



# 2024-2025 Stronger Connections Grant

Competitive Grant Application: Due 11:59 p.m. CT, July 18, 2023

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## 2. Certification and Incorporation

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**6. Measurable Progress (Cont.)**

**Second-Quarter Benchmark**

1) Meet with the TCSS to develop a plan for family support and engagement that aligns with the program design and evidence-based research. 2) Develop and implement the Student Support Program (SSP), based on advice and

**Third-Quarter Benchmark**

**7. Project Evaluation and Modification**

Describe how you will use project evaluation data to determine when and how to modify your program. If your benchmarks or summative SMART goals do not show progress, describe how you will use evaluation data to modify your program for sustainability.

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## 8. Statutory/Program Assurances

The following assurances apply to this grant program. In order to meet the requirements of the grant, the grantee must comply with these assurances.

Check each of the following boxes to indicate your compliance.

- 1. The applicant provides assurance that program funds will supplement (increase the level of service), and not supplant (replace) state mandates, State Board of Education rules, and activities previously conducted with state or local funds. The applicant provides assurance that state or local funds may not be decreased or diverted for other purposes merely because of the availability of these funds. The applicant provides assurance that program services and activities to be funded from this grant will be supplementary to existing services and activities and will not be used for any services or activities required by state law, State Board of Education rules, or local policy.
- 2. The applicant provides assurance that the application does not contain any information that would be protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) from general release to the public.

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**9. Statutory/ TEA Program Requirements**

1. Describe how the LEA will identify the campuses that will participate in the establishment of the Student Support Program described in the program description? Include the criteria or considerations that will influence the determination by the LEA.

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**9. Statutory/Program Requirements (Cont.)**

3. Describe how the LEA will engage parents and families to solicit support for the program.

The district will engage parents/families to solicit support for the program through:

- **Communication:** Benavides ISD will inform parents and families of the program's purpose, strategies, and targeted outcomes through emails and public notices. Specific outreach will also be made to parents and families of high-need students who are targeted for specialized support. In addition, the district will host kick-off parent engagement sessions to provide further education on the program, emphasizing, and inviting feedback and questions.
- **Surveys and Questionnaires:** We will administer surveys and questionnaires to gather insight from parents/families. These feedback mechanisms will assess satisfaction, gather suggestions for improvement, and measure the program's impact on students and the community.
- **Committee:** A dedicated Family Advisory Committee will be created, as a platform through which parents and families can share their opinions, suggestions, and concerns. Giving a voice to these stakeholders will be critical in fostering a collaborative environment and ensuring program success.
- **Existing Organizations:** Existing parent and family organizations will be leveraged to engage parents and families in supporting the SSP. Joint meetings, workshops, and events will foster dialogue and active engagement.
- **Texas Center for Student Supports (TCSS):** The district will utilize the family engagement playbook developed by TCSS to build support with parents and families.

By engaging parents and families through effective communication, involvement, and feedback, the Benavides ISD ensures active participation in supporting the SSP. This collaborative approach strengthens the program's impact and fosters shared responsibility for creating safe and inclusive learning environments.

4. Describe how the LEA will ensure that there is adequate staff to support the establishment and implementation of the Student Support Program.

Benavides ISD is committed to providing ample staff to effectively launch and maintain the Student Support Program (SSP). To kick start, we will carry out an admin-led staffing assessment at each campus to identify any existing gaps, particularly in the support of high-need populations. Aligned with these findings, we will use grant funds to recruit extra staff and bolster each campus's capacity to roll out the SSP.

To proactively respond to serious mental health concerns, including student suicides, we will hire a Licensed Professional Counselor for mental health care. Additionally, following a previous terroristic threat, we plan to employ two Student Support Specialists to build campus culture, assist with crisis situations, and respond to student's emotional safety. We will also on-board an experienced Program Director for guidance throughout the project and an Administrative Assistant for data-related tasks.

Moreover, we plan to increase our staffing levels by hiring support staff or experts from outside the school district. This will be done by expanding our current partnership with the Boys and Girls (B&G) Club of Alice. All individuals brought on board by the B&G Club of Alice will offer extra support to our students and existing personnel.

Our district also prioritizes continuous learning for our staff. Therefore, we will offer high-quality, evidence-based professional development training to equip our team with the skills necessary for the SSP.

Finally, we will continually assess our staffing needs and encourage open communication for feedback to ensure all necessary resources are in place.

To summarize, we will ensure a well-staffed SSP by conducting needs assessments, hiring extra staff, providing professional training, and maintaining continuous support through regular feedback and dedicated resources.

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**9. Statutory/Program Requirements (Cont.)**

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**9. Statutory/Program Requirements (Cont.)**

7. Describe how the LEA currently partners with the regional ESC to support improvement in student mental health,

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**10. Equitable Access and Participation**

Check the appropriate box below to indicate whether any barriers exist to equitable access and participation for any groups that receive services funded by this grant.

- The applicant assures that no barriers exist to equitable access and participation for any groups receiving services funded by this grant.
- Barriers exist to equitable access and participation for the following groups receiving services funded by this grant, as described below.

Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>
Group	<input type="text"/>	Barrier	<input type="text"/>
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**11. PNP Equitable Services**

Are any private nonprofit schools located within the applicant's boundaries?

**12. Request for Grant Funds**

List all of the allowable grant-related activities for which you are requesting grant funds. Include the amounts budgeted for each activity. Group similar activities and costs together under the appropriate heading. During negotiation, you will be required to budget your planned expenditures on a separate attachment provided by TEA.

**Payroll Costs**

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2.	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
4.	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>

**Professional and Contracted Services**

	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
8.	<input type="text"/>
9.	<input type="text"/>
10.	<input type="text"/>

**Supplies and Materials**

11.	<input type="text"/>
12.	<input type="text"/>
13.	<input type="text"/>

**Other Operating Costs**

15.	<input type="text"/>
16.	<input type="text"/>
17.	<input type="text"/>

**Debt Services**

18.	<input type="text"/>
19.	<input type="text"/>

Indirect administrative costs:

**TOTAL GRANT AWARD REQUESTED:**

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**Appendix I: Negotiation and Amendments**

Leave this section blank when completing the initial application for funding.

An amendment must be submitted when the program plan or budget is altered for the reasons described in the "When to Amend the Application" document posted on the Administering a Grant page of the TEA website and may be mailed OR faxed (not both). **To fax:** one copy of all sections pertinent to the amendment (including budget attachments), along with a completed and signed page 1, to either (512) 463-9811 or (512) 463-9564. **To mail:** three copies of all sections pertinent to the amendment (including budget attachments), along with a completed and signed page 1, to the address on page 1. More detailed amendment instructions can be found on the last page of the budget template.

You may duplicate this page.

For amendments, choose the section you wish to amend from the drop down menu on the left. In the text box on the right, describe the changes you are making and the reason for them.

Always work with the most recent negotiated or amended application. If you are requesting a revised budget, please include the budget attachments with your amendment.

Section Being Negotiated or Amended	Negotiated Change or Amendment
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