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Name: Faith Flory, Santa Fe Trail USD 434
From: Roxanne Zillinger, KSDE Education Program Consultant
Date: 11/15/2023
Re: Stronger Connections Grant

Congratulations! The Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) application submitted by Santa Fe Trail USD 434 has been approved by the Kansas State Board of Education in the amount of \$558,000 for the three-year grant.

The federal award period of performance is September 15, 2022 through September 30, 2025. Stronger Connections funds are available for obligation by LEAs through September 30, 2026. This period includes the additional 1-year period of fund availability provided under section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) (the "Tydings Amendment").

The Kansas award periods are as follows:

- Grant Year 1: November 15, 2023 – September 30, 2024.
- Grant Year 2: October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025
- Grant Year 3: October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026

The Grant Award Notification is also included in this correspondence. SCG funds will be available through the Form 240.

For questions regarding the Stronger Connections Grant, email:
strongerconnections@ksde.org

KSDE ANNOUNCES 13 KANSAS SCHOOL DISTRICTS AS 2022-2025 STRONGER CONNECTIONS GRANT RECIPIENTS

Thirteen Kansas school districts have been announced as recipients of the 2022-2025 Stronger Connections grant.

Grantees will use the awarded funds to build relationships between students and educators, as well as other adults who serve students, to help students feel less isolated and more connected to their school. This, in turn, improves overall health and well-being.

On June 25, 2022, President Joe Biden signed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), which provided \$1 billion in funding to state educational agencies to be distributed under Title IV, Part A, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Congress provided Kansas with \$6,190,622 for local award grants.

Grants were awarded based on the need for assistance. Kansas defines "high need" local education agencies (LEAs) as having:

- A high rate of poverty, as demonstrated when 40% or more of the student population is at or below 185% of the federal poverty level or qualifies for the free/reduced-price lunch program and/or:
- A high rate of exclusionary discipline, as demonstrated by local data. Exclusionary discipline is any type of school disciplinary action that removes or excludes students from their usual educational setting.

The deadline for submissions was Sept. 15.

KSDE awarded 13 grants, with award allocation amounts based on identified needs and implementation activities that were justified and outlined in the budget narrative. The funding obligation period for this grant expires Sept. 30, 2026. Funds must be expended by Dec. 30, 2026.

A list of Kansas school districts receiving a grant and the amount of the grant is below:

- Rolla USD 217: \$543,339
- Olathe USD 233: \$558,000
- Haysville USD 261: \$545,240
- Maize USD 266: \$240,141
- Saline USD 305: \$558,000
- Concordia USD 333: \$263,499
- Chase-Raymond USD 401: \$374,538
- Santa Fe Trail USD 434: \$558,000
- Dodge City USD 443: \$519,025
- Lawrence USD 497: \$532,509
- Kansas City USD 500: \$552,923
- Topeka USD 501: \$558,000
- Labette County USD 506: \$387,408

Posted: Nov 30, 2023,