# Equitable Services for the Stronger Connections Grant

# Documentation of Consultation

## General Information

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to provide equitable participation to eligible independent school students, teachers, and other educational personnel in programs under the Act. The services, materials, or other benefits shall be secular, neutral, and nonideological. 20 U.S.C. §6320(a)(1)-(2) and §7881(a)(1)-(2). The Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) is based on Title IVA of the ESSA and includes similar but slightly different equitable services requirements because it is a competitive grant with a particular focus on school and community violence prevention.

Services provided to participating independent schools by LEAs which receive SCG grant awards must be designed to meet the educational needs and supplement the services provided by the independent school. In order to fully participate in services, independent school officials will need to cooperate with public school officials to determine if the investments requested by the independent school meet the intended uses of the SCG grant.

As described in the Equitable Services for Stronger Connections Grant Outreach Letter, the consultation process for this grant involves two steps. This form pertains to Step 2 of on-going consultation. It provides resources for [name of LEA] and [name of Independent School] to ensure required consultation topics are discussed and summarizes the services to be provided by the LEA.

**Control and Use of Funds**

[name of LEA] controls all funds, and holds title to materials, equipment, and property purchased. Independent schools wishing to participate will receive services, not funds, and have no authority to spend. **Reimbursement from an LEA to an independent school is not allowed.** [name of LEA] plans, designs, and implements the program (including procurement, ordering, payments, etc.)—this cannot be delegated to the independent school. Services shall be provided by an employee of the LEA or through a contract by the LEA with an individual or entity independent of the independent school and any religious organization. 20 U.S.C. §7881(d).

Allowable activities can be found under [section 4108](https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/title-iv-part-a-statute) – 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)).

## Required Consultation Topics

In conjunction with the required topics ([see Appendix A](#_Appendix_A)) to be discussed as part of LEA/independent school consultation as found in ESSA [20 U.S.C. §6320(b)(1)](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/USCODE-2011-title20/html/USCODE-2011-title20-chap70-subchapI-partA-subpart1-sec6320.htm) ([AOE Knowledge Article](https://aoeknowledge.my.vermont.gov/s/knowledge-article?c__resource=All%20Resources&c__searchKey=equitable&c__recordId=w%252BjXCwHrGUvMc5FnoYzgG%252BKInzyzjD6y87Rc5K%252B2bEIg%252FzpnKi%252BgoYRs3Q66jidy&c__recordType=Articles&c__parentId&c__calledFromHubPage&c__calledFromTopicPage&c__hubTitle&c__topicTitle)), we also will discuss topics specific to the priorities of the BSCA Stronger Connections Grant.

## Documentation of Consultation Form

Section 1 (to be completed by the LEA official with consultation of the independent school, all bolded elements are required-please do not use abbreviations).

**Local Educational Agency (LEA) Name:**

**Independent School Name:**

**Date of Initial Consultation Invitation** (MM/DD/YYYY)**:**

**Method of Initial Consultation Invitation** (Please check at least one, all that apply):

Email

Certified Mail

Phone/Voicemail

In person Meeting

Virtual Call

**Participation Choice Options** (Please check one):

The independent school did not respond to the Stronger Connections Equitable Services Outreach letter [LEA to link to Outreach communication]. \*Please be sure to document the independent school’s non-response (email invitation that was sent, or copy of certified mail receipt)

The independent school returned Intent To Participate Form after [LEA to insert date] and is not eligible based on unfeasible consultation timeline. - \*Please be sure to document the date of response by the Independent School and the reasons that timeline is unfeasible.

The independent school does not wish to participate in any equitable services under the SCG grant.

The independent school was deemed to be ineligible to participate in any equitable services under the SCG grant. They do not appear on the AOE list of approved or recognized non-profit independent schools and did not provide documentation that they have become eligible since the list was last updated.

The independent school will participate in equitable services for the BSCA Stronger Connections Grant.

Section 2: Verification by Independent School (to be completed by the independent school if it indicated an intent to participate in Step 1 of the consultation process all bolded elements required).

**Was the LEA’s consultation provided in a timely and meaningful way, and was a satisfactory and equitable plan for services developed?**

Yes

Not Applicable-Consultation was not necessary/did not occur

☐ No

|  |
| --- |
| [If “No,” please provide a brief explanation of how consultation did not meet requirements of being timely, meaningful and yielding a satisfactory/equitable program design] |

**Independent School Official’s Printed Full Name:**

**Independent School Official’s Position/Title:**

**Independent School Official’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signed Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### Section 3: Verification by Local Educational Agency (LEA) (to be completed by the LEA official, all bolded elements required.)

**LEA Official’s Printed Full Name:**

**LEA Official’s Position/Title:**

**LEA Official’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signed Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Appendix A

**Required Consultation Topics**

1. How the LEA will identify the needs of independent school children.
2. The services the LEA will offer, consistent with the particular requirements of the SCG grant.
3. How, where, when and by whom the services will be provided.
4. How the services provided by the LEA will be assessed and how the results of the assessment will be used to improve those services.
5. The size and scope of equitable services to be provided to the eligible independent school students, their families, teachers, and other educational personnel. The amount of funds available for those services, how that amount is determined from the total amount of funds received by the LEA, and if funds will be used for direct and indirect administrative costs.
6. How and when the LEA will make decisions about delivery of services, including a thorough consideration and analysis of the views of the independent school officials on the provision of services through potential third-party providers.
7. How, if the LEA disagrees with the views of the independent school officials on the provisions of services through a contract, the LEA will provide to the independent schools, in writing, an analysis of the reasons why the LEA has chosen to use or not to use a contractor.
8. Whether the LEA shall provide services directly or through a separate government agency, consortium, entity, or third-party contractor.