0	Yes	0	0
Mentoring or other relationship-building activities	0	Yes / No	0	0
Programs or activities that help prevent bullying and harassment	0	Yes	0	0
Physical security including security equipment, locks, technology, and devices (e.g., metal detectors)	0	Yes	0	0
School safety personnel including school safety/resource officers or law enforcement (contracted or non-contracted)	0	Yes	0	0
Implementation of school-wide multi-tiered systems of supports, positive behavioral interventions, and other efforts to improve positive school climates and reduce exclusionary discipline	0	Yes	0	0
Programs or activities that address community violence intervention and prevention	0	Yes	0	0
After-school programs for students (academic, enrichment, etc.)	0	Yes	0	0
School dropout prevention, school reentry programs, and other efforts to keep students on track for academic outcomes	0	Yes	0	0
Professional development for educators and school staff, aligned with purposes of the Stronger Connections Grant Program (e.g., creating safe and welcoming school environments, promoting culturally and linguistically responsive practices, etc.)	0	Yes	0	0
*Other (e.g., threat assessments, sexual abuse awareness prevention programs, anti-drug programs, healthy lifestyle, etc.)	0	Yes	0	0

* If 'Other', please describe the activities included:

APR

Section 4: Personnel

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction
Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent

APR Section 4: Personnel

Number of personnel (FTE) by personnel type funded by Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) funds across your LEA.

1. Credentialed school-based mental health service providers.
2. Staff administering school attendance, dropout prevention, and/or reentry programs.
3. Staff implementing after-school programs.
4. Staff who implement and enhance school-wide prevention activities (e.g., multi-tiered systems of supports, positive behavioral interventions and supports, and school climate).

APR Section 4: Personnel

5. Staff who implement and enhance school-wide prevention activities (e.g., multi-tiered systems of supports, positive behavioral interventions and supports, and school climate).
6. Community school coordinators or other personnel coordinating wraparound/community services and supports.
7. Other personnel related to the purposes of the Stronger Connections Grant Program (e.g., mentoring, anti-drug, anti-harassment, relationship building, etc.).

APR Section 4: Personnel

Question for all 7 Categories will be:

- Number of personnel (FTE) funded by SCG.

  - This can be partial (.25, .50, etc) if a full position was not created with grant funding.

IV. Personnel Information

In the spaces below, please identify the number of personnel (FTE) by personnel type funded by Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) funds across your LEA. If these are part-time positions, you may use decimals. (Example: 2.5)

Activity	Number of personnel (FTE) funded by SCG.
Credentialed school-based mental health service providers	
Staff administering school attendance, dropout prevention, and/or reentry programs	
Staff implementing after-school programs	
Staff who implement and enhance school-wide prevention activities (e.g., multi-tiered systems of supports, positive behavioral interventions and supports, and school climate)	
School safety/resource officers or law enforcement	
Community school coordinators or other personnel coordinating wraparound/community services and supports	
*Other personnel related to the purposes of the Stronger Connections Grant Program (e.g., mentoring, anti-drug, anti-harassment, relationship building, etc.)	

* If 'Other personnel' please describe:

APR

Section 5: Narrative Responses

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction
Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent

APR Section 5: Narrative Responses

No character limits

1. Briefly describe how Stronger Connections Grant funds are benefitting your district.
2. What positions were impacted through the Stronger Connections Grant (new positions created or increase in FTE for current positions)? (Please answer N/A if personnel is not included in your grant goals and action plans)
3. Did the SCG allow your team to make any updates to district procedures? If yes, please explain what changes you were able to make.

APR Section 5: Narrative Responses

4. Please share a examples of positive impacts that the Stronger Connections Grant has had on your district. (*optional*)

5. Would you be interested in "sharing your story" about how the Stronger Connections Grant has benefited your district? This information may be shared through a DPI press release or with other state Stronger Connection Grant directors.

   a. Yes or No question.

6. Please share any additional information that you feel will help DPI better support and assist your district with the implementation of the Stronger Connections Grant.

Questions?

Reporting window: **June 25, 2024-August 2, 2024**

strongerconnections@dpi.wi.gov

SCG LEA Support: Virtual Office Hours

9:00-9:50 a.m., [Link to Join Virtual Office Hours](#)

2024

- July 9
- July 23 (NEW: APR Support)
- August 6
- September 10
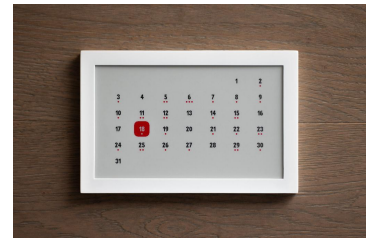- October 1
- November 5
- December 3

2025

- January 7
- February 4
- March 4
- April 1
- May 6
- June 3

SCG LEA Support: Community of Practice

- **October 15: Community of Practice (9:00-11:00 a.m.)**

- **January TBD: Community of Practice (9:00-11:00 a.m.)**

- **April TBD: Community of Practice (9:00-11:00 a.m.)**

Important Dates

- **June 25: SCG Reporting Window Opens**

- **June 30: Close of FY 24**

- **July 9: July Virtual SCG Office Hours (9:00 a.m.)**

- **July 23: Virtual SCG APR Support Office Hours (9:00 a.m.)**

- **August 2: SCG Reporting Window Closes**

- **August 6: August Virtual SCG Office Hours (9:00 a.m.)**

- **October 15: Virtual Community of Practice (9:00 a.m.)**

Questions?

strongerconnections@dpi.wi.gov