



ESSA Title II-A Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants Program

Request: Provide at least level funding -- \$2.055 billion -- in FY18 and FY19

Background:

The Importance of Effective Educators

Research shows that effective teachers and school leaders significantly influence student achievement. High quality professional development plays an important role in ensuring all students are served by effective educators, but not all teachers and leaders have access to the professional capacity building they need to thrive, especially educators working in small and isolated districts. Among other learning and growth opportunities, the nation's educators need greater access, including online access, to professional development that is ongoing and connected to practice, focused on student learning, and aligned to school improvement goals.

Title II-A -- Revised and Strengthened in ESSA

Congress recognized this systemic need, and during a time when many programs were being eliminated or consolidated, policy makers used the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to renew the federal commitment to Title II-A. This included affirming the program's ed tech emphasis on helping teachers and school leaders effectively integrate technology into curricula and instruction and promoting high-quality instruction and instructional leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects, including computer science.

The reauthorized Title II-A - the Supportive Effective Instruction State Grants Program - serves as a vital federal supplement to State and school district efforts to ensure that educators have access to high quality professional development, including online. The new program incorporated new evidence requirements and a more rigorous definition of professional development. Further, its revamped formula program benefits every State and school district, including by helping educators use education technology, increase content knowledge and classroom practices; promoting leadership, coaching, and mentoring; offering specialized training to meet student needs; and implementing support for effective instructional materials and innovative technologies. This training funding includes a focus on equipping educators with the knowledge and skills they need to use technology for instruction, conduct data analysis and protect student privacy, communicate effectively with students and families, use assessments for learning, and more.

The Fight for Funding

Despite the bipartisan reauthorization of Title II-A in ESSA, the President's fiscal year 2018 and 2019 budgets requested no money for Title II-A. The full House followed the President's request and voted to approve a fiscal year 2018 U.S. Department of Education spending bill without any Title II-A funding. Fortunately, the Senate Appropriations Committee chose to continue funding Title II-A in its version of fiscal year 2018 spending legislation.