

**Title IV, Part A: Quick Reference Guide – Fund Code 309**

**Allowable Uses to Support Effective Use of Technology**

**Priorities of Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE):**

1. Provide all students with access to a well-rounded education;
2. Improveschool conditions for learning to ensure safe and healthy students; and
3. Improve the use of technology to improve academic achievement.
4. Support key district and school improvement initiatives **in coordination with** other federal grant funds and state and local resources so initiatives and their impact **are sustained** beyond the life of individual sources of funding.

**Allowable SSAE Activities to Support Effective Use of Technology**

In addition to supporting a well-rounded education and safe and healthy schools, **a portion of the SSAE program funds, if a district’s allocation is $30,000 or greater, must be used for increasing effective use of technology to improve the academic achievement, academic growth, and digital literacy of all students.**

When carefully designed and thoughtfully applied, technology can accelerate, amplify, and expand the impact of effective practices that support student learning, increase community engagement, foster safe and healthy environments, and enable well-rounded educational opportunities. Technology can expand growth opportunities for all students while affording historically disadvantaged students’ greater equity of access to high-quality learning materials, field experts, personalized learning, and tools for planning for future education. Such opportunities can also support increased capacity for educators to create blended learning opportunities for their students, rethinking when, where, and how students complete different components of a learning experience. However, for technology to be truly transformative, educators need to have the knowledge and skills to take full advantage of technology-rich learning environments.

A Special Rule in the SSAE program states that no more than 15 percent of funds for activities to support the effective use of technology may be used "for purchasing technology infrastructure as described in subsection (a)(2)(B), which includes technology infrastructure purchased for the activities under subsection (a)(4)(A)." To clarify, **LEAs or consortiums of LEAs may not spend more than 15 percent of funding in this content area on devices, equipment, software applications, platforms, digital instructional resources and/or other one-time IT purchases.** (ESEA section 4109(b)). In addition to purchases for technology infrastructure, at least 85 percent of funds used under section 4109 may be used to support a variety of professional development, defined in 8101(42) as activities that are an integral part of school and local educational agency strategies, activities and for capacity building and other activities directly related to improving the use of educational technology.

Specifically, the SSAE program funds may be used to provide educators, school leaders, and administrators with the professional learning tools, devices, content and resources to do the following activities, among other allowable uses:

| Allowable Activity | Overview |
| --- | --- |
| Provide personalized learning  *(ESEA section 4109(a)(1)(A))* | * Personalized learning allows educators to adjust the pace of learning and to optimize instructional approaches for the needs of each learner as they strive to meet rigorous expectations for college and career success. * Learning objectives, instructional approaches, and instructional content (and its sequencing) all may vary based on learner needs; and learning activities are meant to be meaningful and relevant to learners, driven by their interests, and often self-initiated. |
| Discover, adapt and share high-quality resources *(ESEA section 4901(a)(1)(B))* | * These high-quality resources include openly licensed educational resources. Openly licensed educational resources, also referred to in ESEA as “open education resources” and “openly licensed content” (see ESEA section 4102, for the definition of “digital learning” that includes these terms), are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under a license that permits their free use, reuse, modification, and sharing with others. |
| Implement blended learning strategies  *(ESEA section 4109(a)(4))* | * Funds may be used for ongoing professional development on how to implement blended learning projects and to support planning activities. * An LEA, for example, may use funds to provide initial professional learning for educators on effective blended learning model instruction, ongoing collaborative planning time, and ongoing, job-embedded professional learning opportunities to improve educator practice. These ongoing opportunities could include access to digital professional learning resources, a collaborative community of practice, and/or coaching. |
| Implement approaches to inform instruction, support teacher collaboration, and personalize learning  *(ESEA section 4109(a)(1)(D))* | * Technology offers avenues for teachers to become more collaborative with other educators and community partners to improve their instruction and to extend learning beyond the classroom. Educators can create learning communities composed of students; fellow educators in schools, museums, libraries, and after-school programs; experts in various disciplines around the world; members of community organizations; and families. * This enhanced collaboration, enabled by technology, may offer access to instructional materials as well as the resources and tools to create, manage, and assess their quality and usefulness. * The SSAE funds may be used to provide personalized professional development so that educators receive tailored, job-embedded support. |
| Implement specialized or rigorous academic courses using technology  *(ESEA section 4109(a)(3))* | * The SSAE program funds may also be used to develop or implement specialized or rigorous academic courses using technology, including assistive technology.55 (ESEA section 4109(a)(3)). For example, the SSAE program funds may be used to provide rural, remote, and underserved areas with resources to take advantage of high-quality digital learning experiences, digital resources, and access to online courses taught by effective educators. (ESEA section 4109(a)(6)). * Separate from the up to 15 percent of funds that may be used to purchase online courses (technology infrastructure), other technology funds under section 4109 may be used to train educators on how to implement these online courses. * Funds could also be used to expand professional learning for educators in rural, remote or underserved areas through the use of virtual coaching models. |
| Build technology capacity and infrastructure  *(ESEA section 4109(b))* | * Funds, subject to the 15 percent Special Rule, may be used to build technology capacity and infrastructure, which includes procuring and ensuring quality of content, and purchasing devices, equipment and software to increase readiness. * Funds could also be used to purchase or create a system that improves the procurement and evaluation process for identifying solutions and implementations that match the context of the SEA or LEA. |

***Please note: This is not an exhaustive list.*** [***Contact***](mailto:federalgrantprograms@doe.mass.edu) ***our office for more specific, situational and fiscal guidance as needed. This document is sourced directly from the*** [***US Department of Education’s Non-Regulatory Guidance for SSAE Grants***](https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/essassaegrantguid10212016.pdf)***.***

**Supplement not Supplant in Title IVA**

* LEAs that receive Title IVA funds must comply with a supplement not supplant requirement. This means that Title IVA funds should add to (supplement) and not replace (supplant) state and local funds.
* Supplanting is presumed when:
  + A district uses IVA funds to pay for an activity that is required by federal, state or local law
  + A district uses SSAE funds to pay for an activity it supported with state or local funds the prior year

**Allocations Reminder**

**Districts that receive less than $30,000 must:**

* Spend funds on one or more of the Title IV, Part A priorities listed at the very top of this guide.

**Districts that receive $30,000\* or more must:**

* Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment that includes a focus on the Title IVA priorities (see above).   
  ***Note:*** *Districts may fulfill (or may have fulfilled) this requirement as part of the development of the districts' strategic plan, improvement plan, etc.*
* Spend at least 20% of the allocation on access to well-rounded educational opportunities.
* Spend at least 20% of the allocation on safe and healthy schools.
* Spend some amount on improving the use of technology.
* Spend the remainder on activities that support any/all of the three priorities.

**\**Including funds that are “flexed” from Title IIA into Title IVA***