



# Student Support & Academic Enrichments Grants

## OVERVIEW & FUNDING HISTORY

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

### DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

ESSA stipulates that each state will receive an allocation based on the Title I funding formula. Using the same Title I formula, the states will then allocate funds to school districts.

**Districts receiving \$30,000 or more** must conduct a needs assessment and follow the 20/20/60 rule:

**20%** Safe and healthy students

**20%** Well-rounded education

**60%** Across any of the 3 buckets, including supporting effective ed-tech (*15% limit on devices*)

**If a district receives an allocation below \$30,000**, the law does not require a needs assessment or setting aside percentages for well-rounded and safe and healthy student programs. However, it must still direct the funds it receives toward activities in at least one of the three categories. The 15 percent technology purchase cap would continue to apply.

### 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.

## PROGRAM FUNDING NEED

As a formula-based program focused on the flexible, locally-determined use of funds, the grant is well suited for ensuring that a large number of geographically and socioeconomically diverse districts have resources they can direct in a manner that best addresses their particular needs. Title IV-A has continuously maintained bipartisan support in part because of the flexibility it affords states and districts to implement programming based on specific needs of their school communities.

In our 2023 survey of over 600 districts across the nation, the data continuously shows that district leaders appreciate the program's flexibility above all else. When asked about how districts invested in the many allowable uses across the three broad areas, districts selected a wide-range of activities including, but not limited to:

- Funding STEM and computer science,
- Music and the arts,
- Social studies,
- Literacy,
- Environmental education,
- International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement courses (IB and AP),
- Physical education,
- Health and wellness,
- Professional development for use of educational technology,
- Violence prevention,
- Behavioral and mental health supports,
- And much more.

Survey data also reveals that without these funds, the expansion of existing programs and creation of new programs would not be possible, making the amount of funding second to flexibility in terms of importance for districts. This federal investment is absolutely critical to supporting comprehensive student needs, ensuring a safe and healthy school environment, and increasing access to a well-rounded education necessary for students to thrive in a modern society and workforce.

**"Title IV-A helps fill the gaps on crucial programs like schoolwide literacy, educational technology, and safety that are often touted as important but too rarely funded. The importance on inclusiveness, addressing the needs of all of our diverse student groups, and access to a well rounded education has been paramount."**

*— Chuck Puga, Principal, Smoky Hill High School, Aurora, CO*



**For further information,  
or if any questions arise,  
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[www.titleiva.org](http://www.titleiva.org)