



Student Support & Academic Enrichments Grants

EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY PROVISIONS

The bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) includes a flexible block grant program under Title IV, Part A (Title IV-A), which is authorized at \$1.6 billion. Title IV-A, Part A authorizes activities in three broad areas:

1 Providing students with a well-rounded education.

College and career counseling, STEM, including computer science, music and arts, civics, IB/AP

2 Supporting safe and healthy students.

Comprehensive school mental and behavioral health, drug and violence prevention, training on trauma-informed practices, health and physical education

3 Supporting the effective use of technology.

Professional development, blended learning, purchase of devices

SUPPORTING TECHNOLOGY NEEDS

In order to meet the increasing demands to effectively use educational technology in classrooms and the need for professional development, Title IV-A should receive maximum funding so that districts can adequately support the growth and expansion of digital learning in classrooms. Such an investment is necessary to create a competitive workforce, technology-proficient educators, well-equipped classrooms, sufficiently supported administrative structures, and a curriculum optimized to take advantage of the benefits technology offers to students. It is crucial that the federal government continues to invest in these key components of digital teaching and learning as schools cannot afford to make these significant investments alone.

The use of technology has opened a wide array of exciting learning avenues in classrooms—from streaming educational videos to 3D printing to hands-on-robotics. Teachers no longer stand statically in front of a chalkboard and lecture. Instead they cultivate digital resources and foster creativity by utilizing a plethora of learning devices that engage students in all aspects of learning. Rather than learning solely from their desks, students use technology to collaborate to solve real-world problems, collectively analyze and use data to create advanced science models, and sharpen their 21st Century workforce skills. Maximum funding of Title IV-A would ensure the federal government prioritizes support for the shift to modern classrooms and that all students, regardless of where they live, have the opportunity to engage in digital learning.

While the program does not require a specific portion of funds to be used on technology, at least some money must be spent on the effective use of technology activities, including but not limited to:

- Instructional support for technology
- Blended learning strategies
- Personalized learning
- Securing open and free resources
- Specialized professional development opportunities
- Hiring IT and edtech coaches
- Making technology more accessible to students with disabilities

The program also restricts school districts to using no more than 15% of their allocations for devices, software, equipment and infrastructure.

FUNDING

CURRENT FUNDING LEVEL

\$1.38B

AUTHORIZATION

\$1.6B

Robust and steady funding for Title IV-A helps ensure districts are able to provide a full array of services and learning opportunities that support the whole child, and improve academic success for all students.

HOW ARE DISTRICTS USING THE FUNDING?



Purchase digital tools and services.



Building technological infrastructure (may include assistive technology).



Provide professional development on best practices in instructional technology and virtual instruction.



Provide technology and coursework access to remote/rural/underserved areas.



Provide additional instructional support on the effective use of technology for educators.



Develop/implement personalized learning initiatives.

What would your district not be able to offer without Title IV-A funding?

“Our district was able to employ additional personnel to help bridge the learning loss and this has been successful. This effort needs to continue, but we are unsure how we will find the funds with the ESSER funding. The ESSER funding also funds our summer reading and numeracy camps and without the ESSER funds these will most certainly have to be scaled back or even discontinued without additional funding.”

— AL

“With the changing technology, our Instructional Technology Coaches are able to train our staff and/or lead them to evidence-based resources to best use in their classrooms.”

— Bensenville ESD, IL

“73% of our rural school population is considered low-income. The families we serve have limited access and resources. Title IV-A funding helps us to provide opportunities for STEM and computer sciences that they would not otherwise receive in the home or local community.”

— Dallas ESD, IL

“The use of Title IV-A funds are necessary to carryout the specialized activities and programs, such as after-school programming, enrichment opportunities for students in STEAM/STEM activities, school safety awareness and education, and educational technology that our librarians have come to use for training and purchase of materials for our staff and students.”

—Harlandale ISD, TX



**TITLE IV-A
COALITION**

www.titleiva.org