**Title IV, Part A - Student Support and**

**Academic Enrichment (SSAE)**

The following frequently asked questions (FAQs) are maintained by the Alabama Department of

Education (ALSDE) to support districts in their implementation of the Title IV, Part A – Student

Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grant. Currently, the FAQs focus on planning for

FY18 services.

The ALSDE will continue to update this document as additional questions are received. Please,

submit questions to [mlewis@alsde.edu](mailto:mlewis@alsde.edu).

Additional information is also available in the eGAP electronic system.

**1. What is the purpose of Title IV, Part A?**

Authorized in December 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) introduced a new

block formula grant under Title IV, Part A with a wide range of allowable uses. Title IV, Part

A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grants are intended to improve

students’ academic achievement by increasing the capacity of States, LEAs, schools, 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. (*ESEA* section 4101).

**2. How is funding provided to school districts?**

Current plans are for the Alabama Department of Education (ALSDE) to award grant funds

under the new SSAE program, through formula, to eligible school districts in Alabama beginning in the 2017-2018 school year (October 2017).

**3. Are school districts required to submit an application to the SEA to receive the SSAE**

**program allocation?**

Yes, Title IV, Part A grant has an application in eGAP.

**4. How many years will the LEAs receive this grant?**

This is a block grant under the ESSA and, as long as funds are appropriated each year from

the federal government, all districts should be eligible to receive an allocation.

**5. Can these funds be used only in Title I schools or can non-Title I schools benefit, as**

**well? Can we hire a district-level counselor, for example, to work with all of our high**

**schools?**

These funds are to serve all students. So, they are not to be limited to Title I schools. An

LEA may use funds for college and career counseling programs and services under the area

of well-rounded educational opportunities. That could include hiring a district-level

counselor who coordinates and supports supplemental college and career counseling

activities in collaboration with community organizations and institutions of higher

education. District-wide activities under the grant should focus on supporting schools

enrolling children with the greatest identified need(s).

**6. Is this grant required to be included in the provisioning of equitable services to private**

**school students?**

Yes, equitable services to private school students must be made available with these grant

funds.

**7. Do these funds have to be split up to be used in all three areas: well-rounded**

**education opportunities, safe and healthy students, and effective use of technology or**

**can it be all used in one of the three areas?**

If the LEA’s annual grant award is $30,000 or higher, the grant funds must be utilized to

address the three areas of focus, and must be based on the results of a comprehensive needs

assessment in the areas that the grant is designed to target. It is possible that one initiative

developed by an LEA could overlap the areas – well-rounded education opportunities and

safe and healthy students, for example. The LEA will have to demonstrate, through its plan

and budget, that the three areas are covered in the percentages identified – at least 20% of

funding for activities to support well-rounded education opportunities, at least 20% to

activities to support safe and healthy students, and a portion for activities to support

effective use of technology. If the allocation is below $30,000, then the funds do not have

to follow this utilization requirement.

**8. If our needs assessment indicates a need to expand our gifted education endorsement and STEM professional learning, can the grant support those initiatives? It was paid by Title II**

**last year.**

These grant funds could be used to support an expansion of gifted education endorsement

and STEM PL for staff, as that is consistent with the purposes of the SSAE program (well-

rounded education). Do keep in mind that district-wide services must focus those services

on targeting schools with identified greatest need(s).

**9. If the Federal Program Coordinator is selected to manage the consolidated application portion and monitoring of the grant but others will be responsible for the implementation of the grant, will the position have to be split funded? If so, can the grant pay a management cost?**

The grant allows for no more than 2% of the LEA allocation to be used for direct

administrative costs. The same requirements for split funding apply to this federal grant.

**10. Will more guidance/webinar be provided so that districts will know how to allocate the**

**funds in the proper functions?**

The ALSDE is currently creating/updating resources to support the implementation of this grant. MEMOs, emails and documents to support the application are available in the Document Library in eGAP.

**11. Is there someone at the ALSDE who I can call to ask specific questions?**

You may contact Prevention and Support Services at 334-242-8165. Ms. Ayanna Long and Dr. Marilyn Lewis will support your questions.