

TITLE II, PART A SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION

Purpose

In general, Title II funds can be used to provide supplemental activities that strengthen the quality and effectiveness of teachers, principals and other school leaders. The purpose of Title II is to:

1. Increase student achievement consistent with state standards;
2. Improve the quality and effectiveness of teachers, principals and other school leaders;
3. Increase the number of teachers, principals and other school leaders who are effective in improving student academic achievement in schools; and
4. Provide low-income and minority students greater access to effective teachers, principals and other school leaders.

North Dakota's Title II, Part A Program Funds

North Dakota annually receives approximately \$9.8 million in Title II, Part A funds. One percent of the award is reserved for state administration and approximately four percent of the award is reserved for state activities. The remainder of the funds are allocated to LEAs through the Consolidated Application for federal Title Funds.

Using Title II Funds to Support Effective Instruction

LEAs can use Title II funds for a wide range of activities to support the quality and effectiveness of teachers, principals and other school staff. Activities supported with Title II funds must:

- Be consistent with Title II's purpose (see above); and
- Address the learning needs of all students, including children with disabilities, English learners, and gifted and talented students.

ESEA law also requires LEAs to prioritize the Title II funds to priority and focus schools and schools that have the highest percentage of low-income children.

Requirements for Stakeholder Consultation when Deciding How to Use Title II Funds

Title II requires LEAs to consult meaningfully with a wide array of stakeholders on the LEA's plan for carrying out Title II activities. LEAs also must conduct ongoing consultation with those stakeholders to update and improve activities supported with Title II funds.

In carrying out the consultation with stakeholders, it is suggested the LEA considers the following activities:

- Conduct outreach to and solicit input from relevant stakeholders during the design and development of plans for Title II funds ensuring there is a diverse representation of educators from across the LEA, especially those who work in high-need schools and in early education;
- Be flexible when consulting with stakeholders, especially educators, by holding meetings or conferences outside the hours of the school day or by using a variety of communications tools, such as electronic surveys;
- Seek out diverse perspectives within stakeholder groups, when possible, and ensure that consultation is representative of the LEA as much as possible;

- Make stakeholders aware of past and current uses of Title II funds and research or analyses of the effectiveness of those uses, if available, as well as research or analyses of proposed new uses of funds, in order to consider the best uses for schools and districts to support teacher and school leader development;

Planning to Use Title II Funds

There are many allowable Title II strategies and activities. In order to achieve the highest impact, guidance suggests LEAs undertake a five-step framework:

1. Choose interventions aligned with identified local needs;
2. Consider the evidence base and the local capacity when selecting a strategy;
3. Develop a robust implementation plan;
4. Provide adequate resources so the implementation is well-supported; and
5. Gather information regularly to examine the strategy and to reflect on and inform next steps.

LEAs must use data and ongoing stakeholder consultation to continually update and improve Title II-supported activities.

Allowable Uses of Local Title II Funds

The NDDPI has a comprehensive list of allowable activities for the Title II program on its website.

Other Spending Considerations and Fiscal Rules

A. LEA-Level Administrative Costs

LEAs may reserve a portion of their Title IIA allocation for administration that is necessary and reasonable.

B. Maintenance of Effort

LEAs that receive Title II funds must comply with the maintenance of effort requirement. In short, maintenance of effort requires districts to maintain a consistent floor of state and local funding for free public education from year to year. LEAs must ensure that local and state per-pupil spending remains at 90 percent or above what was spent in the preceding year.

C. Supplement not Supplant

LEAs that receive Title II funds must comply with a supplement not supplant requirement. In general terms, this means that Title II funds should add to (supplement) and not replace (supplant) state and local not supplant compliance funds. In Title II supplanting is presumed when:

- An LEA uses Title II funds to pay for an activity that is required by federal, state or local law; or
- An LEA uses Title II funds to pay for an activity it supported with state or local funds the prior year.

D. Equitable Services

Title II funds are subject to an equitable services requirement. In short, this means LEAs must reserve funds to provide Title II services to eligible private school teachers and other educational personnel. The equitable services reservation is based on the LEA's entire Title II allocation.