

Louisiana's ESSA plan provides a Title I allotment to support school systems and students in gaining access to academic courses, credentials, and services that are not otherwise available at their schools. Louisiana's state plan distributes the set-aside to LEA's using the Title I formula, thereby not reducing the total local Title I award while requiring funds to be spent on basic access for the most at-risk students.

Regulatory Funding Requirements

- School systems must budget three percent of Title 1-Part A funds toward direct services for students
- No more than two percent of the total DSS award can be used to cover administrative costs
- Up to one percent of the total DSS award can be used for outreach and communication to parents about courses or services provided by DSS

Funding prioritization:

1. Low-achieving¹ students who are enrolled in Title I schools identified as a **Comprehensive Intervention Required**
2. Low-achieving students who are enrolled in schools identified as **Urgent Intervention Required**
3. Low-achieving students who are enrolled in schools identified as **Urgent Intervention Needed**
4. Low-achieving students in other Title I schools
5. Low-achieving students in non-Title I schools

DSS student experiences can include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Critical courses not otherwise offered at the school (elementary enrichment or TOPS and Jump Start aligned)
- Advanced STEM academic courses
- Jump Start internship opportunities
- College Credit course offerings not otherwise available (TOPS and Jump Start aligned)
- Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and CLEP test fee reimbursements
- Opportunities to earn industry-based certifications (IBCs) in high-wage career sections
- Credit Recovery programs for at-risk students
- Tutoring services as approved by the State (elementary, middle, and high school)
- Student post-secondary transition planning services

Key requirements for program implementation:

- The school system must provide adequate outreach to ensure parents can exercise a meaningful choice of direct student services for their child's education, and ensure parents have adequate time and information about direct student service opportunities.
- The LDOE will monitor the expenditure of the funds and the parent engagement as part of the annual federal monitoring process.
- Publicly report the results of direct student service providers in improving relevant student outcomes in a manner that is accessible to parents.

Examples of DSS Partners

- Post-secondary planning: college application and financial aid coaching
- Career and technical education: stipends for work-based learning opportunities; intermediary-provided IBC training courses
- TOPS academic: Algebra II
- College-level coursework: dual enrollment in college credit-bearing courses; AP, IB, and CLEP fee coverage
- Arts and world languages: instruction provided a high-quality intermediary

Specific questions on Direct Students Services should be sent to ernise.singleton@la.gov.

¹ Low-achieving students will be defined as students that have most recently scored below the state proficiency level on any state administered assessment.