

Clarification on use of Federal Title Funding

The United States Department of Education (USDE) has been slow to release guidance under ESSA. As the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) staff receives new information, we will share it with school districts.

Federal Funds for Travel

At a recent meeting with the USDE, we learned there may be rules regarding the use of federal funds for transportation. We are bringing this to your attention for informational purposes only. We have reached out to the USDE to determine the cases in which it is allowable/unallowable. We will keep you informed on the results.

Title IV – Use of Funds on Technology

At a recent meeting with the USDE, we learned that North Dakota has been implementing the Title IV 15% cap of technology incorrectly.

Federal guidance states: “...no more than 15 percent of funds for activities to support the Title IV effective use of technology strand may be used for purchasing technology infrastructure (i.e., equipment) including devices, equipment, software applications, platforms, digital instructional resources and/or other one-time IT purchases.” Last year, the NDDPI interpreted this as 15% of the overall Title IV allocation, this is incorrect. Rather, it is 15% of the total amount used within the technology strand can be used on equipment purchases.

Outlined below are a few hypothetical scenarios:

Allocation: \$10,000	
Well Rounded Total Use of Funds:	\$2,500
Safe and Healthy Total Use of Funds:	\$1,500
Effective Use Technology Total Use of Funds:	\$6,000
*Maximum that can be coded to technology infrastructure/ equipment (object code 730)	\$900 (\$6,000*15%)

Allocation: \$25,000	
Well Rounded Total Use of Funds:	\$0
Safe and Healthy Total Use of Funds:	\$0
Effective Use Technology Total Use of Funds:	\$25,000
*Maximum that can be coded to technology infrastructure/equipment (object code 730)	\$3,750 (\$25,000*15%)

Allocation: \$125,000	Note: Since this allocation exceeds \$30,000 funding must be spent in each Title IV strand.
Well Rounded Total Use of Funds:	\$100,000
Safe and Healthy Total Use of Funds:	\$20,000
Effective Use Technology Total Use of Funds:	\$5,000
*Maximum that can be coded to technology infrastructure/equipment (object code 730)	\$750 (\$5,000*15%)

Title IV – Transfer

If a district elects to transfer funds toward the Title IV program and the new amount equals \$30,000 or more in the Transfer Title IV budget, the district then meets the \$30,000 threshold and the following apply:

- District must have documentation of a comprehensive needs assessment on file
- District must use at least 20% of allocation on well-rounded
- District must use at least 20% of allocation on safe and healthy schools
- District must use a portion of funds on effective use of technology AND of this portion, no more than 15% can be used on technology infrastructure/equipment
- All parts of the STARS Consolidated Application must be completed for Title IV Part A

Transferability

If a district intends to use the transferability option, please note it must transfer the entire allocation. It is not allowable to transfer only a portion to another program.

Serving Kindergarten Students in a Title I Program

In past years, Title I teachers have been able to serve kindergarten students with their Title I elementary credential. However, now that the credentials have been repealed, Title I teachers are held to the same requirements as any teacher wanting to work with kindergarten students. Listed below are the ways, according to the Education Practices and Standards Board, a Title I teacher can be qualified to serve kindergarten students.

Highly Qualified

Teachers must have one of the following to be considered highly qualified to teach pre-kindergarten in North Dakota:

- B3 license
- Elementary education major and early childhood endorsement
- Elementary education major and a minor in early childhood education
- Elementary education major and a kindergarten endorsement. A plan of study may be granted for the kindergarten endorsement which will allow a teacher two years to complete the required coursework for the endorsement
- K-8 license. The K-8 licenses are no longer issued by ESPB. However, those who already have a K-8 license may teach pre-kindergarten
- K-6 license. The K-6 licenses are no longer issued by ESPB. However, those who already have a K-6 license may teach pre-kindergarten

If your Title I teacher isn't highly qualified to serve kindergarten, another option would be to pay your kindergarten teacher for one or more class periods if they have time to work with Title I students.