



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR


MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 22, 2024

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Diane L. Golzynski, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent
Division of Finance and Operations 

Delsa D. Chapman, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports 

SUBJECT: Title IV, Part A Stronger Connections Grant, Competitive Application
Release Announcement

The Michigan Department of Education has been awarded \$26,504,263 by the U.S. Department of Education under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act ([BSCA](#)) Stronger Connections Grant (SCG). The [Title IV, Part A](#) (page 168) SCG program uses [Title I, Part A](#) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act for state education agencies to competitively award subgrants to Title I, Part A eligible high-need local education agencies (LEAs), including public school academies (PSAs), to expand vital mental health services and provide additional support to design, enhance, and implement initiatives that will promote safer, more inclusive, and positive school environments.

The application for the Title IV, Part A SCG is open in NexSys as of February 22, 2024. Access to the application is under "My Opportunities" on your NexSys Dashboard. Applications will be due at 11:59 p.m. on April 11, 2024. More information is available on the new Title IV, Part A Stronger Connections Grant [website](#).

Title IV, Part A Stronger Connections Grant Eligibility

Title I, Part A high-need LEAs, including PSAs, are eligible to submit a proposal for the Title IV, Part A Stronger Connections Grant in NexSys. Intermediate school districts may prepare a consortium application with eligible LEAs within their local service area.

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Equitable Services for Private Non-Public Schools

For eligible traditional public school districts with private schools located within their district boundaries, private schools must be included in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the proposed project.

As a part of the application process, traditional public schools are required to plan a timely and meaningful consultation with appropriate private school officials and provide eligible private school students and educators services and other benefits that are equitable in comparison to services and other benefits provided with Title IV, Part A Stronger Connections Grant funds to public school students and educators ([ESEA section 8501\(a\)\(1\), \(3\)\(A\)](#)).

To support the consultation process, a sample equitable services participation letter, an equitable services calculation worksheet, and other tools are available on the Title IV, Part A Stronger Connections Grant [website](#).

Grant Awards

Applicants will be awarded Title IV, Part A Stronger Connections Grant funds based on the quality of their proposal in NexSys. For planning purposes only, a list of estimated awards is available on the Title IV, Part A Stronger Connections Grant [website](#). These estimated awards are to be used as a guide and reflect the minimal grant award if all eligible districts apply.

For additional information related to completing the new competitive Title IV, Part A Stronger Connections Grant application in NexSys, please email your inquiries to MDE-TitleIVASCG@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments