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.

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.
The current appropriation is $1.1 billion.
Take action with ISTE today!
Visit iste.org/TakeAction
for more information.