

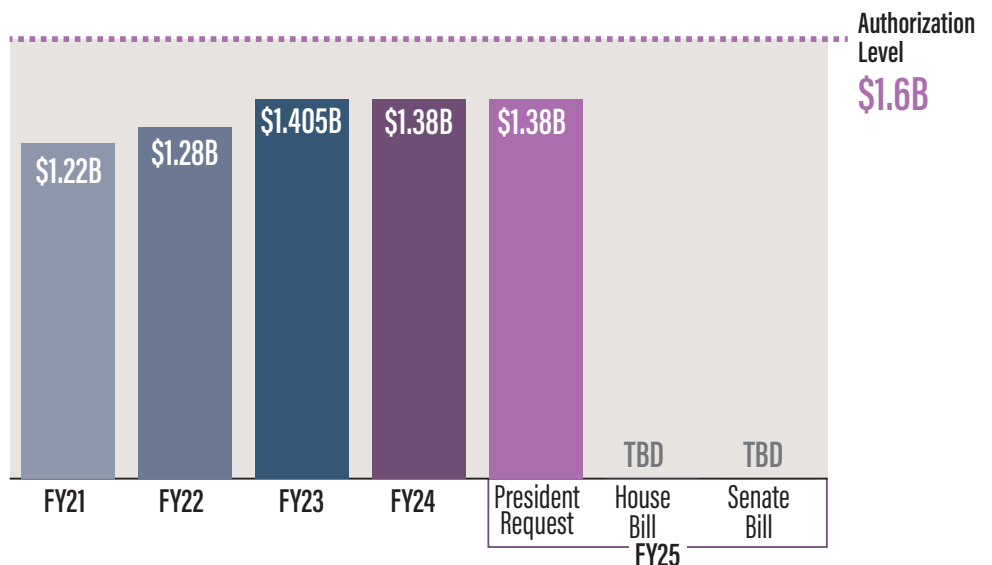
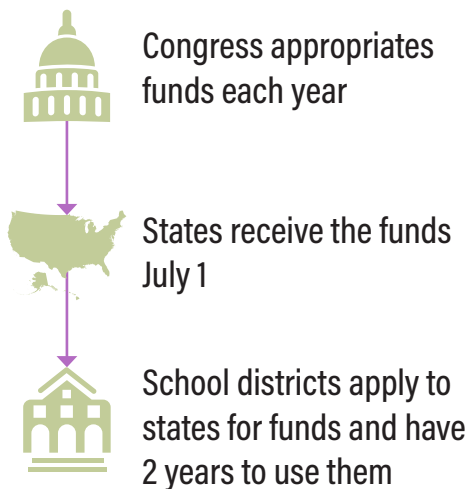


## Student Support & Academic Enrichments Grants

Authorized at \$1.6 billion, Title IV-A is a formula grant program that supports the district use of funds in three broad areas:

- 1 Providing students with a well-rounded education
- 2 Supporting safe and healthy students
- 3 Supporting the effective use of technology

The amount districts receive each year is dependent on what Congress allocates.





# 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,  
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## Student Support & Academic Enrichments Grants

# WELL-ROUNDED 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 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 WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION

Title IV-A should receive the maximum funding so that all students have access to the variety of educational opportunities — including arts and music, foreign language, social studies and civics, and science and technology — that build the foundation for success in college and career. These disciplines teach valuable skills and have a positive impact on student achievement, but they often end up on the chopping block when districts face tough budget decisions. Full funding of Title IV-A is needed to ensure that all students, including those who attend high-need schools, have opportunities to build the full range of competencies that are required to graduate ready for success in life.

Access to a well-rounded education is vital for student development. Exposure to a variety of educational experiences like STEM activities and career exploration, both in school and during afterschool and summer programming, helps young people develop lifelong relationships with learning and set goals for a bright future. Classes in the creative arts can enhance student learning in other areas, including in language development and math. When teachers integrate social-emotional learning into the classroom, they help students develop resilience and skills to achieve their goals. In high school, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes allow students to experience college-level coursework and earn credits before graduation.

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

- Arts and music
- STEM
- AP/IB
- Computer science
- Civics
- Physical education
- Social and emotional learning
- College and career counseling
- CTE
- Afterschool programs

## 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?



Expand STEM courses and provide hands-on learning opportunities in STEM, including computer science.



Provide or expand after school and summer learning programs.



Provide social and emotional learning programs.



Increase availability of music education in a variety of offerings and access/purchase instruments of supplies to enhance music education offerings.



Integrate other academic subjects into STEM subject programs or create or enhance STEAM specialty schools.

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

“We would likely have to cancel Project Lead the Way engineering courses in our high school, preventing a pathway for graduation for students, if not for Title IV funding. Our credentialed teacher is retiring in the next 2 years, and we are able to use Title IV money to get another teacher credentialed to teach the courses so we won’t have an interruption in our course offerings.”

—Fairfield Community Schools, IN

“Without Title IV, we would not be able to provide a well-rounded education. Title IV is essential to PBIS, our Music and Theater Program and intramural and competitive athletics. Additionally, Title IV supports MTSS and restorative practices in our schools.”

— Cicero School District 99, IL

“Our Social Emotional Screening tools may not have been available without this support. Additionally, our focus on improving school climate through racial equity awareness may not have happened.”

—Asheville City Schools, NC

“We were able to provide our middle school with much needed SEL coaching and support by means of 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



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## Student Support & Academic Enrichments Grants

# SAFE & HEALTHY 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 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

## 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?



Implement strategies to improve school climate and culture



Implement positive discipline strategies (e.g PBIS, restorative justice)



Increase access to comprehensive school mental and behavioral health services



Implement school safety trainings for educators and students



Provide professional development in mental health first aid to school staff



Provide professional development in evidence-based crisis response/prevention techniques

## What, if any, initiatives supported by ESSERS are you concerned may be scaled back, or discontinued, without ongoing and robust funding for Title IV-A?

“SO MANY. ESSER has supported our ability to hire more Community Field Coordinators and mental health staff. Our population of students can’t do academics without an equitable focus on social emotional support. The continuation of this focus for funding is critically important.”

— Boston, MA

“ESSERS funds were used in our division to support student learning loss and mental health. These funds allowed our division to hire additional staff to serve as transition teachers to support those students most impacted by the pandemic (2), paraprofessionals to provide remediation (2), and an additional behavior specialist to support student’s social emotional needs. Our division is currently in jeopardy of losing these services due to lack of funding from the locality.”

— Rappahannock County, VA

“We are still recovering from the time spent unable to meet with students in person. In addition we have been able to support students social and emotional needs. Across our district we are seeing these needs more significantly than ever before. Without strong funding we will not be able to respond to our students and families with the support they need to succeed academically.”

— Desert Heights Charter Schools, AZ

“Physical Education at the elementary level would possibly be scaled back to 1 or 2 grades rather than all K-5 grades.”

—Akron Fairgrove School District, MI

“Our SEL programs would be severely lacking our PLTW Biomedical Science and Engineering would be depleted as well.”

— East Gibson School Corporation, IN



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## 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



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