



Title IV, Part A Executive Summary

Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

Introduction

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) became law in December 2015, reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). This reauthorization created the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) program under subpart one of Title IV, Part A (Title IVA) of the ESEA.

Program Purpose and Intent

The purpose of the SSAE program is to improve students’ academic achievement by increasing the capacity of the Iowa Department of Education (Department), school districts, and local communities to improve:

- Access to, and opportunities for, a **well-rounded education** for all students (ESEA § 4107);
- School conditions for student learning to create a healthy and safe school environment (**safe and healthy students**; ESEA § 4108); and
- Access to personalized learning experiences supported by technology and professional development for the **effective use of technology** and data (ESEA § 4109).

The intent of this program is to create and/or provide supplemental (i.e., additional) educational programs, activities, and training to improve students’ academic achievement in the three content areas.

Grant Requirements

To participate in the SSAE program, a school district or consortium of districts (here forward “district”) must complete a small number of requirements. The Department has integrated these requirements into the overall ESSA planning and implementation process in the Consolidated Accountability and Support Application (CASA). The requirements, along with recommended actions to improve program implementation and efficacy, are outlined in Table 1 by total funding amount available in the CASA.

$$\text{Total Available} = \text{Carryover (District Share + Equitable Share for Services)} + \text{Current Year Allocation (District Share + Equitable Share)} + \text{Transferred In}$$

Table 1. Action, ESEA Citation, and Applicability by Total Amount Available in the CASA.

Action	Total Available is less than \$30,000	Total Available is \$30,000 or more
Consider how other federal, state, and/or local funds may be leveraged to achieve the goals of the SSAE program, including indicating whether the district wishes to participate in a consortium of districts.	Recommended	Recommended

Action	Total Available is less than \$30,000	Total Available is \$30,000 or more
Consult the required stakeholders during design and development of the application.	Required (ESEA § 4106(c)(1))	Required (ESEA § 4106(c)(1))
Engage in nonpublic consultation with appropriate nonpublic school officials, including submitting initial nonpublic consultation agreements in the CASA.	Required if district has a nonpublic within its bounds (ESEA §§ 8501-8504)	Required if district has a nonpublic within its bounds (ESEA §§ 8501-8504)
<p>Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment prior to applying for funds, and at least every three years, to examine needs for improvement in the three content areas. Based on the assessment results, the district must use:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least 20% of funds for activities to support well-rounded educational opportunities (ESEA § 4107); 2. At least 20% of funds for activities to support safe and healthy students (ESEA § 4108); and 3. A portion of funds for activities to support effective use of technology (ESEA § 4109). <p>See Table 2 for additional information on content area funding requirements.</p>	Recommended	Required for districts and their participating nonpublic schools (ESEA § 4106(d))
Select relevant, evidence-based SSAE activities that align with the needs identified in the comprehensive needs assessment (if applicable).	Recommended unless selecting an activity that includes “evidence-based” language (i.e., several activities under section 4108)	Required (ESEA § 4109(a))
Complete nonpublic consultation agreements in the CASA, including finalizing the descriptions of equitable services to be provided by the district to nonpublic schools now that the equitable share is available and transferring equitable shares (if applicable).	Required if district has a participating nonpublic (ESEA §§ 8501-8504)	Required if district has a participating nonpublic (ESEA §§ 8501-8504)
Fill out the Consolidated Application between September 1 and October 15, including completing Title IVA program questions, assurances, and budgets. Examples of allowable SSAE activities are described in Table 3.	Required (ESEA § 4106(e)(1)-(2))	Required (ESEA § 4106(e)(1)-(2))
Develop an implementation plan, informed by input from stakeholders, to set up the district for successful implementation.	Recommended	Recommended

Action	Total Available is less than \$30,000	Total Available is \$30,000 or more
Implement SSAE activities by collecting information and data about how implementation of the activities is working (i.e., performance monitoring, rigorous evaluation) and make necessary changes along the way.	Required for annual report (ESEA § 4106(e)(2)(F))	Required for annual report (ESEA § 4106(e)(2)(F))
Continue consultation with the required stakeholders during implementation of selected SSAE activities to improve such activities and coordinate implementation with other related community activities.	Required (ESEA § 4106(c)(2))	Required (ESEA § 4106(c)(2))
File reimbursement claims quarterly in the CASA.	Required	Required
Evaluate the effectiveness of the SSAE activities for inclusion in the annual report in the CASA, including examining how the activity is working and using the information and data collected to decide about mid-course correction and next steps.	Required for the annual report (ESEA § 4106(e)(2)(F))	Required for the annual report (ESEA § 4106(e)(2)(F))
Submit an annual report in the CASA regarding the district's progress and nonpublic school's progress (if applicable) toward meeting the outcomes identified in the year's Title IVA application.	Required (ESEA § 4106(e)(2)(F))	Required (ESEA § 4106(e)(2)(F))

For a more detailed list of these actions, see the Title IVA Guidance on the [ESSA Guidance and Allocations](#) page.

Table 2. Content Area Funding Requirements by Total Amount Available in the CASA.

Total Available is less than \$30,000	Total Available is \$30,000 or more
<p>Must use at least one of the following based on the results of the recommended comprehensive needs assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 20% of funds for activities related to well-rounded educational opportunities; At least 20% of funds for activities related to safe and healthy students; and/or A portion of funds for activities related to effective use of technology.* 	<p>Must use all of the following based on the results of the required comprehensive needs assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 20% of funds for activities related to well-rounded educational opportunities; At least 20% of funds for activities related to safe and healthy students; and A portion of funds for activities related to effective use of technology.*
<p><i>*No more than 15% of the total amount available in the CASA may be spent on "Technological capacity and infrastructure." This line item is defined as property, devices, equipment, software applications, blended learning software and platforms, digital instructional resources (e.g., textbook substitutes, digital licenses, online subscriptions), initial professional development activities, and other one-time information technology purchases.</i></p>	

Allowable Activities

Table 3 provides examples of activities school districts may consider as they prepare for SSAE program implementation. Allowable uses of funds under each of the three content areas may include (but are not limited to):

- Direct services for students,
- Professional development for teachers and administrators,
- Salaries of personnel to carry out the identified supplemental programs and services, and
- Supplemental educational resources and equipment.

Note on Determining Allowability

It is important to understand that allowability is dependent on several factors specified in the ESEA. For guidance, see the Determining Allowability of Title IVA Activities guidance on the [ESSA Guidance and Allocations](#) page.

Table 3. Examples of Allowable SSAE Uses*

Well-Rounded Education	Safe and Healthy Students	Effective Use of Technology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World language instruction • Fine arts instruction • Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), including computer science • Social studies instruction • College and career counseling • Social emotional learning • Accelerated learning programs, including dual or concurrent enrollment and Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing bullying and harassment • School dropout prevention • Re-entry programs and transition services for justice-involved youth • Suicide prevention • Drug and violence prevention • Health and safety practices in school athletic programs • School-based health and mental health services • Healthy, active lifestyle education • Mentoring and school counseling • Schoolwide positive behavioral interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative blended learning projects • Technological capacity and infrastructure (15% cap) • Specialized or rigorous academic technological courses and curricula, including digital learning and assistive technologies • Professional learning tools, devices, content, and resources to personalize learning and improve academic achievement

*Note: This table provides examples of allowable activities and is not exhaustive. Please consult the [statute](#) for more information.

Additional Guidance

For additional Title IVA guidance, see the Department’s [ESSA Guidance and Allocations page](#) or contact Hannah Walsh, Consultant for Title IVA, at hannah.walsh@iowa.gov.