

Title II, Part A Improving Teacher Quality

Purpose:

The purpose of the program is to increase academic achievement by improving teacher and principal quality by increasing the number of highly qualified teachers in classrooms; improving the skills of principals and assistant principals in schools; and increasing the effectiveness of teachers and principals by holding LEAs and schools accountable for improvements in student academic achievement.

How Funding is Distributed to Schools:

State educational agencies (SEAs) receive Title II, Part A funds on a formula basis. Although a portion is retained by the SEA for State-level activities including: (1) recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers and principals; (2) increasing the number of highly qualified teachers in classrooms; and (3) reforming teacher and principal certification programs, the majority of the funds are allocated to LEAs by formula. The state agency of higher education also receives a portion of Title II, Part A funds and works in conjunction with the SEA to carry out specific activities through competitive subgrants to partnerships of IHEs, high-need LEAs, and other entities.

LEAs submit an application based on needs assessment to the SEA, which includes descriptions of the activities they propose to undertake, how the activities align with state academic content standards, student academic achievement standards, and state assessments.

How Funds May Be Spent:

Title II, Part A provides agencies the flexibility to use these funds creatively to address challenges to teacher quality, whether they concern teacher preparation and qualifications of new teachers, recruitment and hiring, induction, professional development, teacher retention, or the need for more capable principals and assistant principals to serve as effective school leaders.

Accountability:

Agencies receiving funds are held accountable to the public for improvements in academic achievement.

Allocations:

The US Department of Education provides tables showing state allocations for Improving Teacher Quality grants at

<http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/08stbystate.pdf>

and for the program nationwide at

<http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/08stbyprogram.pdf>

US Department of Education Web site:

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/teacherqual/index.html>