

THIS IS TITLE IV-A

Student Support and Academic Enrichments Grants



Safe and Healthy Provisions

Description

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 through FY 2021. Title IV-A, Part A authorizes activities in three broad areas:

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) and
3. Supporting the effective use of technology (e.g., professional development, blended learning, and purchase of devices).

Current Funding Level

\$1.17 billion

Supporting Safe and Healthy Students

A strong system of comprehensive supports is equally as important as effective teaching in helping students achieve their academic potential. In order to achieve to their fullest potential, students must be physically, mentally, and socially healthy and feel safe. Ensuring that students have access to safe and supportive learning environments, as well as behavioral, social-emotional, and mental health services promotes student resilience, improves academic performance, and allows children and youth to successfully deal with challenges they may face.

Title IV-A should receive maximum funding so that districts can implement these evidence based approaches to improve school climate, school safety, student mental health, and the overall learning environment. Students who do not feel safe and supported do not learn to their fullest potential and it is imperative that the federal government support these necessary investments to help students thrive.

If a district receives more than \$30,000, Title IV-A requires that at least 20% of funds are used implement initiatives to support safe and healthy students including but not limited to:

- School mental and behavioral health service delivery systems
- Trauma informed policies and practices
- Bullying and harassment prevention
- Social-emotional learning
- Violence prevention programming
- Substance abuse prevention
- Improving school safety and school climate
- Designating a site resource coordinator to connect with community partners
- Mental health first aid training, and
- Professional development activities

How are districts using the funding?

Of 652 Districts Surveyed:

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS): 61.5%
Safe and Supportive Environments: 55.2%
School Based Healthy and Safety: 46.3%
Violence Prevention: 46.2%
Trauma Informed Management: 37.0%

What Educators Are Saying:

"The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District is utilizing Title IV-A funding to improve student's academic achievement by increasing the capacity of States, local educational agencies, schools, and local communities to provide all students with access to a well-rounded education, improve school conditions for student learning, and improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students.

-Vanessa Shannon, LMSW, Social Services Manager, Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, AK

Connecticut has used Title IV-A funds to and expand trauma-informed practices, reducing exclusionary discipline, and expand access to comprehensive learning supports including access to school based mental health services. Continued federal investment and maximum funding for this program, is critical to ensuring that Connecticut's schools can sustain and expand upon these important initiatives that keep our students safe and healthy and improve overall student success.

-Tom Brant, President, Connecticut Association of School Psychologists, President and Special Education Coordinator

"North East Independent School District has chosen to utilize a portion of our Title IV-A funds to support social emotional learning initiatives, as well as student mental health and well-being initiatives. We know research supports a whole child focus not just an academic one."

-Colleen Bohrmann, Executive Director, and Eric Wicker, Director of Federal Programs and College and Career Readiness, at North East ISD in San Antonio, TX