



OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

Stronger Connections Grant Grantees & Programs

Fiscal Year 2023

The Bipartisan Strengthening Communities Act (BSA) Stronger Connections Grant is a competitive federal grant program focused on improving conditions for student learning through positive school climates. Participating schools are encouraged to implement a comprehensive plan incorporating evidence-based activities, programs and practices to promote safer and healthier learning environments.

Local education agencies (LEAs) in the District of Columbia may use this grant to fund school projects that expand or enhance their School Strengthening Work Plans and provide multi-tiered systems of support for student mental health and well-being.

Cesar Chavez PCS – \$200,000

The project will support the following:

- Provide support to personnel who will implement a full scale multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) to provide Tier I supports to meet the needs of all scholars, and to ensure that effective Tier 2 and 3 interventions and supports are in place for scholars, as needed.
- Build a data tracking system that will allow our MTSS team to monitor and continue to improve the effectiveness of interventions and supports.
- Provide professional development and support to school leaders, counselors, and teachers to implement, monitor and continue to improve best practices for student interventions and supports.
- Ensure school leaders and support team members have access and expertise in how to use tracking systems to support students.

Creative Minds PCS – \$76,500

Create a Safe and Positive School Project to provide staff with leadership and problem-solving skills and help to create a school with a trauma-sensitive mindset. The project will provide intense professional development in trauma-informed, trauma-sensitive and social-emotional learning. The program will span over two years, with the program's initial phase including trauma-based and social-emotional learning training.

D.C. Bilingual PCS – \$198,500

The project will support the following:

- Purchasing the bilingual digital social-emotional learning curriculum Second Step for all K-5 classrooms.
- Supply emotional regulation areas across the building that students can access to calm down or take breaks as needed.
- Providing professional development for teachers/staff on the topics of trauma and emotional

regulation through Onyx's full staff training and MANDT Training.

- Communication with families regarding the supports available to students.

D.C. Preparatory Academy PCS – \$1,297,183

The grant will provide students with Tier 2 and Tier 3 supports across six campuses (Edgewood Elementary, Edgewood Middle, Benning Middle, Benning Campus, Anacostia Elementary, Anacostia Middle). The activities of the grant include the following:

- Hire a consultant to develop a social-emotional learning curriculum including two social-emotional learning lessons per week for nine grade bands that teachers and leaders can use to build better relationships during morning advisories and health/PE classes.
- Purchase materials and student texts to support the implementation of the social-emotional learning curriculum.
- Support the campus Community Assistant Principal who will build a positive, productive, and joyful culture for students, families and staff, by modeling behaviors and providing training, coaching and data analysis for teachers and instructional staff.
- Hire a consultant to strengthen the school's MTSS and provide professional development to Community Assistant Principals and Student Support Coaches.

District of Columbia Public Schools – \$1,000,000

The grant will provide student supports at 10 schools.

- **Sousa MS:** Provide calming stations within each classroom to encourage teaming with the mental health team to improve classroom management by utilizing trauma informed self-regulation tools.
- **Roosevelt HS:** Establish "Sowing SEADs Wednesdays" to increase student access to a variety of evidence-based curriculums provided by non-instructional staff members and community partners.
- **McKinley MS:** Provide social services through the ARTIC project, a multifaceted system to strengthen engagement, promotion and prevention of mental health practices and social-emotional learning.
- **Johnson MS:** Expand the Love Group program to assigning girls who demonstrate need to a trusted adult that coordinates intensive support; and create a wellness and reset space that teachers and staff can utilize throughout the day.
- **Cardozo EC:** Train all staff in restorative practices throughout the year and distribute materials and resources to implement learned strategies; provide all employees access to staff wellness seminars on topics such as mindfulness, fitness challenges, etc.
- **HD Woodson HS:** Create a Warrior Restorative Center.
- **Ballou HS:** Create a peace room to support the Social Emotional Academic Development program (SEAD).
- **Anacostia HS:** Utilize a "space of healing" approach through Crowns and Conversations and the "Beauty Salon" programs. Students will receive skills and training in barbering and cosmetology, while creating a safe space to discuss internal and external stressors youth face in the Anacostia community, as well as develop knowledge and skills to address the residual effects of trauma in one's environment.
- **Jefferson MS:** Implement a culturally responsive social-emotional learning curriculum for students and training for staff on the implementation of the curriculum and other relevant social-emotional learning skills (Conflict Resolution, Restorative Justice, etc.), which include full-school implementation of Dangers of the Mind (Secondary Level SEL Curriculum) as a Tier 1

MTSS intervention, training for all staff on Dangers of the Mind curriculum and training for all staff through International Institute of Restorative Practices (IIRP) Training.

- **Browne EC:** The Browne Wellness Project: training for teachers, supports for Black and Hispanic girls, programming for Black and Hispanic boys and support for families in the areas of trauma, grief and loss, difficulties self-regulating, conflict resolution between peers/family members, and difficulties facing adversity.

E.L. Haynes PCS – \$300,000

Implement multi-tiered behavioral health supports at the elementary, middle and high schools:

- Staff professional development in the areas of Restorative Practices and School Culture (Responsive Classroom)
- Adult therapy provided by the WISE Center at Georgetown University
- Family engagement in the areas of caregiver training in Restorative Practices, cross-cultural understanding and capacity building through the Canizales Group, as well as additional support for family engagement from other partners.

Eagle PCS – \$200,000

The project will support the following at the Capitol Riverfront and Congress Heights schools:

- Training for staff on emotionally inclusive practices and trauma-informed practices
- Contract with a vendor for individualized education program (IEP)-related services
- Services with WISE Center for teacher wellbeing
- Parent engagement activities

Friendship PCS – \$725,502

The projects will support MTSS plans for elementary and middle schools at six campuses (Southeast, Armstrong, Woodbridge, Blow-Pierce, Chamberlin and Ideal) designed to help students recover from COVID-related academic loss, provide targeted instruction and implement practices through a trauma-informed lens.

- Training staff and teachers to manage and respond to social-emotional needs, including implementing an early warning system to identify students in crisis.
- An LEA-wide diagnostic tool to assess social-emotional learning needs at each campus and develop Tier II and Tier III plans for students

Hope Community PCS – \$161,113

The project will support the following:

- Establish calming areas across campus so scholars build skills in conflict resolution and self-regulation.
- A three-year rollout of Conscious Discipline, in which teachers will gain a deep understanding of the underlying causes of challenging behaviors and learn practical techniques to respond with empathy and connection.
- I-Ready licenses to support well-rounded learning and MTSS on campus.

LEARN DC PCS – \$200,000

Develop processes for staff to perform behavior analysis to inform intervention and safety plans and monitoring for students. The project will fund an assistant principal and a behavior interventionist to be and on-site social-emotional learning team and provide the necessary leadership capacity needed to improve social-emotional learning outcomes for students.

St. Coletta PCS – \$59,264

Expand training and development for all staff in the Mandt system, specifically in the areas of developing positive relationships, creating safe spaces, developing effective communication skills, conflict resolution and trauma-informed practices.

Thurgood Marshall PCS – \$180,000

Provide direct coaching in partnership with Jounce Partners to school staff to both build their foundational skills and reinforce classroom management techniques.