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). Newly authorized under subpart one of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA is the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) program. 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;
- School conditions for student learning to create a healthy and safe school environment (safe and healthy students); and
- Access to personalized learning experiences supported by technology and professional development for the effective use of technology.

Recently, Iowa's ESSA plan received final approval from the federal government. Since approval was granted, the Department will calculate each districts' allocation from the State allocations for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2017 (approximately $2.5 million) and FFY 2018 (approximately $6.6 million).

Grant Requirements
To participate in the SSAE program, school districts must complete a small number of requirements. The Department has integrated these steps into the overall ESSA planning and implementation process. These requirements include:

1. Engaging stakeholders. During the design and development of its application, a district must engage in consultation with area stakeholders. Districts must also engage in nonpublic consultation.

2. Completing the Consolidated Application, including budget and assurances, between September 1 and October 15. A district must complete the Consolidated Application, which will be conducted in the Consolidated Accountability and Support Application (CASA), between September 1 and October 15. Funds will be disbursed quarterly and on a reimbursement basis. To receive the first quarter payment, the Consolidated Application must be submitted.

3. Conducting a comprehensive needs assessment. A district that receives at least $30,000 in SSAE program funds must conduct a comprehensive needs assessment prior to receiving its allocation to examine its needs for improvement in the three content areas. Based on the assessment results, the district or consortium must use:
   a. At least 20% of funds for activities to support well-rounded educational opportunities,
   b. At least 20% of funds for activities to support safe and healthy students, and
   c. A portion of funds for activities to support effective use of technology.

4. Developing an action plan. A school district must describe proposed SSAE activities and programming related to the three content areas. Allowable SSAE activities are described below.

5. Submit annual reports. A school district must submit annual reports regarding how SSAE funds are being used in the CASA.

Iowa Department of Education guidance should be viewed as advisory unless it's specifically authorized by state statute, according to Iowa Code section 256.9A as enacted by Senate File 475. This does not apply to administrative rules, declaratory orders, or materials required by federal law or courts.
Allowable Activities

Table 1 provides examples of activities school districts or a consortium of 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 identified programs and services, and
- Supplemental educational resources and equipment.

Table 1. Examples of Allowable SSAE Uses*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Well-Rounded Education</th>
<th>Safe &amp; Healthy Students</th>
<th>Effective Use of Technology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• World language instruction</td>
<td>• Preventing bullying and harassment</td>
<td>• Professional learning tools, devices, content, and resources to personalize learning and improve academic achievement</td>
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<td>• Library programming</td>
<td>• School dropout prevention</td>
<td>• Technological capacity and infrastructure</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Fine arts instruction</td>
<td>• Re-entry programs and transition services for justice-involved youth</td>
<td>• Innovative blended learning projects</td>
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<td>• Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), including computer science</td>
<td>• Suicide prevention</td>
<td>• Specialized or rigorous academic technological courses and curricula, including digital learning and assistive technologies</td>
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<td>• Social studies instruction</td>
<td>• Drug and violence prevention</td>
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<td>• College and career counseling</td>
<td>• Health and safety practices in school athletic programs</td>
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<td>• Social emotional learning</td>
<td>• Healthy, active lifestyle education</td>
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<td>• Accelerated learning programs, including dual or concurrent enrollment and AP or IB</td>
<td>• Mentoring and school counseling</td>
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<td>• Schoolwide positive behavioral interventions</td>
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<td>• Physical education instruction</td>
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*Note: This table provides examples of allowable activities and is not exhaustive. Please consult the statute for more information.

Next Steps and Additional Guidance

The Department will hold webinars and on-site workshops to assist districts in completing their ESSA applications. For more information on Iowa’s ESSA implementation and training schedule, including archived and upcoming webinars, see the ESSA School Improvement Timeline.

For additional Title IV, Part A guidance, see the Department’s Every Student Succeeds Act webpage or contact Hannah Walsh, Coordinator for Title IV, Part A, at Hannah.Walsh@iowa.gov.