

Title IV-A Allowability

To determine whether local educational agency (LEA) activities are allowable under the Title IV-A program, state educational agencies (SEAs) follow a structured process.



Review Application Against Requirements

SEAs review the LEA's application (or individual activity request) to ensure proposed activities align with specific criteria:

- Were the activities informed by a comprehensive needs assessment (mandatory for LEAs with an allocation of at least \$30,000)?
- Was there stakeholder engagement?
- Were schools prioritized appropriately?



Confirm Alignment with Program Purposes

SEAs confirm if the proposed activities align with purposes of at least one of the three content areas in the Title IV-A program:

- Well-rounded education (ESEA section 4107)
- Safe and healthy students (ESEA section 4108)
- Effective use technology (ESEA section 4109)



Determine Allowability of Costs

Assuming alignment with program purposes, SEAs assess the allowability of costs based on the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E):

- Costs must be reasonable and necessary for grant performance.
- Costs must be allocable to the grant, proportionate to the benefits received.



Supplement, Not Supplant

SEAs ensure that proposed use of funds complies with section 4110 of the ESEA, which prohibits supplanting:

- Funds must supplement, not supplant, non-Federal funds for the allowable activity.



Verify Compliance with Prohibited Activities

SEAs ensure proposed activities do not fall under prohibited categories outlined in ESEA section 4001(b) or ESEA section 8526.



Evidence-Based

Additionally, although not a specific step in the allowability process, SEAs encourage LEAs to prioritize evidence-based activities likely to enhance student opportunities and outcomes across all student subgroups.

Considerations Regarding Supplanting

Is the activity one that is expected to be paid for with state or local funds?



Activity is **required** by state or local law;

OR



Activity is **currently or was previously paid for** with other state/local funds.

If **yes**, presume that use of Federal funds for the activity would be supplanting.

LEA **may not** use Federal funds for activity **unless** ...

LEA is able to overcome presumption of supplanting.

- ✓ LEA is able to demonstrate through **written** documentation (e.g., budgets, etc.) that no funds are available for the activity.
- ✓ LEA is able to demonstrate that it would be **unable** to implement the activity **in the absence** of the Federal funds.
- ✓ LEA is able to demonstrate that it would not **decrease** state/local funds available for the activity **because** Federal funds are available.

Was LEA able to overcome presumption of supplanting?



If **YES**, LEA may use Federal funds for activity, assuming other allowability requirements are met.



If **NO**, LEA may not use Federal funds for activity.

The information in these infographics is based on material presented by representatives from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of the General Counsel at the 2024 Title IV, Part A SEA Directors Annual meeting.