

FINDING FUNDS FOR YOUR DISTRICT'S DATA INITIATIVES

Your school system has ambitious goals. You're working to increase student achievement, personalize instruction, or improve career and college readiness—and somehow, you need to do it all without spending more than you do today. And you know that access to data is essential to your district's ability to implement, monitor, and evaluate these projects.

Are you looking for financial support to start, continue, or expand the use of technology to track and manage your goals? Here are some federal funding opportunities that might be a fit. Read on to see whether your plan, project, or organization matches their priorities.



Federal Funds

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (IDEA)

- ▶ **What is this program?** IDEA funds are used to provide education in the “least restrictive environment” for children with disabilities. Funds under this program are combined with state and local funds to provide a free and appropriate education to children with disabilities.
- ▶ **Who's it for?** Special education students or instructors in grades K-12
- ▶ **How is funding allocated?** Formula
- ▶ **How can I use it to support my district's data use?** IDEA has very specific rules and regulations about data that need to be collected about each eligible student, including content in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs), which must be aggregated by class, school, and district. Data platforms can display data about IEP status, assessment data, and other information used by districts to monitor progress toward meeting special education goals.
- ▶ **What else do I need to know?** IDEA funds may only be used to serve special education students or special ed-dedicated instructors, not the general student population. However, school districts may use 15 percent of IDEA funding for responses to intervention (RTI) to address reading and math challenges in regular education classrooms before they become more significant.
- ▶ **Learn more:** <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/programs.html>

TITLE I, PART A: GRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES

- ▶ **What is this program?** To help ensure that all children receive the support they need to meet student academic achievement standards, Title I provides financial assistance through states to districts and public schools with large populations of low-income children. Title I funds are most often used for reading/language arts and mathematics support, including professional development for school personnel who work with schools or students in need.
- ▶ **Who's it for?** K-12
- ▶ **How is funding allocated?** Formula
- ▶ **How can I use it to support my district's data use?** Because Title I funds are intended to help increase achievement and close the achievement gap between high- and low-performing students, the law requires schools and districts to report on their progress toward these goals.

- ▶ What else do I need to know? These funds can only be used for eligible Title I students. Look up specific Title I funding for every district and charter school in the United States here: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/titlei/fy17/index.html>
- ▶ Learn more: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/index.html>

TITLE I, SECTION 1003(G): SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

- ▶ **What is this program?** School Improvement Grants are competitive funds designed to raise achievement in schools that have failed to meet academic achievement goals for at least two years. The goal is to improve student achievement and teacher quality and prepare students for success in college and careers.
- ▶ **Who's it for?** K-12
- ▶ **How is funding allocated?** Formula grants to states and local education agencies; must compete for funds
- ▶ **How can I use it to support my district's data use?** The SIG program requires a data-driven approach to measuring and reporting student progress to show that the schools receiving these funds do indeed improve progress and student achievement.
- ▶ **What else do I need to know?** The SIG program was not continued under ESSA; however, SIG funds from FY2016 are still available through the 2017-18 school year. See this policy letter from USED: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/sigflexibilitiesdci.pdf>
- ▶ **Learn more:** <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/index.html>

TITLE II, PART A: SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION

- ▶ **What is this program?** The purpose of Title II, Part A is to increase the academic achievement of all students by helping schools and districts to (1) improve teacher and principal quality through professional development and other activities and (2) provide low-income and minority students greater access to effective teachers, principals, and other school leaders.
- ▶ **Who's it for?** K-12
- ▶ **How is funding allocated?** Formula: 80 percent based on students aged 5 to 17 from poverty areas; 20 percent to students of all types
- ▶ **How can I use it to support my district's data use?** Although this fund supports professional development and recruitment, it is possible to monitor and support these activities through a data platform used by teachers, principals, and district officials.
- ▶ **Learn more:** <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/teacherqual/index.html>

TITLE III, PART A: ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

- ▶ **What is this program?** This program is designed to improve the education of limited English proficient (LEP) children and recently immigrated students (in the United States for three years or less) by helping them learn English so they can meet the challenging state academic standards.
- ▶ **Who's it for?** K-12
- ▶ **How is funding allocated?** Awards made to states, which make subgrants to local education agencies
- ▶ **How can I use it to support my district's data use?** The law requires separate tracking of LEP and immigrant student groups to show their progress in student achievement so that teachers, principals, and district officials can use the data to inform instruction and provide other support.
- ▶ **Learn more:** <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/sfgp/index.html>

TITLE IV, PART A: STUDENT SUPPORT AND ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT GRANTS

- ▶ **What is this program?** The purpose of these grants is 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, enhance school conditions for student learning, and improve the use of technology to further the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students. States must submit a plan describing how they will use the funds, and approved local education agencies receive an allocation in proportion to their Title I funding.
- ▶ **Who's it for?** K-12
- ▶ **How is funding allocated?** Formula to states; competitive at local education agency level; allocation based on Title I funding
- ▶ **How can I use it to support my district's data use?** States and school districts have flexibility to focus these resources on locally determined priorities. In some states, applicants must conduct a needs assessment related to students' access to educational opportunities, learning conditions, and effective use of technology. A data platform can not only help organize and report upon the required data but also display it in ways that can inform and improve instruction and operations.
- ▶ **Learn more:** <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/ssae/index.html>

TITLE IV, PART B: 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

- ▶ **What is this program?** Title IV, Part B supports centers that provide academic enrichment programs during non-school hours, especially those that target high-poverty families and students who attend low-performing schools. Districts and community organizations, including faith-based organizations, may run the programs. Note that this program has zero funding in the president's proposed 2018 budget.
- ▶ **Who's it for?** K-12
- ▶ **How is funding allocated?** Formula to states; may become competitive in the future
- ▶ **How can I use it to support my district's data use?** 21st CCLC programs should be guided by data about students' needs and progress so that they can use their resources to remediate or extend learning.
- ▶ **Learn more:** <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/21stccclc/index.html>

RURAL EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (REAP): RURAL AND LOW-INCOME SCHOOL (RLIS) PROGRAM

- ▶ **What is this program?** REAP is designed to help rural districts meet their state's definition of adequate yearly progress, and its RLIS program addresses those with a significant proportion of low-income students. In eligible RLIS districts, 20 percent or more of the children aged 5 to 17 come from families with incomes below poverty level.
- ▶ **Who's it for?** K-12
- ▶ **How is funding allocated?** Formula to states; subgrants to local education agencies (either by formula or competitively)
- ▶ **How can I use it to support my district's data use?** REAP RLIS funds can be merged with other ESSA funds to purchase data platforms that help rural districts and schools better monitor and manage student progress and effectively allocate resources.
- ▶ **Learn more:** <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/reaprlisp/index.html>

RURAL EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM (REAP): SMALL, RURAL SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT (SRSA) PROGRAM

- ▶ **What is this program?** The Small, Rural School Achievement program provides additional formula funds to rural education agencies with small student enrollments. Eligible SRSA districts serve less than 600 students, or their population density is less than 10 persons per square mile. An LEA may not receive both RLIS funds and SRSA funds.
- ▶ **Who's it for?** K-12
- ▶ **How is funding allocated?** Formula, but local education agencies must apply to receive it
- ▶ **How can I use it to support my district's data use?** The REAP SRSA funds can be merged with other ESSA funds to purchase data platforms that help rural districts and schools better monitor and manage student progress and effectively allocate resources.
- ▶ **Learn more:** <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/reapsrsa/index.html>

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (PERKINS ACT)

- ▶ **What is this program?** Funds from this program can be used for a broad range of programs, services, and activities designed to improve career-technical education programs and ensure that students with special needs can access them.
- ▶ **Who's it for?** K-12
- ▶ **How is funding allocated?** Formula
- ▶ **How can I use it to support my district's data use?** Career and Technical Education grants can be used to develop, improve, or expand the use of technology in career and technical education. Data platforms can track complex data about students in the 16 nationally recognized “career clusters” and more than 70 “pathways” that students might pursue in preparation for a given career, as well as note their progress in achieving those goals.
- ▶ **Learn more:** <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/ctesbg/index.html>

MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT: HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

- ▶ **What is this program?** The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures the educational rights and protections of children and youths experiencing homelessness. It requires all local educational agencies ensure that homeless students have access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschools, as provided to other children and youths.
- ▶ **Who's it for?** K-12
- ▶ **How is funding allocated?** Formula grants are made to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico based on each state's share of Title I, Part A funds.
- ▶ **How can I use it to support my district's data use?** States are required to have an approved plan for addressing problems associated with the enrollment, attendance, and success of homeless children in school, and they must make competitive subgrants to local schools and districts to facilitate their enrollment, attendance, and success in school. Data platforms can help track homeless students' experiences and progress.
- ▶ **Learn more:** <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless/index.html>

CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

- ▶ **What is this program?** The purposes of this grant program include expanding opportunities for all students, particularly traditionally underserved students, to attend high-quality charter schools and meet challenging academic standards, as well as provide financial assistance for such schools and evaluate their impact. The 2018 proposed budget offers a \$167 million increase for public school choice.
- ▶ **Who's it for?** PK-12
- ▶ **How is funding allocated?** Competitive
- ▶ **How can I use it to support my district's data use?** Data platforms can help organize data about the need for new charter schools in a region or district, monitor the progress of existing schools, and help successful schools share best practices and expand to serve more students.
- ▶ **Learn more:** <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oii/csp/index.html>

EDUCATION INNOVATION AND RESEARCH (EIR) PROGRAM

- ▶ **What is this program?** This program replaces NCLB's Investing in Innovation Grant. There are three types of grants under this program: "early-phase" grants, "mid-phase" grants, and "expansion" grants, which differ in the level of prior evidence of effectiveness required, expectations regarding the kind of information funded projects should produce, the level of scale funded projects should reach, and, consequently, the amount of funding available to support each type. The EIR Program provides funding to create, develop, implement, replicate, or take to scale entrepreneurial, evidence-based, field-initiated innovations to improve student achievement and attainment for high-needs students and to evaluate such innovations rigorously.
- ▶ **Who's it for?** K-12
- ▶ **How is funding allocated?** Competitive
- ▶ **How can I use it to support my district's data use?** The new grant details have not been posted yet nor has an RFP been released, but data platforms would be needed to help secure research-based evidence of the efficacy of products and practices.
- ▶ **Learn more:** <https://innovation.ed.gov/what-we-do/innovation/education-innovation-and-research-eir/>

Philanthropic Opportunities

Schoolzilla offers a grant program underwritten by philanthropy that allows selected school systems serving 2,000+ students (with >40 percent qualifying for a free- or reduced-price lunch) to get started with the Mosaic District Progress Monitoring (DPM) platform. More than 50 selected grantees nationally have received access to the Mosaic DPM to help streamline their data. Visit <https://schoolzilla.com/grant/> to learn more. The final deadline to apply is May 18, 2018.

There are also many foundations devoted to funding projects that will impact education and communities in specific states and regions, as well as nationally. [The Grantsmanship Center](#) is one place to begin exploring these opportunities.