

## Student Support & Academic Enrichments Grants

# FY 2023 SURVEY RESULTS

The Title IV-A Coalition, an alliance comprised of dozens of national organizations working together to advocate for full funding and the successful implementation of the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants Program, conducted an informal survey of state and district leaders to collect data on the use of Title IV-A funds during the 2022-23 school year. Responses were received between March and April, 2023, from nearly 700 individuals representing 47 states.

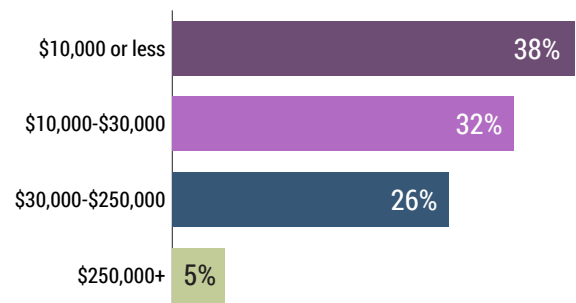
The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) authorizes activities in three broad areas under Title IV-A:

1. Providing students with a well-rounded education (e.g., college and career counseling; STEM; including computer science; music and arts, civics, IB/AP)
2. Supporting safe and healthy students (e.g., 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 (e.g. professional development, blended learning, and purchasing of devices)

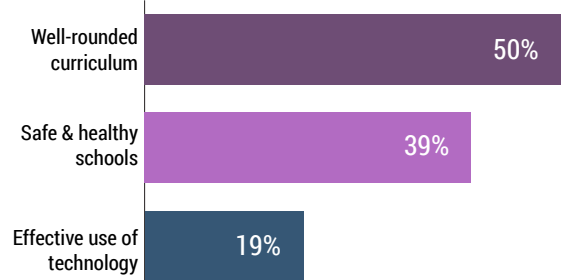
ESSA stipulates that each state will receive an allocation based on the Title I funding formula. Using the same Title I formula, the states will then allocate funds to school districts. Districts receiving \$30,000 or more must conduct a needs assessment and follow the 20/20/60 rule:

- Spend 20% on safe and healthy students
- Spend 20% on well-rounded education
- Spend 60% across any of the 3 buckets, including supporting effective ed-tech (15% limit on devices)

For FY 2022, how much did your LEA receive for Title IV-A?



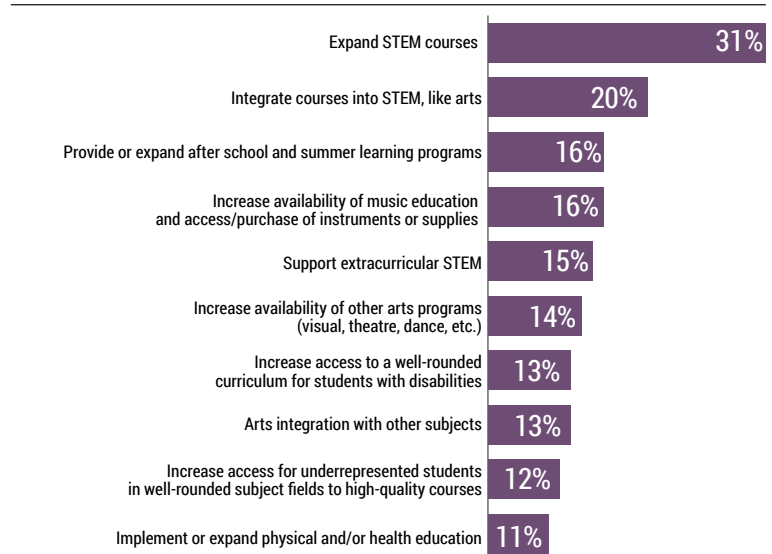
What percentage of your Title IV-A funds were used for...



Nearly 70 percent of respondents received less than \$30,000 in Title IV-A funds during the 2022-23 school year, meaning they were not required to conduct a needs assessment or allocate the funds in all three buckets. Responses were fairly evenly split between those LEAs that braided Title IV-A funds with other federal, state, or local funds to carry out Title IV-activities; and only 31.6 percent of respondents transferred Title IV-A funds to a different Title under ESSA.

During the 2022-23 school year, LEAs used 50 percent of their Title IV-A funds to increase access to a well-rounded curriculum. More than 31 percent of those respondents used the funds to support social and emotional learning, which has been essential for students who are still recovering from the trauma of the COVID-19 pandemic. “We were able to provide our middle school with much-needed SEL coaching and support by means of the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. When the time and funds expire we will likely need to discontinue this research-based intervention that has been significantly helping our middle school staff and students if we do not continue to receive other grant funding sources that can be utilized for this purpose,” Necedah Area School District, WI.

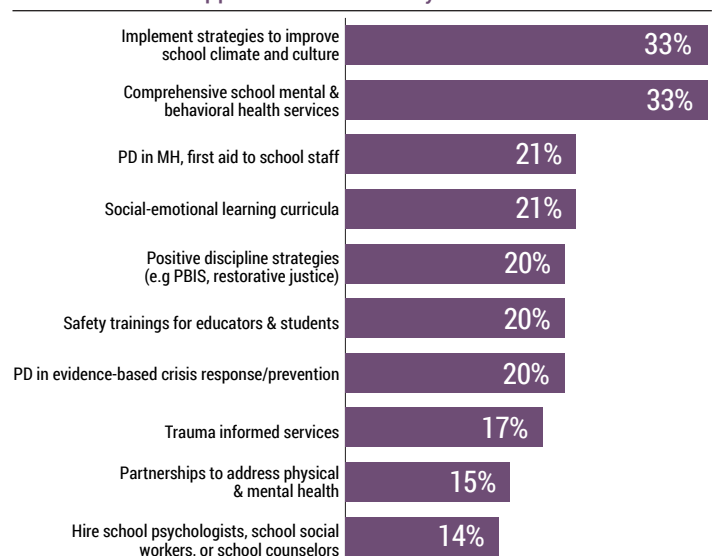
How did you invest your Title IV-A dollars to increase access to a well-rounded curriculum?



An additional 31 percent of respondents used the funds for expand STEM courses, including computer science offerings. Other LEAs increased the availability of music and arts programs, physical education, college and career counseling, and after school and summer programs. “Title IV-A funding has allowed our schools to purchase equipment, software, etc. that meets the unique needs of students coming out of the pandemic. Student social and emotional needs are more challenging than ever. These funds allow us to help meet those needs and keep those students desiring to come to school so they can learn. Being an economically challenged school system, Title IV-A funds have enabled our schools to provide musical instruments, art supplies, alternative seating, physical fitness equipment, and school safety equipment that provides for a better environment in our schools,” Smyth County Schools, VA.

Thirty-nine percent of respondents used Title IV-A funds to support safe and healthy students, and nearly a third of these LEAs increased access to comprehensive mental and behavioral health services. Another third reported using the funds to improve school climate and culture, and many districts increased student access to school counselors, school psychologists, and school social workers. Other districts offered professional development in mental health first aid, evidence-based crisis response and prevention techniques, and other school safety strategies. “Title IV-A funds have allowed us to implement school-based counseling services and provides stipends for school staff to man a hotline for students with mental health issues. With the increased mental health issues students are experiencing since

How did you invest your Title IV-A dollars to support safe and healthy students?



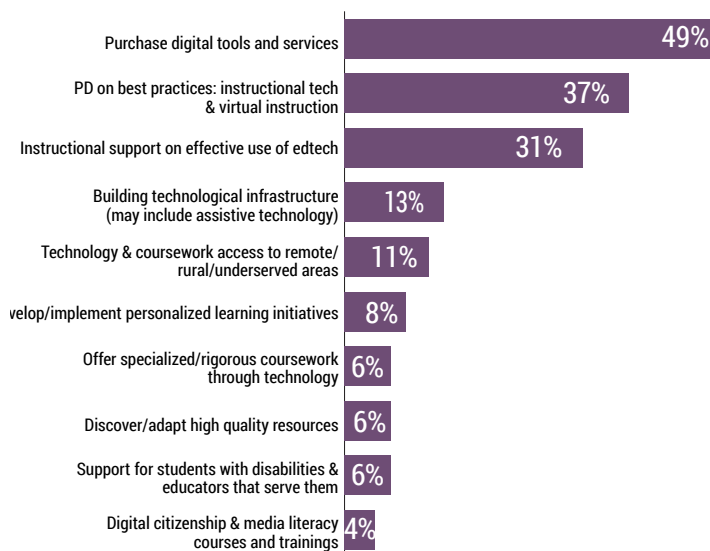
the pandemic, this funding has been crucial," Rappahannock County, VA.

Only 19 percent of respondents used Title IV-A funds to support the effective use of technology during the 2022-23 school year. Although the question was not directly asked in the survey, this could be because many districts continued used their ESSER funds on technology purchases and training during the height of the pandemic. Nearly 50 percent of districts said that Title IV-A funds were used to purchase digital tools and services, including Chromebooks, interactive white boards, and materials to expand maker space learning labs. Other districts cited professional development on best practices in virtual learning and additional instruction for educators on the effective use of technology in the classroom.

One respondent from Texas said their school district "would not have been able to improve student's digital literacy through the use of technology without the use of Title IV-A funds." He added that the funds were used "to increase students' learning experiences in technology as well as provide needed professional development for teachers and staff."

In general, superintendents and other district level leaders appreciate the flexibility of the Title IV-A program and that it allows them to fill unmet needs currently funded with state and local funds. More than 83 percent of respondents cited flexibility as the most useful aspect of Title IV-A with the ease of administration coming in a far second place. "This money is vital to a district because of the flexibility it offers. Having these funds has made a tremendous difference in how we earmark money for social and emotional well-being, technology, and parental involvement," Perry County School District #32, MO.

### How did you invest your Title IV-A dollars to increase the effective use of technology?



### What aspects of Title IV-A do you find most useful?

