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Title IV, Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment

INTRODUCTION

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law in December 2015, which reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA).

The newly authorized under subpart 1 of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA is the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) program. The SSAE program provides SEAs, LEAs, and schools the flexibility to tailor investments based on the needs of their unique
student populations, while focusing on these three areas: Well Rounded, Safe and Healthy, and Educational Technology.

The Focus Areas in Title IV, Part A

The purpose of this subpart is to improve students’ academic achievement by increasing the capacity of States, local educational agencies, schools, and local communities:

Well-Rounded (WR) [ESEA, Section 4107]

To provide all students with access to a Well Rounded (WR) education which may include:

1. Access to all
2. Core and/or Beyond the Core Curriculums (Fine Arts, Foreign Languages, Health, and Physical Education)
3. College and Career Counseling
4. Social Emotional Learning
5. Advanced Placement opportunities (AP Exams for low-income students)
6. Supplementary endorsements (STEM, ESOL, Gifted)

Safe and Healthy (SH) [ESEA, Section 4108]

To improve school conditions for student learning (SH or “safe and healthy”) which may include:

1. Parent engagement
2. School-based mental health services
3. Reduction of exclusionary discipline
4. Promoting positive climate and culture
5. Nutritional and/or healthy lifestyle; active lifestyle habits
6. Awareness and prevention education for risk behaviors
7. Trauma-informed practices
8. Mentoring
9. Dropout programming/Re-entry
10. Skills to improve safely recognizing coercion, violence, or abuse
11. Establishing community partnerships

Educational Technology (ET) [ESEA, Section 4109]

Improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students (ET or “educational technology”) which may include:

1. 85% must be utilized for the support of professional development (Non-Regulatory Guidance)
2. STEM/STEAM PD/PL
3. Computer Science PD/PL
4. PD/PL that uses technology to impact student achievement via the development of personalized/blended learning programs
5. Discover/adapt/share educational resources
6. Computerized assessments
7. Inform/collaborate instructional strategies with web-based data
8. Digital learning technologies
9. Assistive technology
10. Infrastructure (equipment, software, applications, platforms, digital instructional resources, one-time IT purchases)—15% cap on spending (ESEA Sec. 4109(b))

What is the T4PA Center?

The Title IV-A Technical Assistance Center (T4PA Center) operates on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education (ED), Office of Safe and Supportive Schools (OSSS) and provides State Education Agencies (SEAs) with dedicated support for implementing the Title IV, Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) program.

WHAT DOES THE T4PA CENTER DO?

The T4PA Center provides SSAE State Coordinators (SCs) assistance across the program’s diverse content areas in the form of developing and disseminating high-quality resources, information, and trainings, as well as providing access to a national cadre of subject matter experts who can offer targeted technical assistance. In partnership with ED, the T4PA Center works with SCs to identify grant implementation needs, develop a tailored plan to address these needs, and broker support to build capacity at the state and local levels to help ensure Title IV, Part A programmatic success.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Providing Dedicated TA Liaison Support to SCs.
- Operating a Help Desk
- Conducting Needs Assessments
- Developing Customized Training and Technical Assistance Plans
- Identifying and Creating Resources, Trainings, and Other Materials
- Developing a National Network of Subject Matter Experts
- Operating a SC-dedicated Community of Practice

PRIORITY CONTENT AREAS

- Well-Rounded Education (WRE)
- Safe and Healthy Students (SHS)
- Effective Use of Technology (EUT)

GOALS

- Serve the needs of the Title IV-A State Coordinators
- Collaborate with Federal partners and other organizations
• Help facilitate ED’s goals for program success

Summary

The T4PA Center supported by U.S. Department of Education is a resource not only for OSDE but, also the districts. For OSDE, it offers a two tiered flow of information. The Technical Assistance Liaison as well as the assigned USDE Management and Program Analyst help with Title IV-A questions and by providing training opportunities to help OSDE serve the districts fully. Also, it serves as a conduit to connect with other states allowing a follow of information and sharing of best practices.

For the districts, the T4PA Center website is available to provide resources including a Resource Library, Searchable Statute, Announcements, Upcoming Events, SPOTLIGHT just to name a few.

To get to the T4PA Center website go to: https://t4pacenter.ed.gov/.

Visit Us Online: Office of Federal Programs Webpage

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