Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

Personalized Learning

NH Department of Education
Bureau of Instructional Support
101 Pleasant St.
Concord, NH 03301

February 2018

The proposal deadline is April 13, 2018 at 5:00 PM.

Funding provided under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, Title IV-A
Introduction

Program Overview

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) became law in December 2015; it is the most recent reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). ESSA continues the civil rights foundation of ESEA, reflecting our nation’s longstanding commitment to equity of opportunity for all students. The new law has a clear goal of ensuring our education system prepares every child to graduate from high school ready to thrive in college and careers. The 2015 reauthorization includes a number of provisions that promote equitable access to educational opportunity, including holding all students to high academic standards, ensuring meaningful action is taken to improve the lowest-performing schools and schools with underperforming student groups, and providing more children with access to high-quality preschool learning opportunities. As we work to improve education outcomes for students the ultimate goal is to provide all students with a high-quality education.
Newly authorized under ESEA section 4101, subpart 1 of Title IV, Part A the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) program is intended to help meet these goals by increasing the capacity of State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), schools, and local communities to:

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

Among the key values set forth in the New Hampshire ESSA Consolidated State Plan [2] is improving our education system through personalization and competency-based teaching and learning. The New Hampshire Title IV-A Program [1] is designed to support this vision within a framework of preparing students for the future.

Therefore, the NH DOE is conducting a competitive grant process to support LEAs in their efforts to improve personalized learning and competency-based education efforts while ensuring learning experiences are augmented with technology and digital literacy.

Engaging students and school communities in activities that integrate digital tools and resources is a powerful way for schools and districts to move students towards future readiness (goal #3 above). One framework for developing systemic personalized learning through visioning, planning, and implementation of school improvement activities focused on personalizing student learning is the Future Ready Framework [4].

Schools and school districts carry enormous burdens to help their students succeed; from physical, social and emotional wellness to 21st century skill sets that include higher-order thinking strategies, problem solving, collaboration, creativity, and communication. How schools meet the needs of their students is dependent upon community support, access to quality resources, new learning, and most importantly the collaboration of all stakeholders across both the community and schools. By addressing holistic needs, school system leaders build stronger foundations and organizational resilience with community and parental partnerships, school educators and staff. Therefore, and in support of the NH ESSA State Plan, participating districts will be asked to consider:

• The needs of the students, families, and communities served
• Current system structure, strengths and weaknesses
• Data collection and evaluation of success
• Ability to leverage community partners
• A plan for sustainability

Proposals for Title IV-A funding may use any tool or framework for determining needs, engaging stakeholders, or identifying goals and action steps. The Future Ready Framework is offered here as one possibility.
New Hampshire Title IV-A funds will support evidence-based practices in the following areas:

- Arts-based learning strategies
- Career pathways
- Civics education
- Dual-enrollment programs
- Integrated and interdisciplinary learning programs
- Integration of digital tools and technology
- Mentoring and school counseling
- Multi-tiered system of support for behavior and wellness
- Personalized educational experiences
- STEM, including inquiry-based science, computer science, robotics, engineering, mathematics

For more information regarding allowable uses of Title IV-A funds, please refer to the non-regulatory guidance provided by the US Department of Education [3].

For more resources for planning and implementing effective programs please refer to NH Department of Education Title IV A web page [1].
Program Contacts

- General Inquiries
  - Title IV-A Program: David.Benedetto@doe.nh.gov

- Well-rounded Education
  - Computer Science & Robotics: David.Benedetto@doe.nh.gov
  - Music and the Arts: Marcia.McCaffrey@doe.nh.gov
  - Physical Education: Marcia.McCaffrey@doe.nh.gov
  - Social Studies Education: Ashley.Frame@doe.nh.gov
  - STEM Education: David.Benedetto@doe.nh.gov
  - Science Education & Engineering: Barbara.Hopkins@doe.nh.gov
  - World Languages: Ashley.Frame@doe.nh.gov

- Safe and Healthy Students
  - Student Wellness: Michelle.Myler@doe.nh.gov

- Effective Use of Technology
  - Educational Technology: Stanley.Freeda@doe.nh.gov

Award Information

Estimated program budget, number of awards and average award size/duration are subject to the availability of funds.

Award Sizes

Small grants:
- A portion of the funds will be used to issue smaller grants ($10,000 - $29,999) for program improvements with a primary focus in one of the three areas:
  - Well-rounded education
  - Safe and healthy students
  - Effective use of technology

Large grants:
- A portion will be used to issue larger grants (greater than $30,000) to support the design and implementation of an integrated approach to address the three areas.
- Requirements for large grant:
  - Allocate a portion of funds for grant administration and evaluation.
  - Complete a comprehensive needs assessment in consultation with the NH DOE.
  - Engage in regular reporting with NH DOE coordinator(s).
  - Complete a report that can serve as a resource for other districts in NH.

All awardees may be asked to participate in a state-level program to share their project and results.
Needs Assessment

An LEA that receives at least $30,000 in SSAE program funds must conduct a comprehensive needs assessment that includes, at a minimum, a focus on the three content areas identified in Table 1. (ESEA section 4106(d))

For an example of a comprehensive needs assessment framework that addresses the target areas, please refer to the *Future Ready Framework* [4].

Period of Availability

The “Tydings Amendment” applies to Federal FY17 (2017-18 school year) Title IV-A funds, and therefore, will remain available for obligation by school districts through September 30, 2019. The NH DOE only has until September 30, 2018 to obligate the funds to school districts. If an awardee does not expend all of their funds before September 2018, they will have the opportunity to apply for a no-cost extension to continue using their funds to meet the expectations of the approved grant.

Supplement not Supplant Requirement

In considering how to use Title IV-A program funds, LEAs must be mindful that federal funds may be used only to supplement, and not supplant, non-Federal funds that would otherwise be available for activities authorized under the Title IV-A. (ESEA section 4110). This means that, in general, LEAs may not use Title IV-A program funds if the cost of those activities would have otherwise been paid with State or local funds in the absence of the Title IV-A program funds. These funds cannot supplant State or local funds.

SEC. 4110. SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.
“Funds made available under this subpart shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, non-Federal funds that would otherwise be used for activities authorized under this subpart.”

Equitable Services

LEAs must comply with Sections 8501 through 8504 of the Every Student Succeeds Act regarding equitable participation of private school students. In general, consistent with the number of eligible children in areas served by the LEA receiving a Title IV-A grant who are enrolled in private elementary or secondary schools in areas served by the LEA, after timely and meaningful consultation with the appropriate private school officials, provide to those children and their teachers or other educational personnel, on an equitable basis, educational services or other benefits that address their needs under the grant award.
Proposal Submission, Review and Awarding

In order to be scored, applications must include all required components, and components must be complete.

Application and Submission

Please complete the application workbook (Excel XLS format), available at the department page for Title IV-A, SSAE grants [1]. For assistance in designing your proposal and/or completing your application, please refer to program contacts above.

Submission:

- Please email your completed application workbook to: Tamara Feener, Program Specialist for Academic Support and 21st Century Learning. Tamara.Feener@doe.nh.gov
- In the subject line, please use “SSAE Grant Application for <LEA NAME>”

The proposal deadline is April 13, 2018 at 5:00 PM.

Review and Selection

There will be a total of 4 grant pools:

- Small grant applications will be scored and compared within the focus area (well-rounded education, safe and healthy schools, and use of technology).
- Large grant applications will be compared against one another.

According to the NH state ESSA plan, the Department will ensure that, across all NH Title IV-A program components, the following thresholds are met:

- At least 20% of funds support the area of well-rounded education.
- At least 20% of funds support the area of student wellness.
- A portion of funds support the effective use of technology - we expect that effective use of technology will be incorporated into each application.

The evaluation teams will be comprised of individuals selected from K-12 educators and administrators, parents and other stakeholders. The Department will strive for diversity in terms of roles, school/district demographics, and geographic location.

Notifications of award will be given no later than May 11, 2018.

Assurances

If awarded grant funds through this application process, LEAs will be required to sign and justify assurances that they will comply with supplement, not supplant and equitable services requirements.
NH DOE Statement of Nondiscrimination

The New Hampshire Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, marital status, national/ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, or disability in its programs, activities and employment practices. This statement is a reflection of the Department of Education and refers to, but is not limited to, the provisions of the following laws:

- Titles IV, VI, and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 – race, color, national origin
- The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) – sex
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) – disability
- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) - disability
- NH Law against discrimination (RSA 354-A)

The following individuals have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies and laws above:

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<tr>
<th>ADA/Title IX Coordinator:</th>
<th>Section 504 Coordinator:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Hinson-Hatz</td>
<td>Tina Greco</td>
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<tr>
<td>(603) 271-3471 (V/TTY)</td>
<td>(603) 271-3993 (V/TTY)</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:Lisa.Hatz@doe.nh.gov">Lisa.Hatz@doe.nh.gov</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Tina.Greco@doe.nh.gov">Tina.Greco@doe.nh.gov</a></td>
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Inquiries regarding Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and/or Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 also, or instead, may be directed to:

U.S. Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights
33 Arch Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02110-1491
(617) 289-0111
TTY (877) 521-2172

Additionally, inquiries may be directed to the:

NH Commission for Human Rights
2 Chenell Drive
Concord, NH 03301-8501
(603) 271-2767
References

1. NH Department of Education. *Title IV, Part A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grants.*
2. NH Department of Education. *ESSA Consolidated State Plan.*
   https://dashboard.futurereadyschools.org/framework