

Title IVA: Identifying Content Area

Purpose

The Title IVA Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) grant program provides local educational agencies (LEAs) with supplemental funds to improve student academic achievement by increasing the capacity of states, LEAs, schools, and local communities to:

- provide all students with access to a well-rounded education; and
- improve school conditions for student learning; and
- improve the use of technology in order to increase student academic achievement and digital literacy

This document is intended to guide LEAs in determining the appropriate Title IVA content area for proposed activities within the Consolidated Federal Programs (CFP) Grant application. This document should be used in conjunction with the [Title IVA Allowable Uses document](#) and the [Title IVA: Determining Allowability of Activities guidance document](#).

Identifying Title IVA Content Area

Within each of the three content areas, LEAs have broad flexibility to use funds for a variety of activities to improve student outcomes and address opportunity gaps that have been identified through the comprehensive needs assessment and stakeholder engagement process. LEAs should consult the [Title IVA Allowable Uses document](#) for additional examples of activities that may be allowable under each of the content areas and should also review the [Title IVA: Determining Allowability of Activities guidance document](#) to further inform whether a particular activity may be allowable.

In general, allowable uses under each content area may include:

- Direct services for students
- Professional development and/or training for teachers and administrators
- Salaries of personnel to carry out identified programs and services
- Supplemental educational resources and equipment

The appropriate identification of content area for each strategy within the CFP application is important not only for determining allowability and ensuring that minimum budgeting requirements have been met in the application, but also for data reporting purposes. Multiple data collections rely on this information for accurate reporting, including the Consolidated State Performance Report, Title IVA Spending report, and Title IVA Progress on Objectives report.

Title IVA Content Areas

Well-Rounded

The well-rounded education content area is intended to provide supplemental and enriched content, curriculum, and education experiences to all students. The focus of

this content area is on supporting access to diverse learning opportunities that engage students across a variety of courses and programs, create cross-disciplinary connections, and provide a holistic educational experience.

When determining whether an activity may fit under the well-rounded education content area, LEAs can consider the following questions:

- Is the activity enriching the curriculum or adding additional supports to ensure success for all students?
- Is it above and beyond the basic education program?
- Is it supporting cross-disciplinary approaches?
- Does it increase access to advanced learning opportunities and/or new offerings?

Safe and Healthy

The purpose of the safe and healthy content area is to increase academic achievement by improving school conditions for learning. Activities in this content area fall into two broad categories: learning environment and the physical and mental health of students. Within the safe and healthy content area, funds can be used for a wide range of programs and activities that directly support student health and wellness, as well as professional development and training for school personnel. As always, strategies must be clearly tied to the overarching intent of the Title IVA program of improving student academic achievement.

Effective Use of Technology

Activities under the effective use of technology (EUT) content area should focus on improving the academic growth and digital literacy of all students by providing more opportunities to access personalized learning and high-quality educational materials. The main purpose of this content area is to improve how technology is used in the classroom and there is strong emphasis on increasing the capacity of educators to integrate technology effectively into the classroom and improve practice. While there is some allowability for supplies (infrastructure), the intent is to build capacity and success through training and professional development.

Technology infrastructure is defined in statute as devices, equipment, software applications, blended learning software and platforms, digital instructional resources (e.g., textbook substitutes, digital licenses, online subscriptions), and other one-time information technology purchases (§4109(a)(2)(B) & (a)(4)(A)). The amount that an LEA may budget and spend on infrastructure is limited to 15% of the total amount the LEA has spent in the EUT content area. This 15% special rule applies only to infrastructure purchased under the effective use of technology content area; it does not apply to infrastructure purchased under the well-rounded or safe and healthy students content areas.

Content Area Identification within the CFP Application

LEAs must identify the content area for each proposed strategy within the application. This should be done on the **Budget Allocation** tab of the Title IVA section of the CFP application. On

this tab, LEAs must fill out the chart by entering the total amount budgeted toward each content area and the corresponding investment number.

Title IVA content areas often have significant overlap; therefore, when writing investment descriptions for Title IVA-funded strategies, LEAs must ensure purpose statements clearly align with the intent of the identified content area and a data-supported need that has been identified in the appropriate section of the Data Inventory. For investments that could meet the intent of multiple content areas, the difference is generally determined in the wording of the investment and how the need for the strategy is supported in the Data Inventory. During review of the application, the SEA will confirm that the content area for each investment has been appropriately identified, based on data provided in the Data Inventory, the purpose statement (intended outcome), and the activity included in the investment description.

Example

An investment for a professional development opportunity designed to increase the capacity of teachers and staff to support student social and emotional learning (SEL) may be allowable under either the well-rounded or the safe/healthy student content area. If the purpose statement of the investment description and supporting data indicate a need to respond to and support students who have experienced trauma in order to improve school climate, this investment may be most appropriate under safe/healthy students. If, however, the purpose of the investment is focused on supporting teachers in implementing an SEL curriculum so students can acquire and apply these skills, the investment may be more appropriately categorized under the well-rounded content area.

The flexibility afforded between content areas is largely driven by the results of the comprehensive needs assessment and wording of the investment description. LEAs are also encouraged to review the [Writing Approvable CFP Investments document](#) for additional information on writing investments within the CFP Grant application.