

For Immediate Release

March 7, 2024

Contact: Emmy Jess, Director of Pupil Services

jesse@ripon.k12.wi.us

(920) 748-4600

Ripon Area School District Receives Safer Communities/Stronger Connections Grant

RIPON, Wis. — Ripon Area School District has been chosen to receive \$285,787 through the DPI Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) Stronger Connections Grant which is intended to provide funding for high-need local educational agencies (LEAs) to support safe and healthy students. Budget items must align to establish safe, healthy, and supportive learning opportunities and environments for students. Ripon's plan included funding for the purchase of and training in eduCLIMBER, Responsive Classroom, and Developmental Designs.

eduCLIMBER is a data management software for intervention tracking, collaboration, effectiveness reporting, early warning, and driving system-level improvement. By utilizing this software, the District is positioned to bolster student achievement and well-being by evaluating and monitoring the effectiveness of extra instruction provided to students who may be struggling academically or with behavior.

Responsive Classroom is a four-day training program designed to help 4K-5th grade teachers create safe, joyful, and engaging classrooms and school communities for both students and teachers. Staff will dig into four key domains: engaging academics, positive community, effective management, and deeply responsive teaching. Throughout this training, professional staff will learn to help students develop strong social, emotional, and academic skills.

Developmental Designs is a four-day training program designed to help middle and high school teachers build a supportive community that assists students in academic achievement, responsible independence, and lifelong pro-social habits. The core components of the program include incorporating relationship-building, social skill-building, safe community, cultural responsiveness, and intrinsic motivation all across the school, throughout the day.

Any comments or questions, please contact Emmy Jess at (920) 748-1550.