

HIGH-NEED LEA DEFINITION - Nevada Department of Education, Bipartisan Safer Community Act (BSCA) Stronger Connections Grant

The BSCA Stronger Connection grant requires the State Educational Agency to define "high-need LEA" for the purposes of eligibility for Stronger Connections funds. The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) conducted a five-week stakeholder engagement process seeking input on the high-need LEA definition. Input from an NDE distributed Smartsheet form was obtained from nearly all LEAs in the state along with several other stakeholder groups, organizations and schools. Below is the final (1-9-23) NDe High-Need LEA definition:

The Nevada Department of Education defines a high need LEA to include LEAs with high rates of *poverty and with one or more of the following characteristics: (1) a high student-to-health/behavioral health professionals ratio; (2) a low resource/school police officer student/staff ratio (3) high rates of; chronic absenteeism, students experiencing transiency or homelessness, exclusionary discipline, referrals to the juvenile justice system, bullying/harassment, community and school violence, completed suicides, crisis responses, or substance abuse; or, (3) where students experienced a traumatic event. The measurement of poverty considers LEAs with high numbers of students living in poverty, as well as LEAs with high percentages of students living in poverty.

***Poverty to be defined by LEA RFL rates.**