

As requested, here is some follow up information on the Stronger Connections Grant:

The AOE was awarded \$4,833,025 through the Stronger Connections Grant program within the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

95.5% was awarded to 18 LEAs in a competitive process. 4.5% was set aside for state-level activities on behalf of all schools, and .5% was set-aside for AOE administration.

The website describing the process and projects is <https://education.vermont.gov/student-support/federal-programs/consolidated-federal-programs/title-iv-part-student-support-and>. These grants continue through Sept. 2026.

A quick review of the grant descriptions identified that 10.5 FT FTEs are intended to be funded through these grants. They include both clinical and non-clinical mental health positions since the purpose of the grant program is to enhance student wellness and safety through prevention activities and supports within schools. The positions include:

1 Student Assistance Program Counselor, 1 Social Worker, 2 SB MH Clinicians, 1 Special Educator, 1 Coord of Behavioral Services, 1 Flexible Learning Coordinator Position, 1 SEL Learning Engagement Specialist, .5 MTSS Coordinator, 1 Manager of SB MH services, 1 Dean of Student Life

These positions are what the grantees hope to hire. They may not be able to do so in every case because of the workforce challenges being discussed in the committee right now. In that case, they will need to amend their plans to fund prevention strategies other than positions.

Please let me know what else you would like to know, and we will get this information for you.

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