

Title IV, Part A funds: Student Support and Academic Enrichment Allowable Uses

Use of this Document

This document is designed to support LEAs and schools in identifying potential allowable uses of Title IV, Part A funds. This should not be considered an exhaustive list, nor does it guarantee that an activity listed will be considered allowable for each sub-grantee; allowability is also based on a data-driven assessment of local needs.

Purpose of Title IV, Part A

The purpose of Title IV, Part A is to improve students' academic achievement by increasing the capacity of the State, LEAs, and schools to:

- provide all students with access to a well-rounded education,
- improve school conditions for student learning, and
- promote the effective use of technology in supporting academic achievement and digital literacy of all students

Requirements

Applications for the use of Title IVA funds must include a description of how the proposed activity (or group of activities) will be evaluated for effectiveness. It may be helpful to consider the following questions when developing the Title IVA application:

- How will we know if the strategy worked or is working as intended?
- What specific evaluation methods will be used to measure the success of this activity?
- What benchmarks are needed along the way to show the program/activity is working?
- What are the indicators of success?

Allowable Uses

Activities to Support Well-Rounded Educational Opportunities

LEAs may use Title IVA funds to provide well-rounded educational experiences to all students, including those students who are often underrepresented in critical and enriching subjects.

This may include increasing access to, improving engagement, and strengthening instruction in:

Contact Information:

If you have questions about this document or would like additional information, please contact: Katy Preston, State Title IV Director & State Coordinator for Homeless Education, Consolidated Federal Programs, at katy.preston@vermont.gov or 802-828-1468.

- Music & Arts
- World Languages
- Environmental Education
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Physical & Health Education
- American history, civics, economics, geography, social studies, or government education
- STEM/STEAM, including:
 - Providing hands-on learning opportunities and exposure to STEM subjects (field-based learning and service learning)
 - Supporting participation in non-profit competitions related to STEM subjects (e.g., robotics, science research, mathematics, computer science, invention, technology)
 - Facilitating collaboration to improve the integration of STEM instruction into school and/or out-of-school time programs
 - Integrating other academic subjects into the STEM curricula to increase participation
- Accelerated & Gifted Learning, including:
 - Increasing availability and enrollment in Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, dual or concurrent enrollment programs, and early college high school courses
 - Counseling, mentoring, or other programs that develop study skills and critical thinking
 - Reimbursing low-income students for fees associated with accelerated learning exams
- Other programs and activities that contribute to increasing the breadth of educational opportunities available to all students, including strategies that:
 - Support College & Career Readiness
 - Are designed to decrease drop-out rates/increase high school graduation rates
 - Promote volunteerism and community involvement
 - Integrate multiple disciplines (e.g., combining art and mathematics)

Activities to Support Safe and Healthy Schools

LEAs may use Title IVA funds to provide comprehensive programs and activities that foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free environments that support student academic achievement.

This may include, but is not limited to:

Student Physical & Mental Health

- Nutrition education
- Physical education
- Chronic disease management
- Evidence-based drug and violence prevention activities/programs

- Mentoring and school counseling
- Integrating health and safety practices into school or athletic programs
- School-based mental health services partnership programs with public or private mental health/health care entities that provide comprehensive school-based mental health services and staff development
- Expanding access to school-based counseling and mental health programs

Safe & Supportive Schools

- Promoting supportive school discipline practices
- Bullying and harassment prevention
- Establishing or improving school dropout prevention and reentry programs
- Promoting integrated systems of student and family support
- Establishing learning environments and enhancing effective student learning skills that support school readiness and academic success
- Implementing school-wide positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS)

Professional Development & Training

- Suicide prevention
- School-based violence prevention strategies
- Crisis management, de-escalation, and conflict resolution
- Human trafficking
- Drug abuse prevention
- Bullying and harassment prevention
- Trauma-informed classroom management
- Students' social-emotional learning/mental health needs and effective ways to address them in the classroom

Activities to Support the Effective Use of Technology

LEAs may use funds to provide programs and activities that increase access to personalized learning experiences supported by technology, build capacity of educators to integrate technology into the classroom, and improve students' digital literacy.

Allowable strategies may include:

Programs & activities to support:

- Digital literacy and citizenship
- Effective integration of technology and the use of open educational resources
- Providing personalized learning opportunities to improve student academic achievement
- Developing effective strategies for the delivery of academic courses and curricula using technology, including digital learning and assistive technology
- Providing students in rural/under-served areas with resources to take advantage of high-quality digital learning, digital resources, and access to online courses taught by effective educators

Professional Development & Training

- Using technology effectively in the classroom, including administering computer-based assessments and blended learning strategies
- Implementing school- and district-wide approaches for using technology to inform instruction, support teacher collaboration, and personalize learning
- Using technology to increase student achievement in STEM

Blended Learning Projects

- Implementing blended learning projects that include technology-based and face-to-face instruction, and combine digital, supervised, and student-led learning.

These projects *must* include:

- Planning activities (e.g., development of new instructional models, purchase of digital instructional resources, initial professional development activities, and one-time information technology (IT) purchases)
- Ongoing professional development to support implementation and academic success of the project

Technology Infrastructure

- Increasing technological capacity and improving infrastructure, including procuring content and ensuring content quality
- Purchasing devices, equipment, and software applications to address readiness shortfalls

Prohibited Uses

Title IVA funds may not be used for the following activities:

- Construction, renovation, or repair of any school facility
- Transportation, unless otherwise authorized
- To develop or distribute materials, or operate programs or courses of instruction directed at youth, that are designed to promote or encourage sexual activity
- To distribute, or to aid in the distribution by any organization of, legally obscene materials to minors on school grounds
- To provide sex education or HIV-prevention education in schools unless the instruction is age-appropriate and includes the health benefits of abstinence
- To operate a program of contraceptive distribution in schools
- The provision to any person of a dangerous weapon or training in the use of a dangerous weapon (defined in 18 U.S. Code §930(g)(2) as a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocketknife with a blade of less than 2 ½ inches in length)
- Program evaluations—Title IVA funds are meant for direct services or programs
- Technology infrastructure costs that exceed 15% of the total funds allocated toward the Effective Use of Technology content area

- Construction to build capacity for technology and/or tech infrastructure
- Costs associated with the purchase and/or storage of weapons or weapons training
- Medical services, drug treatment, or rehabilitation
- Mental health assessments or services for a child who is under 18 years old for which prior written, informed consent from the parent has not been obtained

Allowability Considerations

Programs and activities supported by Title IVA funds must:

- Be consistent with the intent and purposes of Title IVA
 - How does the proposed activity create or expand supplemental educational programs, activities, or training in one of the three content areas?
 - How does the proposed activity increase student academic achievement?
- Be reasonable and necessary to carry out the purpose of the grant
 - What is the identified need that this proposed activity is meeting?
 - How was this need determined? Is there data available to support this identified need? What data sources were consulted and what did those sources reveal?
 - What is the breadth of impact that this activity will have?
 - Are all associated costs reasonable?
 - Do the involved parties (schools, principals, teachers, etc.) have the capacity to engage in and/or implement this activity right now?
- Be allocable to the grant
 - Is the activity chargeable to the grant in proportion to the benefits received as a result of the cost?
- Be used to supplement, not supplant, state and local funds
 - Title IVA funds may not be used for activities that are required by federal, state, or local law or regulation, or for activities that were previously funded by other state or local funding.