

## ESSA Title IV

### Student Support and Enrichment Grants

#### Overview

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) reauthorization refocuses schools and students from the emphasis on assessment to a more “well rounded” education experience. To accomplish this, congress revitalized Title IV; once titled Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities, which was defunded by President Obama in 2011.

#### Purpose

Under ESSA, the purpose of this new Title IV Part A program, also referred to as Student Support and Enrichment Grants, is to improve academic achievement by increasing the capacity of states educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), schools, and local communities to:

1. Provide all students with access to a well-rounded education;
2. Improve school conditions for student learning; and
3. Improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students.

While Title IV has a trio of related opportunities, data secured from a comprehensive needs assessment will help districts align achievement and growth with equally important activities and strategies which transition schools and students back to the central theme of well-rounded education.

#### Possible Uses of Funds

##### *Well Rounded*

Offer well-rounded educational experiences to all students, which may include:

- Increasing student access and improving engagement in high quality courses in STEM and computer science, music and the arts, foreign languages, accelerated learning programs, American history, environmental education, or other programs that contribute to a well-rounded education
- Reimbursing low-income students to cover parts or all costs of accelerated learning fees
- School counseling: career counseling, training, financial literacy, guidance counseling
- Addressing student attendance and engagement
- Extracurricular engagement: chess clubs, student newsletter, student involvement within school activities
- Accelerated learning programs: accelerated exam expenses, dual credit, student coursework

### *Safe and Healthy Schools*

Foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug free environments that support student academic achievement; which may include:

- Coordinating with LEAs and consortia implementing a youth PROMISE plan to reduce exclusionary discipline
- Supporting LEAs to implement mental health awareness and training programs related to students with mental health or trauma experiences, crisis training, and de-escalation training, as well as supporting the expansion of coordination and resources for school-based counseling and mental health programs
- Providing evidence-based resources to integrate health and safety into athletic programs
- Implementing best practice strategies and curriculums to promote student safety, violence and risk behavior prevention programs
- Social and emotional learning strategies
- Dropout and reentry programs
- Youth PROMISE plans
- Promoting expectations of positive behavior and trusted adult relationships through increasing protective factors

### *Supporting Technology*

Increase access to personalized, rigorous learning experiences supported by technology by:

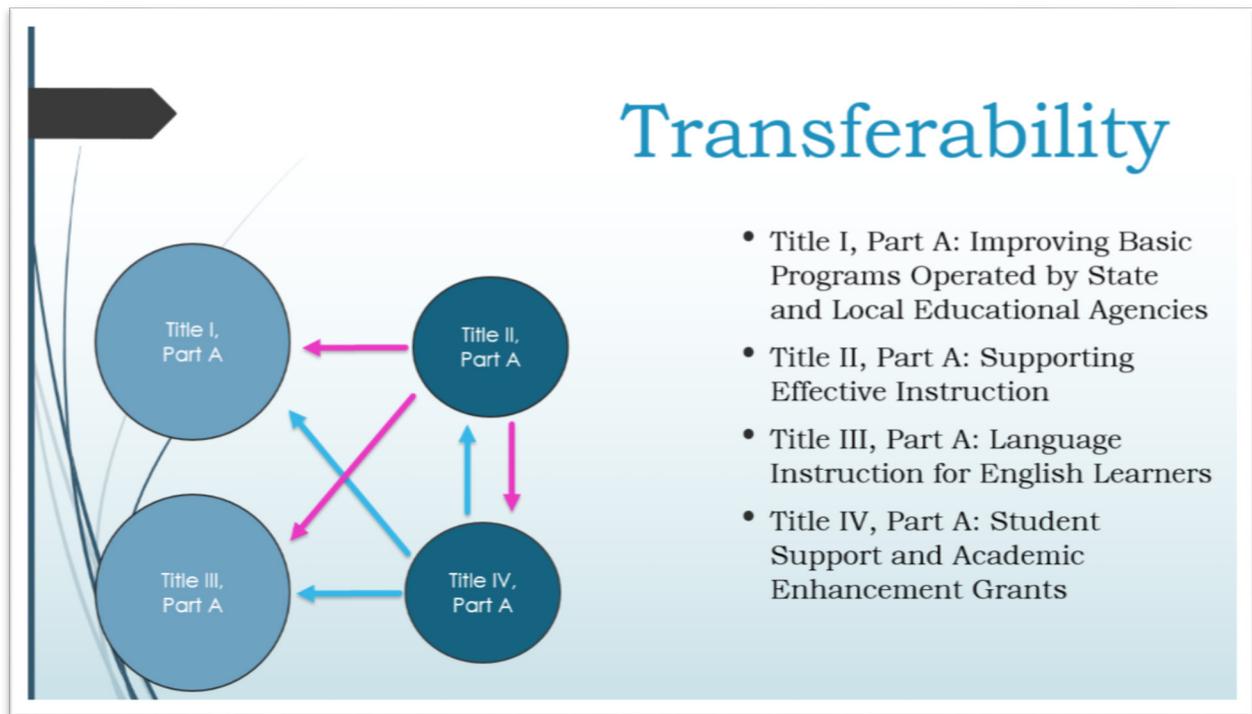
- Providing technical assistance to improve the ability of LEAs to—
  - Identify and address technology readiness needs, including infrastructure and access (devices, access to libraries, connectivity, operating systems, software, related network infrastructure, and data security)
  - Use technology, consistent with the principles of universal design for learning, to support the learning needs of all students
  - Build capacity for principals, other schools leaders, and LEA administrators to support teachers in using data and technology to improve instruction and personalize learning
  - Supporting schools in rural and remote areas to expand access to high-quality digital learning opportunities
  - Developing or using innovative or evidence-based strategies for the delivery of specialized or rigorous academic courses
  - Disseminating promising practices related to technology instruction, data security, and the acquisition and implementation of technology tools and applications
  - Providing teachers, paraprofessionals, school librarians and media personnel, and administrators with the knowledge and skills to use technology efficiently
  - Making instructional content widely available through open educational resources
  - Personalized learning content, devices, resources
  - Technological capacity and infrastructure
  - 15% maximum on equipment/technology purchases

- Specialized academic course and curricula through technology
- Blended learning
- Professional development relating to technology and academic gains

### **Transferability**

The ESSA law focuses on local control and encourages innovation and supports for well-rounded educational opportunities.

ESSA allows districts to transfer up to 10% of Title II and Title IV allocations and have the flexibility to redirect available fund to identified areas of need.



### **Summary**

By thoroughly reviewing the needs of schools, developing and implementing a comprehensive plan, schools can increase the academic opportunity and success of students.