

Schools for Strong Minds Peer Impact Grants Program RFP

Frequently Asked Questions

About the Program

What is Sapien Labs? [Sapien Labs](#) is a global 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization founded by neuroscientists in 2016. Our mission is to understand and enable the human mind.

What is Schools for Strong Minds? Schools for Strong Minds is an initiative of Sapien Labs that provides schools with a comprehensive, holistic, and data-driven picture of student mind health based on a student diagnostic, along with actionable insights on lifestyle habits, school environment, and school culture factors that drive wellbeing and academic outcomes.

What is the Peer Impact Grants program? The Peer Impact Grants program will provide grant funding, implementation support, and a structured peer community experience to 20 middle and high schools during the 2026-2027 school year to utilize Schools for Strong Minds diagnostic.

What is Mind Health? The full spectrum of cognitive, emotional, and social functioning.

What are the program's objectives?

- Bring 20 schools together in a community of practice focused on utilizing the Schools for Strong Minds diagnostic and report.
- Support schools in understanding data from the Schools for Strong Minds report.
- Support schools in identifying evidence-based strategies to address challenges and opportunities that support mind health.
- Publish in-depth case studies to enhance knowledge sharing and advance the field.

What Schools Receive

What will my school receive if selected? Selected schools will receive:

- **\$2,500 Grant:** Funding to support your school's participation in the program

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- **One-on-One Coaching:** Direct sessions with Sapien Labs staff to review and understand your Schools for Strong Minds Report data.
- **Expert Guidance:** Connections with specialists in cognitive development, student wellbeing, school culture, and teaching practices to help turn data into action using proven interventions.
- **A Community of Fellow Schools:** Opportunities to connect with other participating schools in small groups and collectively to share successes, learn from each other, and build best practices together.

Eligibility and Requirements

What type of schools can apply? Middle schools and high schools are eligible to apply.

What commitments must our school make if selected? School must:

- Assign a senior leader from the School Leader's leadership team to represent your school
- Have this designated leader actively participate in 1:1 coaching, monthly webinars, and peer exchanges
- Be willing to be featured as an example of this work (no personally identifiable student information will be shared)
- Sign confidentiality and liability agreements
- Complete all necessary program agreements and paperwork

Will you share our students' personal information? No. Sapien Labs will NOT ask for or share any personally identifiable student information. We'll focus on what's working, how you make decisions based on the Schools for Strong Minds data, and how you communicate about these initiatives.

Application and Selection

How do I apply? Schools should complete an application electronically at:
<https://www.schoolsforstrongminds.org/applications-open/>

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How will applications be evaluated? Applications are scored on a 100-point scale across four criteria:

Commitment to Student Well-being (30 Points) Evidence of programs and practices such as:

- Multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS)
- Integrated mental health programs
- Counseling and support (e.g., expanded school counselor/psychologist ratios or peer support/mentoring programs)
- Use of learning science to inform programming (e.g., curriculum and pedagogy focused on executive functions, metacognition, problem-solving and reasoning, and information processing efficiency)
- Positive school-climate frameworks
- Use of data-informed practice
- Interventions focused on food and nutrition, safe use of technology, belonging, movement and exercise, and trusting relationships between students and adults

Commitment to Participate (30 Points)

- Assign a Senior Leader (6 Points)
- Show Up and Engage (6 Points)
- Share Your Story (6 Points)
- Sign Legal Agreements (6 Points)
- Complete Required Paperwork (6 Points)

Willingness to Learn Together (25 Points) Your school demonstrates a genuine commitment to working with other schools, sharing learnings (both successes and challenges), and contributing to collective knowledge. This is evidenced by prior participation in working groups, communities of practice, or professional learning opportunities.

Proposal Quality and Completeness (15 Points)

- Clear and Well-Organized (5 Points)
- Complete and Thorough (10 Points)

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Who reviews the applications? Each application will be reviewed and independently scored by three Sapien Labs team members.

When will we be notified? Every responding school will be notified of Sapien Labs' decision by March 13, 2026.

Will there be an interview process? No, there will be no interview process.

Will we receive feedback on our proposal? Feedback on proposals will not be shared.

Is the selection decision final? Yes. The notification will be the final decision for qualification under the RFP. Sapien Labs reserves the right to reject any portions of or all proposals without giving reason for the rejection.

Questions?

If you have additional questions about the Peer Impact Grants program, please contact Sapien Labs at schools@sapienlabs.org.