



Our fight for our nation's children continues...

Support the "Every Student Succeeds Act" and make sure our children have the resources they need!

School Counselors play a vital role in the well-being and academic performance of our nation's students. Please vote to provide full funding levels for the Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants in this year's appropriation process!

The Big Block Grant

Title IV (or what we like to call "the big block grant") is supported by a diverse coalition of groups who want (and are asking for full funding of) the Title IV grants, which are designed to fund the well-rounded education of students, a priority in Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). However in **2016** Congress fell far short of funding Title IV at the \$1.6 billion that was authorized.

For **FY 2017**, Congress appropriated only 25 percent of the \$1.6 billion authorized—or \$400 million—and President Trump's proposed budget for **2018** recommends no funding for the block grant at all.

This year's block grant funding will be released July 1. The money is to be allocated to states via a formula based on Title I, which provides financial assistance to districts with high percentages of children from low-income families. The states, in turn, will distribute those funds to the local education agencies.

Distribution of the Title IV, Part A block grant funding to states is governed by a tiered formula, so that schools or districts that receive more than \$30,000 must conduct a needs assessment, then use 20% for safe and healthy school activities (**which includes school counseling programs**), 20% for well-rounded education programs, and the remaining 60% as they see fit for any of the three priorities, including technology. Spending on devices, equipment, software, and digital content would be capped at 15%.

Schools or districts that receive less than \$30,000 must spend money in at least one of the three designated categories. Again, spending on hardware, software, and content would be capped at 15%. No needs assessment is required for grants under \$30,000.

The issue of appropriating more for Title IV, Part A is a high priority, because state education staff and school district leaders are concerned that they will not be able to make meaningful investments with reduced funding.

- The American Counseling Association (ACA) has advocated tirelessly in support of full funding for school counseling programs nationwide.
- \$1.65 billion for the Title IV, Part A: The Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant Program under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- ACA has lobbied Congress, the Department of Education, created action alerts and engaged coalition partners all in an effort to improve school conditions, the creation or expansion of school counseling programs across the country, and expanded access to a well-rounded education for the nation's children.

Please vote for full funding of Title IV grants in the Appropriation bills that will come before Congress this year!