

Understanding Federal Programs & Funding

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Federal funding provides districts with additional resources to support students, strengthen educators, and expand opportunities for learning. Each funding program has a specific purpose, and together they help ensure every student has access to a high-quality education.

Unlike California's funding system (LCFF), federal funding is provided through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

What is ESSA?

Every Student Succeeds Act

ESSA is the federal education law that governs accountability and authorizes many federal education programs. ESSA was signed into law in 2015, replacing the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

Its purpose is to:

- Improve academic achievement
- Promote educational equity
- Support schools serving high-need students
- Increase state and local flexibility
- Ensure accountability for student outcomes

ESSA Supports Four Major Areas

- Student Achievement
- Effective Educators
- English Learners
- Student Support & Enrichment

Think of ESSA as the umbrella.

Under that umbrella are several federal programs, often called Title Programs, each designed to support a different educational priority.

ESSA = the law

Titles = the funding programs created by the law

The Four Title Programs

Title I - Improving Academic Achievement

Purpose

Title I provides additional funding to schools serving higher percentages of students from low-income households. Its goal is to ensure all students have a fair opportunity to meet state academic standards.

Common Uses

Reading intervention
Math intervention
Tutoring
Extended learning
Family engagement
Supplemental instructional materials

Title II - Supporting Effective Instruction

Purpose

Title II helps districts recruit, prepare, support, and retain effective teachers, principals, and other school leaders.

Common Uses

Professional learning
Teacher mentoring
Leadership development
Instructional coaching
Recruitment & retention

Title III - Supporting English Learners

Purpose

Title III provides additional funding to improve the education of English Learners (ELs) and immigrant students. The emphasis is on helping multilingual learners develop English proficiency while achieving academically. Title III funds **supplement** required English Learner services. They do **not** replace services districts are already required to provide under state and federal law.

Common Uses

English Language Development (ELD)
Newcomer programs
Family engagement
Translation services
Professional learning

Title IV - Student Support & Academic Enrichment

Purpose

Title IV is designed around three focus areas that provide districts with flexibility to address local priorities while supporting student success.

Well-Rounded Education

Examples:

- STEM
- Arts
- College & Career Readiness

Safe & Healthy Students

Examples:

- Mental health
- School climate
- Wellness
- Bullying prevention

Effective Use of Technology

Examples:

- Devices
- Digital learning
- Educational technology