



TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT: TITLE II, PART A

COSSBA Requests

The Consortium of State School Boards Associations requests the following of Congress:

- Increase Title II, Part A, funding to attract, develop, and retain high-quality educators
- Incentivize teacher and principal licensure reform efforts with the goals of improving student achievement and meeting the needs of public schools.

Issue History

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended; 20 U.S.C. 6601-6641 created Title II, Part A.

The recruitment, development, and retention of schoolteachers and leaders is more important than ever. Title II, Part A: Teacher and Principal Training and Recruitment provides state agencies and local school districts with essential federal investments for this purpose. The purpose of the Title II program is to improve the academic achievement of all students by increasing access to effective educators. Title II provides grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) and subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs). The goal of the program is to:

1. Increase student achievement consistent with the challenging State academic standards;
2. Improve the quality and effectiveness of teachers, principals, and other school leaders;
3. Increase the number of teachers, principals, and other school leaders who are effective in improving student academic achievement in schools; and
4. Provide low-income students and students of color greater access to effective teachers, principals, and other school leaders.

In exchange for receiving funds, state educational agencies and school districts are held accountable to the public for improvements in academic achievement. Title II, Part A, also provides these agencies the flexibility to use these funds creatively to address local needs and challenges to teacher quality. This can be accomplished through 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.

Formula grants are provided for state-level activities, which include but are not limited to:

1. Reforming teacher and principal certification programs;
2. Providing support for new teachers; and
3. Providing professional development for teachers and principals.

In addition to state-level activities, SEAs make formula subgrants to LEAs, also known as local school districts. LEA activities include but are not limited to:

1. Recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers and principals;
2. Increasing the number of highly qualified teachers in classrooms; and
3. Providing professional development for teachers and principals.

LEA activities must be based on a local needs assessment. They must align with state academic content standards, student academic achievement standards, and state assessments.