



## Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants Program Title II-A of ESSA

**Request:** Provide full funding for the Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants Program (Title II-A, ESSA) in fiscal year 2024.

**Current Funding Level:** \$2.1 billion

**Authorized Level:** \$2.3 billion

### **Background: The Importance of Effective Educators**

Research shows that effective teachers and school leaders significantly influence student achievement. High quality professional development is essential but unfortunately many teachers, particularly those in small and isolated districts, do not have access to these advancement opportunities. The expansion of digital learning has highlighted the importance of educators gaining access to professional learning opportunities that help them employ digital tools and resources—across the spectrum from traditional classroom integration to fully virtual settings—into their instructional practice.

### **Title II-A — Revised and Strengthened in ESSA**

The bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) renewed the federal commitment to Title II-A. Congress affirmed the program’s emphasis on helping teachers and school leaders effectively integrate technology into curricula and instruction and promoting high-quality instruction and instructional leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects, including computer science.

Title II-A is critical to effective teaching and leadership. Title II-A serves as a vital federal supplement to state and school district efforts to ensure that educators have access to high quality professional learning, including courses offered online and on-demand. The updated Title II-A program incorporated new evidence requirements and a more rigorous definition of professional development. Congress updated the program’s formula to help educators use education technology, increase content knowledge and improve classroom practices; promote leadership, coaching, and mentoring; offer specialized training to meet student needs; and adopt effective instructional materials and innovative technologies. This professional learning funding includes a focus on equipping educators with the knowledge and skills they need to use technology for instruction, conduct data analysis and protect student privacy, communicate effectively with students and families, use of assessments to inform learning, and more.

### **Title II-A Talking Points**

- For fiscal year 2024, Congress must increase Title II-A funding to \$2.3 billion including to support educator recruitment and retention to remedy teacher shortages in many communities caused by retirements, the pandemic, and other factors. Teachers and school leaders also need additional support to meet the learning recovery, mental health, and other exceptional needs of their students at this time.
- This important source of professional development funding helps my state/school district to meet our teachers and school leaders’ professional learning needs, including helping them use technology to support student success, protect student data privacy, and more.
- Without funding Title II-A at its fully authorized level, our nation’s educators and school leaders will not have access to the professional learning opportunities they need to teach effectively and better prepare the nation’s students for success after graduation.