Dear [Name of independent school official]:

As part of the [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act](https://oese.ed.gov/files/2022/11/BSCA_Stonger_Connections_FAQs_11-2022-FINAL.pdf) (BSCA), Congress authorized funding under Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to state educational agencies (SEAs) to provide students with safer and healthier learning environments. The grant will be awarded competitively to high-need local educational agencies (LEAs) to fund activities allowable under section 4108 – the Safe and Healthy Students section - of the ESEA ([see Title IV allowable uses](https://vermont.force.com/aoeknowledgecenter/s/knowledge-article?c__resource=All%20Resources&c__searchKey&c__recordId=LI4GnovpM0zNLuu9Fy3zzSDi5Vnue86D2GtMklFqk%252BKCM90JDCxljE21KUDPXRhT&c__recordType=Articles&c__parentId=kiK%252FhehLiMPtZ%252Fji%252Byq8KTQ0tzdqfwPns4hKS1GSxC3d9Qk6zfbs1MqWH5L1qhBI&c__calledFromHubPage&c__calledFromTopicPage=true&c__hubTitle&c__topicTitle)).

Priorities of the [BSCA Stronger Connections Grant](https://education.vermont.gov/student-support/federal-programs/consolidated-federal-programs/title-iv-part-student-support-and#stronger-connections-grant) (SCG):

1. comprehensive, evidence-based strategies that meet each student’s social, emotional, physical, and mental well-being needs, create positive, inclusive, and supportive school environments; and increase access to school-based social, emotional, and behavioral learning and mental health interventions and services;
2. engagement with students, families, educators, staff, and community organizations in determining the selection and implementation of strategies and interventions; and
3. equity and responsiveness to underserved students, protecting student rights, and demonstrating respect for student dignity and potential.

[name of LEA] will be applying for this competitive grant and per ESSA section 8501(c)(3) needs to determine if [name of Independent School] is interested in participating in equitable services under this grant, should we be successful in receiving an award. The SCG requires on-going consultation via a 2-step process. This Outreach Letter represents Step 1. Should we be awarded a grant and upon receipt of the attached Intent to Participate From, we will send a Consultation Letter and Form to begin Step 2 of consultation. Our goal during consultation will be to have generative conversations, under the umbrella of the above priorities, of potential programs for your children, staff, and families.

A [full description of the Stronger Connections Grant](https://education.vermont.gov/student-support/federal-programs/consolidated-federal-programs/title-iv-part-student-support-and#stronger-connections-grant) can be found on the Agency of Education’s website. If you are interested in participating in equitable services under this grant with [name of LEA], we ask that you return the attached Intent to Participate form by [due date] to [LEA representative and contact information].

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Contact Information]

**Intent to Participate in Equitable Services Under ESSA/Stronger Connection Grant [Due Date to respond is xxxxx]**

**Name of eligible independent school:**

**Please check the appropriate response:**

​​☐​ Our school would like to discuss equitable participation in the Stronger Connections Grant. We agree to participate in formal consultation.

​​☐​ Our school does not wish to participate in the Stronger Connections Grant.

**Independent School Representative Name:**

**Independent School Representative Signature:**

**Position or Title:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Date:**