

ESSER/ Federal Funds for Professional Learning



This document outlines how an investment in a professional learning solution, such as PowerSchool’s Professional Learning, can be realized by leveraging federal funding, including COVID emergency relief funds.

Funding Professional Learning Solutions: At-a-glance

Funding Source	Purpose	Solution Alignment with Allowable Uses
ESSER II (CRSSA) ESSER III (ARP)	ESSER funds are purposed to meet student, staff, school, and district needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Key allowable uses of include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing student academic and social emotional needs Ensuring continuity of operations 	Professional Learning can help instructional leaders support shifts in teacher practices needed to address impacts of the pandemic on their students, including during interruptions to in-person operations.
ESEA Title I Part A	The purpose of Title I Part A is to provide supplemental support to students most at-risk to not meet challenging academic standards.	Professional Learning provides targeted training to staff serving eligible students in support of closing achievement gaps, an allowable use of Title I funds. As always, be mindful that funds are applied proportionally in the service of eligible schools, staff, and students.
ESEA Title II Part A	The purpose of Title II is to improve the quality and effectiveness of educators, increase the number of educators who are effective in improving student academic achievement in schools, and provide low-income and minority students greater access to effective educators.	Title II funds align strongly to the purposes of Professional Learning products. This solution, whose core purpose is the improvement of instruction, speaks directly to the allowable uses of Title II.
ESEA Title IV Part A	The purpose of Title IV is to provide students with access to a well-rounded education, improve school conditions for student learning, and improve the use of technology.	Title IV funds may be applied to an investment in Professional Learning to the extent that is supports the intents of these funds. Additionally, a portion of Title IV funds may be applied to simply improving technology infrastructure, including through software.

ESSER Funds for Professional Learning

Unpacking the Professional Learning Funding Details

Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds

Professional learning enables remote professional development for educators, supporting them in instructional shifts to address impacts of the pandemic on their students and may be an allowable use of local ESSER funds. Allowable uses of ESSER funds include:

- Addressing learning loss among all students, in all subgroups
- Funding all activities authorized under The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, including Title I, Title II, and Title IV
- Developing and implementing procedures and systems that improve the preparedness and response efforts of LEAs
- Other activities necessary to maintain operations and continuity of services

If your district experienced any of the impacts of the pandemic below, it is highly likely that ESSER funds can support an investment in Professional Learning.

- A need to implement key shifts in how educators support students to address impacts of the pandemic
- A need to implement more targeted professional learning in response to individual teacher needs and to provide remote access to training
- A need to track teacher professional learning attendance, completion, and credentialization, including during interruptions to in-person operations

Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) – Reauthorized as Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Title I Part A

The intent of Title I Part A is to close achievement gaps and to provide supplemental support to students most at-risk to not meet challenging academic standards. Allowable uses of Title I Part A include professional development for staff that support eligible students, closely aligned to an investment in a professional learning solution. As always, be mindful of allocability and supplanting requirement when leveraging Title I Part A at the LEA level.

Title II Part A

The intent of Title II Part A is to improve student outcomes through increased access to high-quality instruction. Title II is typically leveraged towards professional development activities as well as efforts to recruit and retain effective staff. These intents are clearly aligned to an investment in professional learning solution. Unlike Title I, Title II can be applied at the LEA level free of school or student eligibility considerations.

Title IV Part A

Title IV funds may be used to promote the effective use of technology in teaching and learning, primarily through professional development, as well as to increase student access to well-rounded learning opportunities and to promote safe and healthy learning environments. To the extent that an investment in professional learning solution achieves these intents, Title IV funds may be leveraged. Additionally, a portion of Title IV funds may be used towards simply improving district technology infrastructure, including through software subscriptions. Like all federal funds, be mindful of allocability and supplanting requirements when applying Title IV, which, like Title II, can be leveraged at the LEA level free of school or student eligibility requirements.