



Title IV, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act – ‘Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants’

One of the many new opportunities within the “[Every Student Succeeds Act](#)” (ESSA) is a new flexible block grant titled Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grant, which was created under Title IV, Part A. Designed by a bipartisan effort, SSAE may be used to provide states and school districts supplemental funding to three broad areas:

- 1) **Providing students access to a well-rounded education (e.g. music and arts),**
- 2) Supporting safe and healthy students (e.g. comprehensive school mental health, drug and violence prevention, training on trauma-informed practices, health and physical education) and
- 3) Supporting the effective use of technology (professional development, blended learning, devices).

Distribution and Eligibility of Funds

Although the grant is **not** limited to Title I schools, the Title IV block grant utilizes the same formula-to-formula funding methodology as Title I (Title I, Part A, Subpart 2). Each state will receive an allocation based on the Title I funding formula. Using the same Title I formula, the states will then allocate funds to school districts.

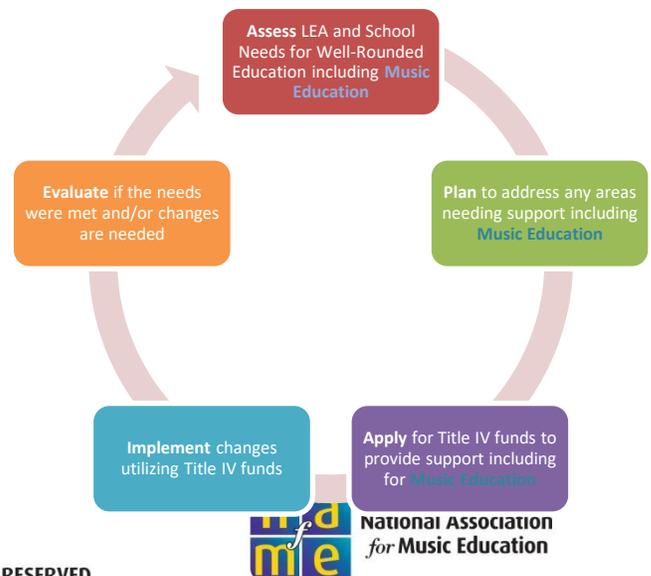
Any school district that receives a formula allocation **above \$30,000 MUST conduct a needs assessment** and then must expend 20 percent of its grant on safe and healthy school activities and 20 percent on activities to provide well-rounded education programs. The remaining 60% of the money can be spent on all three priorities, including technology. *However, there is a 15% cap on devices, equipment, software and digital content.*

If a district receives an allocation **below \$30,000, the law DOES NOT require a needs assessment** or set aside percentages for well-rounded and safe and healthy students programs. Under these circumstances, districts must spend money on activities in at least one of the three categories. The 15 percent technology purchase cap would continue to apply.

What is a ‘Needs Assessment?’

Needs assessments will be utilized by a school district to determine and identify where access may be lacking for their students, such as in music education. The needs assessment process for Title IV, Part A is part of the routine cycle of planning and evaluation expected in the federal law for all titles, including Titles I and II.

After identifying the deficiencies, school districts create a plan to address those needs, which become a part of their funding ask to the state department of education. After receiving the funds and implementing the plan, districts



must conduct a comprehensive needs assessment **at least once every three years**, to reevaluate the outcomes and repeat the process.

What makes this so interesting is that **YOU** can be involved with your district during the process of creating a needs assessment and evaluating programs. This is where **YOU can make the difference** – getting involved and making certain the needs of your music programs are fully identified and incorporated as appropriate into your Title IV, Part A plan and funding application for the 17-18 school year. For further information on how you can participate in the needs assessment process, see our webinar, "[OTLs, Title IV, & You.](#)"

FY 2018 Funding Increase

Funding History for Title IV-A (in millions)		
FY 2017	FY 2018 (current year)	FY 2018 NAFME Request
\$400.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,600.00 (Authorized Level)

NAfME is most thrilled with Congress' decision to provide \$1.1 billion in FY 2018 funding for the Title IV-A block grant.

- This figure represents a **250% increase** from last year's inadequate funding level of \$400 million.
- This funding level will provide numerous school districts with the true flexibility they deserve to invest in a well-rounded curriculum, that includes providing access to a sequential and standards-based music education.
- Under this funding level, Title IV-A will finally operate as a **formula grant program** for *all* states, as intended by law, and eliminates the need for certain states to distribute at a competitive basis.

Head to NAFME's Grassroots Action Center (bit.ly/NAfMEgrassroots) and use our advocacy tools to thank Congress for providing robust funding for Title IV-A, and supporting music education.

Estimated Funding Distribution by School Districts

Type of School District	FY 2017	FY 2018
<i>Large Urban School District</i>	\$592,000	\$1,787,000
<i>Midsized Suburban School District</i>	\$34,400	\$95,000
<i>Distant Rural School District</i>	\$10,000	\$16,000

Although the increase is minor for smaller and more rural school districts, they often lack the capacity (no arts administrator or grant writer) to apply for competitive grants. After sufficiently, funding Title IV-A in FY18, it eliminates any need for competitive targeting where many rural districts may receive Title IV-A funds, and increases local control over educational investments, such as supporting music and arts.