



Creating a Well Rounded Education

Title IV of the Every Student Succeeds Act

May 2016

Every Student Succeeds Act

- Signed into law December 10, 2015
- First overhaul of federal K-12 education policy in 15 years
- Significant devolution of decision making back to the states in reaction to No Child Left Behind
- New opportunities for class time, support and resources
- BUT.... work will be required at the state, local and federal levels to convert opportunities into action
- States will write new plans to describe how they will qualify for and use federal funds
- Plans require descriptions of how all students will have access to a well-rounded education
- Funding for a well-rounded education is provided specifically through Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

- Formula grants to states
- Purpose:
 - provide all students with a well rounded education
 - improve school conditions for learning
 - improve the use of technology
- States write plans and provide assistance to LEAs
- At least 95% of funding must go to school districts
- State plan describes how states will support LEAs in providing programs and activities that offer a well rounded education to all students

SSAE Grants Cont'd

- What is a well-rounded education? May include:
 - STEM
 - music and the arts
 - foreign language
 - accelerated programs (AP, IB)
 - American history, civics, economics, geography, government
 - environmental education
 - financial education
 - or other courses as determined by the state

SSAE Grants Cont'd

- Funds may also be used to:
 - reimburse students for cost of taking advanced exams
 - foster safe, drug-free environments
 - implement plan to reduce exclusionary discipline
 - implement mental health programs
 - expand school-based counseling and mental health
 - integrate safety practices in school and athletic programs
 - *identify technology needs*
 - *use technology to support student learning*
 - *offer technology training to teachers and leaders*
 - *expand access to digital technology*
- **It's great to have big hardware and software firms advocating for the SSAE Grants funding, but they will potentially be tough competition for resources at the state and local levels.**

SSAE Grants Cont'd

- Assuming a sufficient appropriation, the minimum grant per LEA to carry out these activities is \$10,000
- LEAs may form consortia to achieve critical mass of funding
- LEAs must perform needs assessments to inform their plans unless they receive less than \$30,000
- Needs assessments must be repeated at least every 3 years
- ESSA authorized about \$1.6 billion in FY 2017. President's budget requested less than \$600 million.

SSAE Grants Cont'd

- In putting together SSAEG plans, LEAs must consult with:
 - parents
 - teachers
 - principals and school leaders
 - specialized instructional support personnel
 - students
 - community based organizations
 - local government representatives
 - Indian tribes or tribal organizations
 - charter schools
 - others with relevant, demonstrated expertise

SSAE Grants Cont'd

- LEA plans must describe activities, including how the plan focuses resources on highest need schools
- At least 20% of funds must be used for well-rounded education activities

Plans, Plans, Plans

- ***Social Studies advocates should know:***

- *Who will write your state plan?*
- *Who will convene the group?*
- *Who will influence the group?*
- *Who will represent social studies?*

- *Who will write your LEA plan?*
- *Who will convene the group?*
- *Who will influence the group?*
- *Who will represent social studies?*