

## 2018 Back to School, Title IV (FAQ)

### **If Title IV-A is supplemental, what other funds do schools receive for our music programs?**

While Congress recently passed a bipartisan spending bill that raised education funding to a record \$70.9 billion, education still only accounts for a meager 2% of all federal spending, which includes Title IV-A, Title I-A, and Title II-A to name a few.

The real place where education gets funded is at the state and school district level. In a recent research by the Center on Policy and Budget Priorities, states and local districts provide [92% of public education dollars](#). This funding is generated from state and local taxes and other revenue produced by the state.

### **If I am in a rural district with only \$19,000, a needs assessment is not mandatory right?**

Correct. A needs assessment is only required if a school district is to receive a Title IV-A allocation over \$30,000. However, this does not necessarily mean your district will forgo conducting a needs assessment. A school district may still conduct one at its discretion.

### **What if my district has already missed the 2018 deadline to apply for these funds? I assume we should simply set our sights on next year. Is that correct?**

Correct. Unfortunately, you will have to wait until the next cycle to participate in your district needs assessment and application process. However, it is never too early to think ahead and prep for the next year! It may be useful to know what the previous funds were spent on, which can help formulate your ask for the upcoming year. Contact your district's Title IV-A director, federal programs director, or arts coordinator/curriculum supervisor to find out more.

### **Who exactly applies for Title IV-A?**

Title IV-A funds are applied for by your school district, not by an educator, music program, or specific school.

As an educator, your specific role will be to participate in your district's needs assessment to address the deficiencies within your district's music programs. Contact your district's arts coordinator or curriculum supervisor to find out how you can participate and with whom you can collaborate. If they are uncertain, ask them to reach out to the federal programs director in their district to learn more.

### **What is the timeline for funding that does not require the needs assessment?**

Regardless of whether a needs assessment is required, the timeline is the same for all school districts. A school district has 27 months to obligate their Title IV-A funds for each fiscal year allocation. Most federal grants, including Title IV-A, adhere to the Tydings Amendment, which makes the funds allocated

to a school district available for 2 years. Districts then have an additional 3 months to “tidy up” and submit final paperwork.

Deadlines to apply for funds can vary district to district and state by state. This can be due to differing state budget cycles or staff capacity at the district level. The best way to find out is to contact your district’s Title IV-A director, federal programs director, or arts coordinator/curriculum supervisor.

**Please define "Block Grant"**

A block grant is a dedicated amount of money that will come directly to each school district based on the formula of that particular law. In ESSA’s Title IV-A, there is **no competition** for the districts to get the funds - they need only apply and conduct a needs assessment if their estimate allocation is over \$30,000. Block grants are typically much more flexible than competitive grants, allowing school districts to allocate their spending based local needs, discovered by their needs assessment.

**Does "equipment" in the OTLs include instruments?**

Yes, equipment does include instruments in the Opportunity to Learn Standards.

**Could you please clarify the relation of Title I funding eligibility as it relates to IV-A?**

Although the Title IV-A funding formula is based off the Title I-A formula, schools **do not** have to be a Title I school to be eligible for Title IV-A funding. To eligible for Title IV-A funding, a school district, not school, must qualify for Title I-A funding. Once the funds have been distributed to the school district, the funds can be spent on a Title I school, non-Title I school, or both.

**If a district is interested in using Title IV funding to provide materials and professional development for classroom teachers in using music in a music enhanced classroom setting, where are resources listed?**

Professional development is an allowable use for Title IV-A funds if the district’s application and needs assessment indicate for that specific use. However, there is not a specific list of allowable resources for professional development in Title IV-A. This is left up to the district and part of the flexibility purpose behind the grant. Additionally, using music in an enhanced classroom setting, such as arts integration, is certainly allowable, as arts, like music, is also listed subject in a “well-rounded education as defined by ESSA.

**If my school district doesn't apply for Title IV-A funds, what happens to the unallocated / unclaimed funds?**

The funds would likely return to the State Educational Agency (SEA), otherwise known as your State Office/Department of Education. The SEA could redistribute the unclaimed funds by running a competition or tacking the funds as additional funds for districts who had applied for Title IV-A funding. The funds could also potentially return to the Federal government.

**In the funding guidelines for districts receiving above \$30,000, would instruments be limited by the 15% cap?**

Instruments are not limited by the 15% technology cap. That is strictly on technological devices and equipment related to educational learning, such as computers, tablets, smartboards, broadband routers, etc. However, this cap does apply to computer applications. Therefore, music technology applications like Finale, Garage Band, or tablet apps would be applied towards the 15% cap.