

# Non-Public School Intent to Participate Form Stronger Connections Grant Program

## Overview

On June 25, 2022, President Biden signed the [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act \(BSCA\)](#) into law. This legislation expands mental health services and provides additional support for states and local educational agencies (LEAs) 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) for state educational agencies (SEAs) to award competitively 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 school communities at individual and systemic levels. The U.S. Department of Education has designated this component of the BSCA the Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) program.

Under SCG, a SEA must make subgrant awards on a competitive basis to high-need LEAs, as determined by the SEA, and funds may be used only for activities authorized under ESEA Title IV, Part A § 4108 (i.e., Safe and Healthy Students). All SCG funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2026.

As funding for the SCG program is provided through ESEA Title IV, Part A, LEAs receiving grant funds must, after timely and meaningful consultation with appropriate non-public school officials, provide eligible non-public school students and educators services and other benefits that are equitable in comparison to services and other benefits provided with SCG funds to public school students and educators.

This form has been designed to help LEAs document that all eligible non-public schools within the LEA's boundaries have been afforded the opportunity to participate in SCG programming as required under ESEA § 8501.

**Note:** *The SCG is a competitive grant and LEAs are required to consult with eligible non-public schools during the development of the initial SCG application. This form serves as a means to gather information regarding non-public schools' interest in the SCG program. If an LEA's SCG application is not selected for funding, SCG equitable services will not be available*

## Purpose and Allowable Uses of Funds

The purpose of the SCG program is to establish safer and healthier learning school environments, and to prevent and respond to acts of bullying, violence, and hate that impact school communities at individual and systemic levels, among other programs and activities.

In general, SCG funds may be used for activities authorized under ESEA Title IV, Part A § 4108, otherwise known as the Safe & Healthy Students focus area. In Tennessee, the SCG will be structured around allowable activities in four (4) focus areas:

1. Mental Health/Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Supports for Students
2. Mental Health/SEL Professional Development (PD) for Educators, School Resource Officers (SROs), Administrators, and Other Staff
3. Family and Community Engagement (e.g., training, resources, and activities for families and communities focused on mental health/SEL)
4. Improving School Climate and Culture

The appropriate benefits, services, and materials provided to participating non-public schools must align with the above focus areas and must be determined through consultation between the LEA and the non-public school.

More information about the SCG, including information about the four SCG areas of focus and the allowable use of funds can be found [here](#).

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## Intent to Participate

- I. **The local educational agency (LEA) should complete this section and send this form to non-public schools within their boundaries. Information collected should be used to complete the Equitable Services sections of the Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) application in ePlan.**

Name of LEA: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address of LEA: \_\_\_\_\_  
 LEA SCG Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_  
 LEA SCG Contact Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- II. **Each non-public school should complete this section and return this form to the LEA at the address listed in Section I.**

Non-Public/Private School Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address of School: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of School Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Administrator Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

School Profit Status:  NON-PROFIT  FOR-PROFIT

*Note: For-profit private schools cannot participate.*

Non-Public School Category:  I  I-SP  II  III  IV  V

*Note: Category I-SP schools cannot participate.*

Regarding the SCG  Our school elects to participate.\*  Our school elects not to participate.

School Administrator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- III. **Each participating non-public school should complete this section and return this form to the LEA at the address listed in Section I.**

Total school enrollment based on the third month of the **2022-23** school year: \_\_\_\_\_

Enrollment Counts by Grade:

K _____	1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____
5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____	9 _____
10 _____	11 _____	12 _____		

If you are interested in participating in the SCG program, please indicate by checking the box below and providing the estimated counts where requested.

**The non-public school intends to participate in the SCG program.**

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**[Complete Only if Needed Mid-Year]** In the event that a non-public school that initially elected to participate and declines participation mid-year, the school should complete this section and return to the LEA immediately.

For the \_\_\_\_\_ school year, our school initially elected to participate but declines as of [date]\_\_\_\_\_to participate in the SCG program.

Brief rationale for mid-year decline:

The administrator signature below certifies the information above is correct, and indicates understanding of the following:

- The school forfeits any unused funds for the indicated program(s).
- Funds will not roll over to the following year.
- Unused funds will be spread out proportionally to other non-public/private schools.

Non-Public/Private School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

School Administrator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Non-public schools should complete and return the above to the local education agency (LEA) immediately.***