



# Stronger Connections Collaborative

January 29, 2026



Welcome – please **SIGN IN** so I can  
send resources after the meeting!



# Logistics

Before we get started,

-  This meeting is being recorded so we can share key takeaways and support those who couldn't attend live.
-  Please stay muted unless you're speaking, to help reduce background noise.
-  If you have a question or comment, feel free to unmute yourself or type it in the chat—we want to hear from you!

Thanks for helping us create a respectful and engaging space for everyone.

# Agenda

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Inclusive Welcome

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Pass the Mic

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Resource Spotlight

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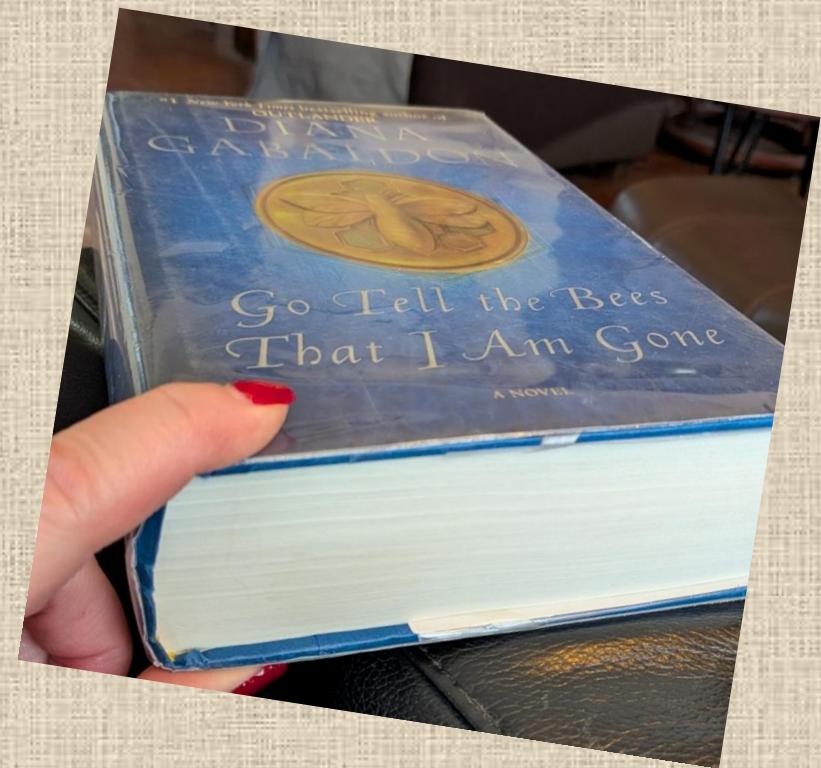
Technical Assistance / Announcements

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Intentional Close



*3 things bringing me  
JOY right now...*



# Say Hello in the chat....

Name

Role

School  
District



# Inclusive Welcome

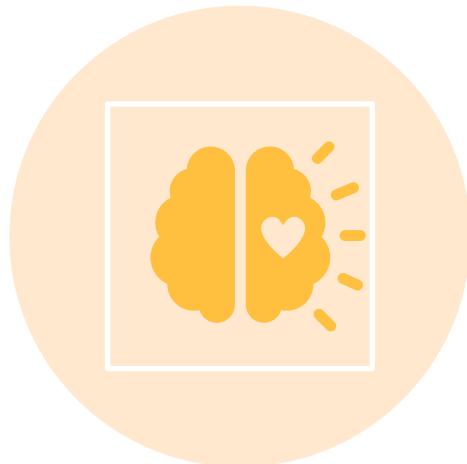




# Let it Go....

- What is ONE THING you can **let go** in the new year?

# Let it go...



## SELF-AWARENESS



## SELF-MANAGEMENT

# CASEL Resources



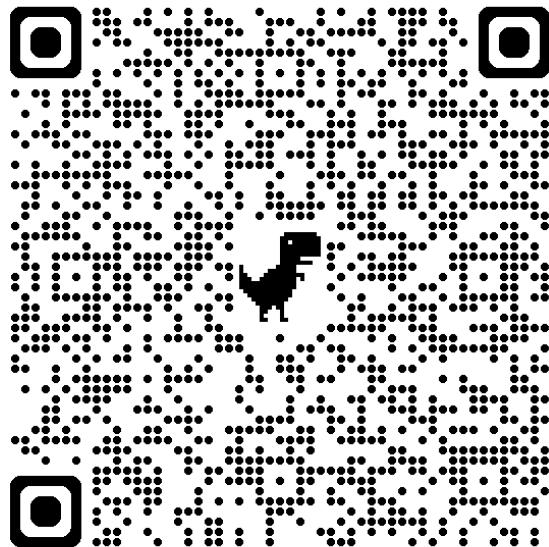
- [CASEL](#) – Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning
- [5 SEL Competencies](#) & Focal Constructs
- [3 Signature Practices](#)
- [School](#) and [District](#) SEL Implementation
- [How does SEL Support Equity?](#)



# Pass the Mic



# Share Your Success

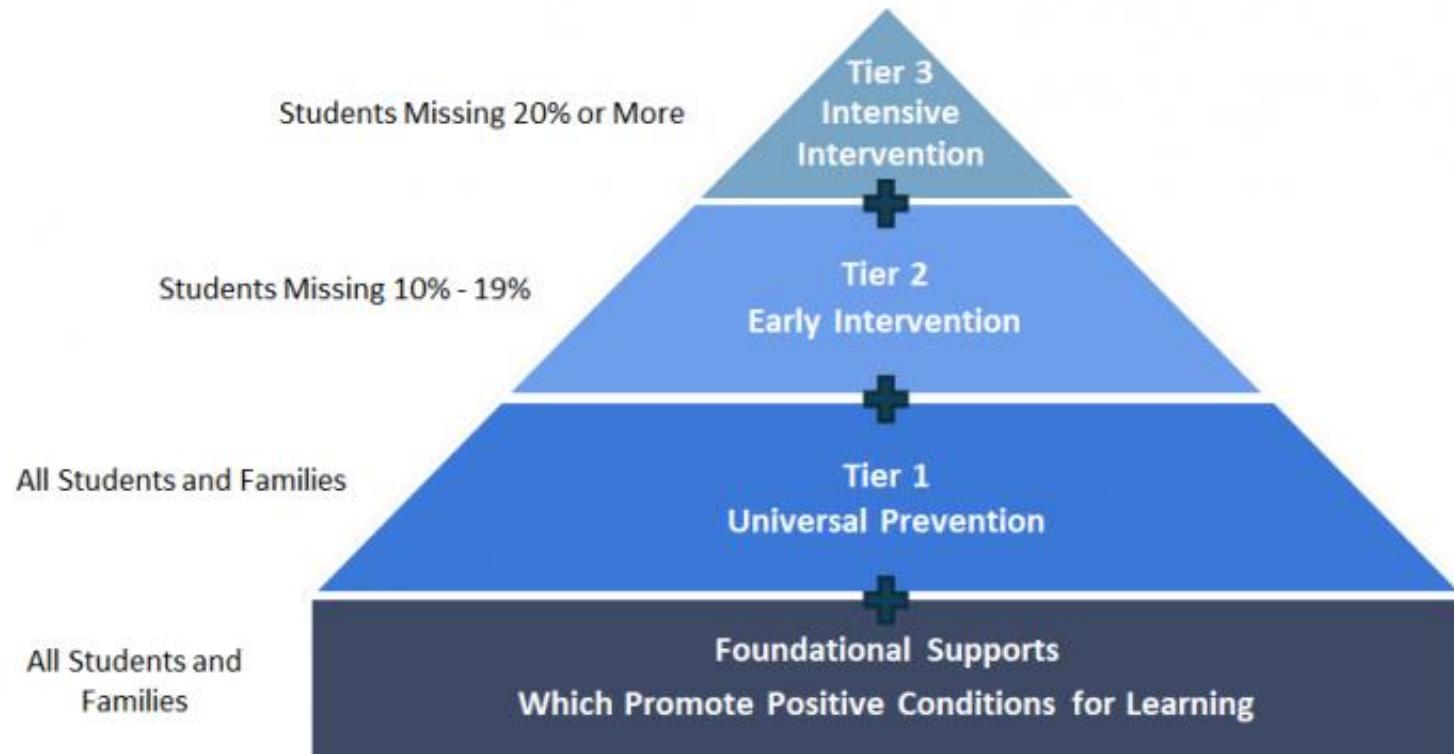


Access the [Stronger Connections Success form](#) and sign up today!



# Resource Spotlight

# Tiered Supports for Improving Attendance



[www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org)

**Source:** Attendance Works; <https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/addressing-chronic-absence/3-tiers-of-intervention/>

# Templates and Examples...

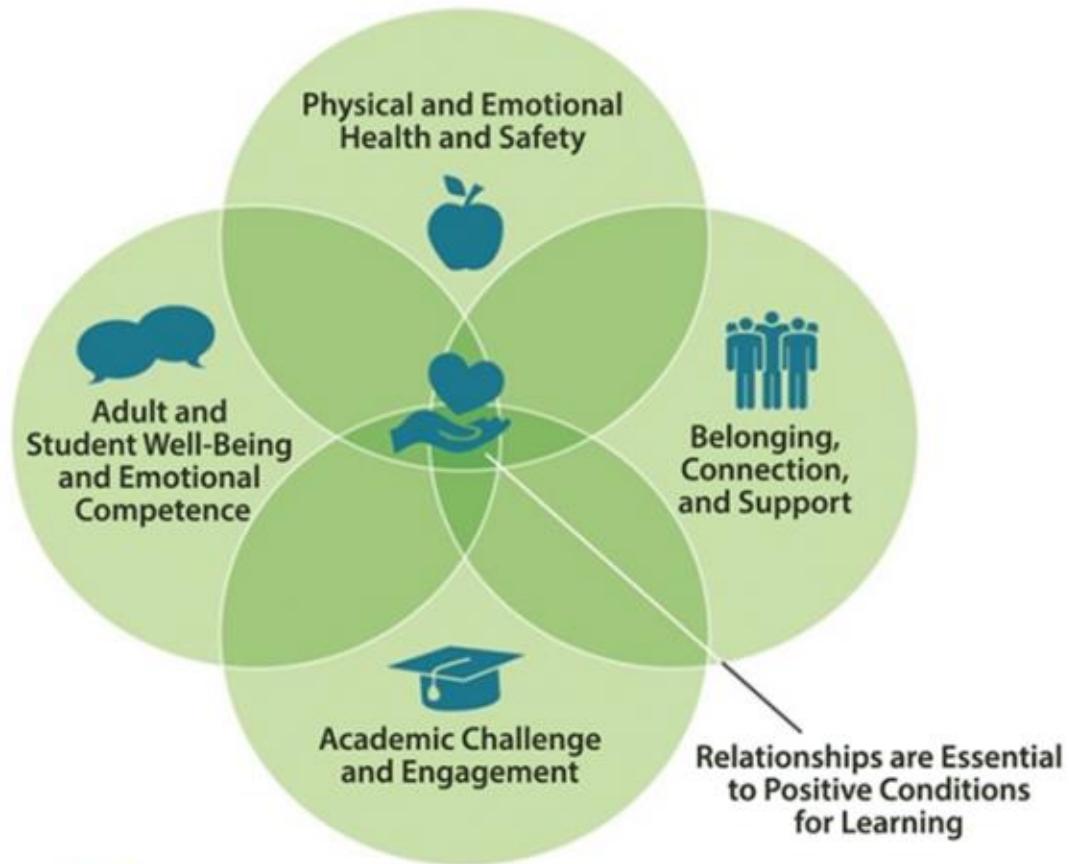
## Attendance Pyramid Worksheet

	Family Engagement	Positive Student Engagement	Behavioral and Mental Health	Physical Health	Academic Support	Extended Learning	Basic Needs
Tier 3: Intensive Intervention							
Tier 2: Early Intervention							
Tier 1: Universal Prevention							
Foundational Supports							

## Attendance Pyramid with Examples

	Family Engagement	Positive Student Engagement	Behavioral and Mental Health	Physical Health	Academic Support	Extended Learning	Basic Needs
Tier 3: Intensive Intervention	Assign family advocate to coordinate supports	1:1 connection with adult advocate (e.g. social worker)	Individual plan developed with psychologist/social worker	Coordinated care plans with local health provider	Individualized learning and success plan leading to graduation	Accelerated credit recovery	Provision of targeted resources, e.g. housing assistance
Tier 2: Early Intervention	Targeted, positive family visits	Clubs Success Mentors Check-In / Check-Out	Small group counseling	Plans for students with chronic illnesses such as asthma and diabetes	Attendance strategies added to IEPs and 504 plans Tutoring and intensive classroom supports	Music or art program prioritized for students who have experienced trauma	Bus passes, walking school bus, bike program, or ride sharing services
Tier 1: Universal Prevention	Clear communications about attendance expectations  Recognition of good and improved attendance	Connection to a caring adult (Relationship Mapping)  Establish positive, caring, daily attendance practices and routines	Open-door policy for students, families, and staff to seek mental health services	Build time into routines for students and staff to wash hands  Immunization clinic Health screenings	Learning objectives are clear and students can make up work after they are absent	Summer enrichment for every student	School-based clothing closet
Foundational Supports	Family resource centers  Universal family visits	Grade-level advisories or morning meetings	Schoolwide mindfulness	Clean school campuses with good ventilation  P.E. and recess	All students have access to challenging and engaging curriculum	Plentiful, high-quality afterschool programs exist in the community	Universal free meal program

## Positive Conditions for Learning Lead to Students Being Engaged and Attending Regularly



- What do foundational supports look like in your school?
- What could they look like?

# Breakout rooms...

Brainstorm ideas  
for your focus  
area

Record  
your ideas

Share out ideas in  
the large  
group/add to chat

# Want to learn more about Tiered Interventions for Attendance?

Examples of tiered supports

Link to other resources for planning tiered responses for attendance

**Source:** Attendance Works; <https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/addressing-chronic-absence/3-tiers-of-intervention/>





## Social Emotional Learning Hubs

- Direct support for social emotional learning and universal mental health screening.
- The Hubs provide coaching, professional development, training, and capacity building to districts and regional offices in their area.
- Assist school-community leadership teams to implement data-driven strategies to address student trauma and mental health needs and build resilient communities.

## Resilience Supportive Schools Illinois

- **Free** and voluntary support that uses school-specific data to connect educators with evidence-informed tools and resources to improve the mental health and well-being of their school-communities. Choose a focus:
  - Trauma-responsiveness
  - Social and Emotional Learning
  - Mental Health
  - Cultural Responsiveness



# Technical Assistance / Updates



# SCG Year 2 (FY 2026) Reporting

Quarterly Metric Reports – Year 2 **New link!**

## FY 2025 Stronger Connections Grant - Year 2 (FY26) - Quarterly Metric Reports

This form is collecting information for FY 2026 (Year 2 of the FY 2025 grant activity)  
**Submission of this report quarterly is a requirement of grant.**

- Quarter 1 – July through September; **Due Oct. 20, 2025**
- Quarter 2 – October through December; **Due Jan. 20, 2026**
- Quarter 3 – January through March; **Due April 20, 2026**
- Quarter 4 – April through June; **Due July 20, 2026**

Q1 – 94% submitted

Q2 – 82% submitted



# Grantee Manual – Updates for Year 2 (FY 2026)

## Stronger Connections Grant Manual



New document on SC website

Updated reporting requirements

New quarterly metric form link

Grant timeline details

Reporting guidance and expectations

# Dates to Remember...



Quarter 2 Metric Report – due **January 20, 2026**



Next Stronger Connections Collaborative Meeting  
– **February 26, 2026**



# Questions?





# Intentional Close



## One Word...

Reflect on today's learning – tiered interventions for improving attendance. Decide on **one word** that sums up your learning for today.



# Stronger Connections Contacts



Email: [StrongerConnections@isbe.net](mailto:StrongerConnections@isbe.net)



[ISBE Stronger Connections Grant webpage](#)



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thank you