

Federal Funding Quick Reference Guide for District Administrators

CrickSoftware

1. Overview of Funding Opportunities

This guide is your roadmap to understand the various federal funding streams available to enhance educational outcomes through technology and support services.

You'll be able to quickly identify which funds can be applied to specific needs within your district to make it easier to match solutions with appropriate funding sources.

This guide's focus is to cut through the complexity and provide a straightforward snapshot of each major funding source and how it can be used effectively in your schools.

2. Quick Funding Snapshots

Funding Source	Purpose and Use
ESSER Funds	Ideal for addressing immediate district needs. You can invest them in technology upgrades and student support services to mitigate learning loss and adapt to post-pandemic educational challenges. Note: These funds expire in September 2024. Plan how to use them before that deadline to avoid missed opportunities.
IDEA Funds	Specifically earmarked for special education. Use these funds to support services and technologies that assist students with disabilities. This includes everything from purchasing adaptive equipment to funding specialized staff training.
Title I-A Funds	Targeted at schools with high percentages of students from low-income families. These funds are versatile but must focus on improving educational equity and academic achievement. Common uses include supplemental resources and interventions that support at-risk students.
Title II-A Funds	Focus on enhancing the quality of teaching and administration through professional development. These funds are perfect for training initiatives that improve instructional quality and the effectiveness of both teachers and school leaders.
Title III-A Funds	Dedicated to supporting multilingual learners. Use these funds for programs that enhance English language acquisition and academic achievement and provide culturally responsive resources.
Title IV-A Funds	Improves the integration of technology in classrooms. These funds can be used to purchase new technology, train teachers to use digital tools effectively and develop innovative learning models that incorporate tech-based learning solutions.

Each of these funding sources offers unique opportunities to tailor educational strategies to meet the diverse needs of your student population. Use this guide to quickly determine which funds best align with the initiatives you want to implement in your district.

3. Key Considerations for Using Funds

Multi-Year Licensing

Can I still use federal funds to purchase multi-year contracts, even with the September 2024 expiration date?

Federal funds come with an expiration date. However, you **can** still use them to secure multi-year licenses for EdTech and resources, even beyond the expiration date. The goal here is to secure these licenses before the September 2024 expiration date.

- **How to do multi-year licensing with funding sources:**

Plan to allocate your funds (like ESSER funds that expire in September 2024) towards licenses that continue to run even after the funds are officially gone. This means you can keep using the tech or services into 2025 and beyond.

- **Why multi-year licensing matters:**

This strategy ensures that students don't face sudden stops in accessing learning tools just because the funding calendar ends.

Combining Funds

I see an overlap in different funding source criteria. Can I combine funding sources to meet my educational needs?

Mixing different funding streams can boost your programs, letting you do more with what you have.

- **Braiding Funds**

Consider braiding as using different pots of money for one project while keeping track of each dollar separately. This lets you match the proper funds to the right parts of your project, like using Title I for general education boosts and IDEA for special education needs.

- **Blending Funds**

Blending is when you combine different funds into one big pot. It simplifies managing the money, but keep a close eye on your records to show you're still meeting the goals for each type of fund.

Tips for Success:

1. Plan With Care

Look for ways different funds can work towards common goals.

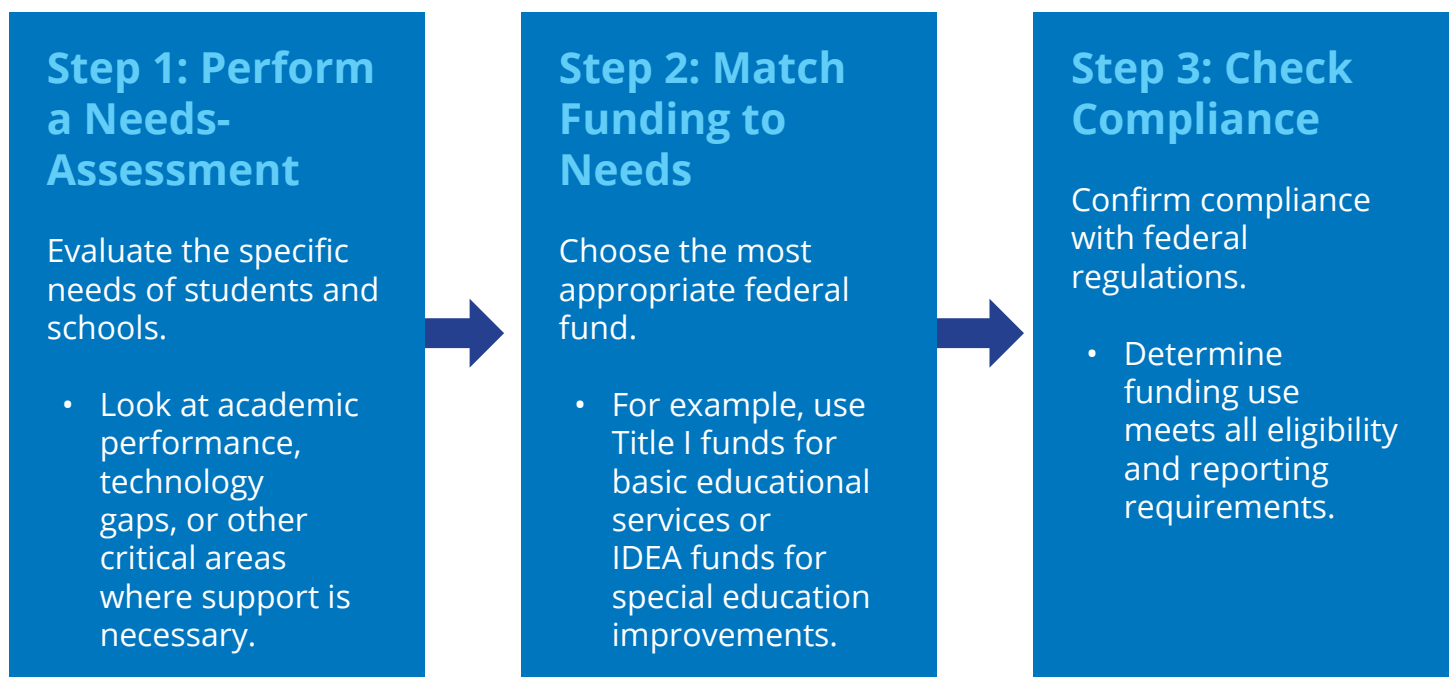
2. Stay on Track

Keep detailed records to ensure you follow the rules for each type of fund. A solid ERP or finance management system can support funding combinations for auditing purposes.

3. Check Your Impact

Monitor your programs' performance and tweak as needed to maximize your funds.

4. Decision Flowchart



5. Examples of Fund Usage

Scenario A: Using ESSER Funds for Pandemic Recovery Technology Tools

Context: A middle school needs to enhance its digital learning environment due to increased remote learning demands.

Action: The school uses ESSER funds to purchase additional laptops and improve broadband connectivity for students and teachers.

Outcome: Improved access to online resources and smoother delivery of remote education, helping to mitigate learning disruptions caused by the pandemic.

Scenario B: IDEA Funds Used for Assistive Technology Enhancements

Context: An elementary school identifies a need to better support students with disabilities in accessing the curriculum effectively.

Action: The school allocates IDEA funds to acquire new assistive technologies, such as speech-to-text software and adjustable desks for physically disabled students.

Outcome: Enhanced learning experiences for students with disabilities, leading to better engagement and academic performance.

6. Contact Information

Federal and State Funding Advisors

To obtain direct support and personalized guidance regarding the use of federal and state educational funds, you can contact the relevant advisors:

U.S. Department of Education

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

- Email: OESE@ed.gov
- Phone: [\(202\) 401-0113](tel:(202)401-0113)

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

- Email: OSERS@ed.gov
- Phone: [\(202\) 245-7468](tel:(202)245-7468)

State Department of Education

- Contact details vary by state. Please visit your state's Department of Education website to find contact information for your local advisors.

Online Resources

For detailed funding guidelines, application procedures, and additional resources, the following online portals provide comprehensive information:

- U.S. Department of Education Grants and Funding Page

<https://www.ed.gov/fund>

This page provides an overview of available grants, funding opportunities, and application tips.

- **Grants.gov**

<https://www.grants.gov>

You can search and apply for federal grants, with access to over 1,000 grant programs offered by all federal grant-making agencies.

- **State-Specific Education Funding Resources**

You can access your state's Department of Education website for state-specific funding opportunities, application guides, and local funding advisors.

These resources are designed to help you navigate the complexities of federal and state funding, ensuring that you can make the most informed decisions for your educational initiatives.

District Planning Template for Funding Allocation

School District Name: *Insert School District Name*

Number of Schools in District: *Insert Number of Schools*

Part 1: Identification of Needs

- Identified Need/Priority:

Describe the specific need or priority in your district or a particular school within your district, such as reading proficiency among middle school students.

- Data Supporting This Need:

Detail any data that indicates this is a priority, such as assessment scores, attendance rates, etc.

- Current Programs/Activities:

Describe what programs or activities are currently being implemented to address this need.

- Barriers:

List any obstacles faced in addressing this need effectively.

Part 2: Planning for Intervention

- Desired Changes/Interventions:

Describe the changes or new interventions you plan to implement to address the identified need, such as adopting an MTSS framework.

- Funding Considerations:

- Available Federal Funds:

List potential federal funds that could be utilized, such as ESSER, IDEA, Title I-A, etc.

- Planned Allocation of Funds:

Describe how you intend to allocate these funds for the desired interventions. Include any considerations for multi-year licensing or combining funds.

Part 3: Stakeholder Engagement

- Past Engagement Practices:

Describe how the district has previously engaged stakeholders in spending decisions.

- Barriers to Engagement:

Identify barriers to obtaining input from educators, parents, and community members.

- Future Engagement Plans:

Outline how you plan to engage stakeholders moving forward.

- Action Steps for Next Year:

- *First action step*
 - *Second action step*
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Part 4: Review and Monitoring

- Implementation Timeline:

Provide a timeline for implementing the planned interventions.

- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:

Describe how the effectiveness of the interventions will be monitored and evaluated. Include specific metrics and scheduled review points.

- Adjustment Procedures:

Detail the process for making adjustments based on monitoring and evaluation results.

Appendices (if applicable)

- Appendix A:

Additional Data Sources

- Appendix B:

Detailed Budget Breakdown

- Appendix C:

Additional Stakeholder Feedback Forms