

**CCIP Note #514**

**Re:** Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) Announcement and Title I Waiver Information

**Date:** October 28, 2022

**To:** Superintendents, Treasurers, Authorized Representatives, Fiscal Representatives and Consolidated Funding Application Contacts, Nonpublic School Principals

**Stronger Connections Grant**

The Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) was authorized under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), Public Law 117-159, passed on June 25, 2022. More information on the BSCA can be found in [CCIP Note 506](#).

The Ohio Department of Education (the Department) received an SCG award of \$35,078,494 on September 15, 2022. The SCG is a supplement to the Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) program.

The purpose of the SCG is to provide students with safer and healthier learning environments. The SCG must be awarded competitively to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that the Department defines as “High-Need” for school health and safety. Additional details on the Stronger Connections Grant can be found [HERE](#).

In the coming weeks, the Department will be seeking stakeholder feedback regarding proposed program criteria, grant eligibility and the draft application. The Department plans to make the SCG application available by early 2023.

**Title I Waiver Information**

Given the challenges that traditional public districts and community schools continued to experience during the 2021-2022 school year, the Ohio Department of Education requested a waiver pertaining to certain requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 (ESEA). The U.S. Department of Education approved the waiver request and that notice can be found [HERE](#). The waiver applies to the following requirements of ESEA:

Carryover limitation in section 1127(b) of the ESEA for Federal fiscal year (FY) 2021 Title I, Part A funds (i.e., the Title I, Part A funds that became carryover funds on October 1, 2022): to waive the requirement that limits a State educational agency’s (SEA) ability to grant to its LEAs a waiver of the 15 percent Title I, Part A carryover limitation in section 1127(a) to once every three years.

Period of availability in section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act to extend until September 30, 2023, the period of availability of certain funds for Title I, Part A of the ESEA (Improving Basic Programs Operated by LEAs), including the portions of the SEA’s Title I, Part A award used to carry out section 1003 school improvement, section 1003A direct student services, if applicable, and Title I, Part D, Subpart 2.

If you have questions, please contact [federalprograms@education.ohio.gov](mailto:federalprograms@education.ohio.gov).