

Critical Support for Teaching and Leading

Call to Action

We call on Congress to fully fund Title IIA to ensure high-quality professional learning and support for educators and school leaders to improve student achievement.

As a nation we share a vision that all children deserve the opportunity to graduate high school ready for success in college, career, and life, regardless of their zip code. Cutting support for the educators who teach our children each day drastically undermines our ability to realize this vision. Title IIA, the most significant source of federal funding to ensure this support, must be fully funded so that states, districts, and local schools may provide the professional learning and leadership skills that educators need.

Title IIA is a linchpin for achieving the goals of The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a bipartisan agreement, that there be excellence and equity for all students.

Full funding will allow these states and districts to realize these goals through stronger professional learning and leadership opportunities which will, in turn, increase student achievement.

Title IIA matters to educators
345 respondents in 43 states use Title IIA for support:
65% for coaches
48% for mentors
38% for stipends for teachers assuming leadership responsibilities

Title IIA is critical to effective teaching and leadership

ESSA's Title II authorizes programs for states and districts to improve teaching and leadership through professional learning. ESSA strengthened Title II by establishing new evidence requirements and a more rigorous definition of professional development. This opportunity to re-evaluate and revise Title II activities, including Title IIA, has been embraced by states and districts looking to enact the promise.

These funds are essential to school and district support of the following:

Increased content knowledge and improved classroom practice for teachers	Support for principals to become outstanding leaders	Improve instruction with coaching and mentoring	Specialized training for teachers and principals to meet student needs
Educator recruitment	Strategies for increasing graduation rates	Implementation support for effective instructional materials and innovative technologies	Implementation support for personalized learning for each student

A growing body of research and practice tells us that effective professional development, as defined in ESSA, improves both the content knowledge of teachers in core academic areas, and the classroom practices of all teachers. It also strengthens the learning that supports principals in becoming outstanding educational leaders.

We know:

- The quality of teaching and leadership in schools are the two most significant in-school factors tied to student achievement.
- Effective professional development is intensive, ongoing, and connected to practice; focused on student learning and teaching specific curriculum content; and aligned with school improvement priorities and goals.
- There is a great need for professional development for principals, assistant principals, and other school leaders tailored for their specific roles and responsibilities.

Title IIA supports increased student academic achievement by promoting strategies that will positively affect teacher and principal effectiveness.