



Welcome to Today's Webinar!

We will begin at 2:00 pm Eastern Time.

- **Download the SSAE Grants Non-Regulatory Guidance:**
<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/essassaegrantguid10212016.pdf>
- **Access Information on the Revised ESSA Consolidated State Plans:**
<https://www.ed.gov/essa?src=rn>
- **Download Copy of Today's Presentation:**
<https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/events/webinar/essa-title-iv-part-changes-title-iv-part-student-support-and-academic-enrichment-ssae>
- **Submit questions about the SSAE program during or after today's webinar:**
OESE.OSHS.TITLE.IV-A@ed.gov





Changes to the Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grants Resulting from the FY 2017 Department of Education Appropriations Act

Title IV, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Safe and Healthy Students





Webinar Logistics

- This is a “Listen-Only” online event.
- The Webinar recording and slides will be emailed to registrants and posted online within a week after today’s event.
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Poll 1: What is your role? (Check all that apply.)

- State Education Agency (SEA) Director
- SEA Program Staff Person
- Teacher
- Parent
- Policymaker
- Researcher
- Advocate
- Student
- District Administrator
- Local Education Agency (LEA) Administrator
- Principal/School Administrator
- Specialized instructional support personnel
- Tribal organization staff
- Local government representatives
- Community-based organization staff
- Other (Please specify in chatbox.)





Welcome

David Esquith, Director

Office of Safe and Healthy Students





Today's Agenda

1. SSAE Changes Based on the Department of Education Appropriations Act

Eve Birge, Office of Safe and Healthy Students (OSHS)

2. Questions & Answers

Bryan Williams, OSHS

David Esquith, Director, OSHS

3. Key Takeaways

Eve Birge, OSHS

4. Participant Q&A

David Esquith, OSHS





Background

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law in December 2015. It reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA).

Newly authorized under subpart 1 of *Title IV*, Part A of the ESEA is the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) program.





Purpose of the SSAE Grants

Intended to improve students' academic achievement by increasing the capacity of State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), and local communities to:

- provide all students with access to a well-rounded education;
- improve school conditions for student learning; and
- improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students.





Funding Requirements

A State must reserve at least 95 percent of its SSAE program allocation for subgrants to LEAs, and may reserve not more than one percent of its SSAE program allocation for administrative costs.





SSAE Changes Based on the Department of Education Appropriations Act

Eve Birge

Office of Safe and Healthy Students





FY 2017 SSAE Funding

The FY 2017 Department of Education Appropriations Act includes a total of \$400 million for SSAE.

The Act made important changes to SSAE for FY 2017.





New Option for Competitive Subgrants for FY 2017

Whereas the SSAE statutory authority only provides for formula grants, the appropriations law adds an option for States to distribute Title IV, Part A funds competitively.





Minimum Allocations

If a State decides to distribute funds competitively, it must make awards such that at least 20 percent of available funds are used for well-rounded educational opportunities, at least 20 percent for safe and healthy students, and a portion for effective use of technology. In addition, LEAs receiving competitive subgrants are not subject to the minimum expenditure requirements applicable to formula subgrants.





Minimum Award Amount for Competitive Subgrants

For a State that decides to distribute funds competitively, each subgrant awarded shall be for a term of one year and in an amount of not less than \$10,000.





Priorities

For a State that decides to distribute funds competitively, awards must be:

- Made with priority given to LEAs, or consortia of LEAs, with the greatest need;
- Based on the number or percentage of children counted under section 1124(c) of the ESEA (i.e., children counted for purposes of basic grants to LEAs under Title I, Part A of the ESEA); and
- Composed of geographic diversity among subgrant recipients representing rural, suburban, and urban areas.





Percentage of Funds for Technology Infrastructure

An LEA that receives a competitive subgrant only for activities under the effective use of technology content area may use up to 25 percent of funds for technology infrastructure.





Timing of SSAE Fund Distribution

Funds will be distributed to SEAs in July 2017 and will remain available for obligation by the SEAs until September 30, 2018 and by LEAs until September 30, 2019.*





Impact on Consolidated State Plans

The FY 2017 Department of Education Appropriations Act did not make any other changes that would affect programs that are covered by the consolidated state plan.





Questions and Answers

Bryan Williams

Office of Safe and Healthy Students





Q & A #1

Question: As a result of the 2017 Department of Education Appropriations Act, do the changes in Title IV, Part A require States to distribute funds using a competitive process?

Answer: No. States have the option in FY 2017 to distribute Title IV, Part A funds using a competitive process or by formula as set forth in the program statute. It is not a requirement to distribute funds competitively.





Q & A #2

Question: What if a State has already submitted its ESSA plan to the U.S. Department of Education? Is it now required to revise and resubmit it as a result of these changes to Title IV, Part A?

Answer: No. A State that has submitted its state plan and that does not wish to award the SSAE subgrants competitively is not required to revise its state plan or to submit a new plan.





Q & A #3

Question: What if a State has submitted its plan, which stated that it would distribute funds by formula, but it now wants to distribute funds competitively?

Answer: The Department will be in communication with States that have submitted their ESSA plans and give them the option of revising their submissions, including their SSAE responses, if necessary.





Q & A #4

Question: How much flexibility do States have to develop a competitive grant program?

Answer: States have discretion with respect to administering a competition. For example, a State could decide to hold separate competitions for each of the three content areas under SSAE, or it could require LEAs to address all three content areas in their proposals. However, pursuant to the appropriations act, LEAs shall not be subject to any of the statutory requirements for the content areas (i.e., at least 20 percent for well-rounded educational opportunities, at least 20 percent for safe and healthy students, and a portion of funds for effective use of technology).

Please note that if a State decides to hold separate competitions for each of the three SSAE content areas, an LEA, or consortia of LEAs, that receives funds solely for technology (and no other content area) can now spend up to 25% of its funding on technology infrastructure.





Q & A #5

Question: Do the minimum expenditure requirements (i.e., at least 20 percent for well-rounded educational opportunities, at least 20 percent for safe and healthy students, and a portion of funds for effective use of technology) apply to LEAs that are funded under a competitive process?

Answer: No. If a State distributes SSAE funds competitively, the minimum expenditure requirements do not apply at the LEA level. In fact, LEAs do not even have to use funds for each of the three content areas if they are funded under a competitive process, unless the State designs its competition to require LEAs to address all three content areas (and in that event, the statutory minimum expenditure requirements – i.e., the specific percentages for each content area – still would not apply at the LEA level). However, the minimum expenditure requirements do apply to the SEA allocation on a statewide basis, in the event that the State distributes SSAE funds competitively.





Q & A #6

Question: When distributing funds competitively, how are States to determine priority for LEAs, or consortia of LEAs, with the greatest need?

Answer: States must make awards with priority given to LEAs with the greatest need based on the number or percentage of children counted for purposes of basic grants to LEAs under Title I, Part A of the ESEA under section 1124(c) of the ESEA, and in a manner that ensures geographic diversity among subgrant recipients representing rural, suburban, and urban areas. States have flexibility to implement the priority in a number of ways and consistent with their procedures for carrying out competitive grant processes.





Q & A #6 (continued)

For example, if consistent with its process for competitive grant awards, a State may consider providing additional points or weight to an application from an LEA that is identified as having the greatest need (as described above), or it may decide to go outside of the rank ordered list of potential subgrant recipients if necessary to fund such an LEA. Similarly, and again if consistent with its process for competitive grant awards, it may decide to go outside of rank order to achieve geographic diversity or if necessary to meet the expenditure requirements in each of the content areas.





Key Takeaways

Eve Birge

Office of Safe and Healthy Students





Key Takeaways

If a State decides to award SSAE program funds competitively, the following information applies:

- The State must make awards so that at least 20 percent of available funds are distributed for well-rounded educational opportunities, at least 20 percent for safe and healthy students, and a portion for effective use of technology.
- LEAs receiving competitive subgrants are not subject to the minimum expenditure requirements described above.
- An LEA that receives a competitive subgrant only for activities under the effective use of technology content area may use up to 25 percent of funds for technology infrastructure.





Key Takeaways

If a State decides to award SSAE program funds competitively, the following information applies:

- Each subgrant awarded shall be for a term of one year.
- Each subgrant cannot be less than \$10,000.
- Funds will be distributed to SEAs in July 2017.





Key Takeaways

If a State decides to award SSAE program funds competitively, the following information applies:

- For SEAs making competitive subgrants, funds will remain available for obligation until September 30, 2018.
- Competitive subgrant funds will remain available for obligation by LEAs until September 30, 2019.
- This new provision applies only to FY 2017 funds.





Participant Q&A

David Esquith

Office of Safe and Healthy Students





Thank you for participating in today's webinar!

- If you have SSAE program questions, please email OESE.OSHS.TITLE.IV-A@ed.gov.
- A link to a recording of today's session and slides will be available on the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environment (NCSSLE) Website at <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/events/webinar/essa-title-iv-part-changes-title-iv-part-student-support-and-academic-enrichment-ssae>.
- We will also email the slides to those who registered.
- If you have questions about access to today's materials or future webinars, please contact the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments at ncssle@air.org.





Feedback on Today's Webinar

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