ESSA Essentials
Understanding the funding

The Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (SSAEG) under ESSA's Title IV, Part A are authorized at **$1.6 billion**, but funding depends on annual appropriations. The block grant allows districts to use their funds to support **three broad areas.**

1 Well-rounded education

2 Student health and safety

3 Effective use of technology

Allocation of funding

Each year, the federal government will appropriate a total amount for the SSAEG program and allocate those dollars via Title I formula to the states. States will then allocate those funds to districts.

$30K

Schools or districts that receive an allocation **above** $30,000 must:

- Conduct a needs assessment.
- Spend **20 percent** on safe and healthy school activities.
- Spend **20 percent** on well-rounded education programs.
- Spend the remaining **60 percent** on all three priorities, including technology.
- Adhere to a **15 percent cap** on spending for devices, equipment, software and digital content.

Schools or districts that receive an allocation **below** $30,000 must:

- Spend money on activities in at least one of the three categories.
- Adhere to the **15 percent cap** on spending for hardware, software and content.

Investing in these programs is critical to help students succeed

Diverse academic programs
Schools will be able to expand music, art, STEM, accelerated learning, history, civics, college/career prep.

Health and safety programs
Strong physical and mental health leads to academic success, school completion and the development of productive citizens.

Modern technology
Schools need tech-proficient educators, ongoing training, well-equipped classrooms, equity of access and to provide students with skills for the future.

Congress allocated $1.1 billion in FY18.

Congress first authorized the program at **$1.6 billion.**

$1.6B

The current appropriation is $1.1 billion.

$1.1B

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