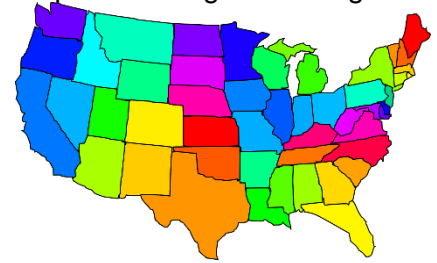


Pennsylvania Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections Grant Program Fact Sheet

What is the Stronger Connections Grant?

As part of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), this grant provides [\\$1 billion in funding](#) to State educational agencies (SEAs) to be distributed under Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). The BSCA specifies that SEAs must make competitive subgrants to high-need local educational agencies (LEAs), as determined by the SEA, for activities to support safe and healthy students under section 4108 of the ESEA. Under section 4108, schools/districts can implement activities and programming that help establish safer and healthier learning environments, and prevent and respond to acts of bullying, violence, and hate that impact school communities at individual and systemic levels, among other programs and activities.



Pennsylvania PROGRAM

The state of [Pennsylvania](#) will award [\\$39,000,000](#) in Stronger Connections Grant funds. For the purposes of this grant, Pennsylvania has defined a [high-need local education agency](#) as a school entity that:

1. Is a school district or charter school in Pennsylvania;
2. Received ESEA Title IV, Part A funding in fiscal year 2022; and
3. Meets one or more of the following "high-need" criteria:
 - A high rate of poverty;
 - A lack of mental health supports available to students;
 - High rates of violence and/or traumatic incidents in the school or community; and
 - High rates of school exclusion.

Please keep in mind the following dates:



Request Release Date	November 1, 2024
Applications Due	TBD
Awardees Announced	2024
Project Start Date	2024

Applications must be completed and submitted through the PDE [eGrants](#) online grants management system.
Applications are by invitation only.

Eligible Uses:

Eligible uses will largely fall into these categories:

- Promoting the social, emotional, physical, and mental well-being of students and staff
- Addressing family and community engagement
- Promoting equitable and inclusive policies and practices in the LEA

What can Pennsylvania schools purchase with grant funds?

For the most part, allowable expenses have been detailed under [Section 4108](#) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). On the following page are some of the supported programs and activities, along with examples of tools that Pennsylvania schools can use to execute these programs and activities.

Activity/Program	Securly Solution
<p>Activity 2: Foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free environments that support student academic achievement</p>	<p>The entire Securly catalog was developed to foster safe, healthy, supportive and drug-free environments in support of student academic achievement. Our solutions provide a 360° approach to keep students safe, secure, and productive — everywhere, every hour of the day, in every space.</p>
<p>Activity 3: Promote the involvement of parents in the activity or program</p>	<p>With the Home by Securly app for parents, Pennsylvania schools can give your parents and families the ability to know their child’s online activity, allowing them to view their child’s recent searches, sites visited, and videos watched on their school-owned device. Parents can also help their child stay focused, and they can even turn their internet access on or off with a single tap as well.</p>
<p>Activity 5 (C): programs or activities that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (i) integrate health and safety practices into school or athletic programs ○ (iii) help prevent bullying and harassment ○ (iv) improve instructional practices for developing relationship-building skills, such as effective communication, and improve safety through the recognition and prevention of coercion, violence, or abuse, including teen and dating violence, stalking, domestic abuse, and sexual violence and harassment; ○ (vii) establish learning environments and enhance students’ effective learning skills that are essential for school readiness and academic success, such as by providing integrated systems of student and family supports 	<p>With Rhithm by Securly, Pennsylvania students will complete a simple electronic questionnaire to self-report how they’re feeling and build awareness around their emotional intelligence and well-being. With e-hallpass, schools can better manage their hallways, and teachers can always know who’s out of class. Aware by Securly can help Pennsylvania districts keep their students safe with a tool that uses the most sophisticated AI engine in student safety to scan for signs of bullying, self-harm, and violence in social networking and web searches. The data provided by Aware can also help you understand and meaningfully impact your students’ wellness. With Aware, you can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know who’s at risk of self-harm, suicide, depression, violence, and bullying • Proactively support students who demonstrate concerning behaviors • Gain a clear picture of each student’s current wellness level • Intervene quickly when wellness levels drop • Proactively identify safety concerns <p>When activity is flagged, a thorough risk assessment of the student is performed, identifying concerning trends and patterns. When urgent intervention is needed, the On-Call Team acts quickly to notify the designated emergency contacts.</p>

Each of these solutions equip students to be self-aware while also helping them to be more responsible with the intended result of maintaining healthy and safe school climates.

Then, **Securly Classroom** will enhance your students' learning by allowing teachers to guide lessons, monitor student progress, and keep the focus on learning. It also allows teachers to see what students are doing on their devices, push websites and resources instantly, and lock student devices down to get the class's attention.

With each of these solutions, your students will be able to learn in an environment conducive to learning and engagement, with a climate and culture of safety, wellness and support.

More on Securly

Securly is a team of parents, educators, and technologists who focus on providing the most comprehensive solution for student safety, wellness, and engagement. We provide a safety, wellness, and engagement platform that's comprehensive, holistic, and preventative.

The Securly solution also leverages technology through our cloud-based platform to empower educators and administrators to enhance the educational experiences of students across the country, increasing student engagement and equitable access to personalized learning for each individual student.

Together, our solutions help ensure that students are engaged, learning, safe and responsible in their educational experiences, in both their physical and digital learning environments. Schools also have the confidence that our solution is iKeepSafe-certified. Additionally, Securly is the only K-12 student safety and wellness technology provider to attain SOC 2 Type 2 Certification for its suite of solutions. Our tools are specifically tailored to student data privacy legislation, including the Student Online Personal Information Protection Act (SOPIPA), as well as the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule (COPPA). We comply with these regulations in all applicable respects with regards to the collection, use, disclosure, and retention of the personal information of your students. Securly takes the security of your students and their data as seriously as your schools. Student safety — all aspects of it — is why we exist!

To learn more about the Stronger Connections Grant and the Securly Solution, please contact Jeffrey Zwiebel, Regional Sales Manager, at 570-405-9136 or jeff.zwiebel@securly.com.