



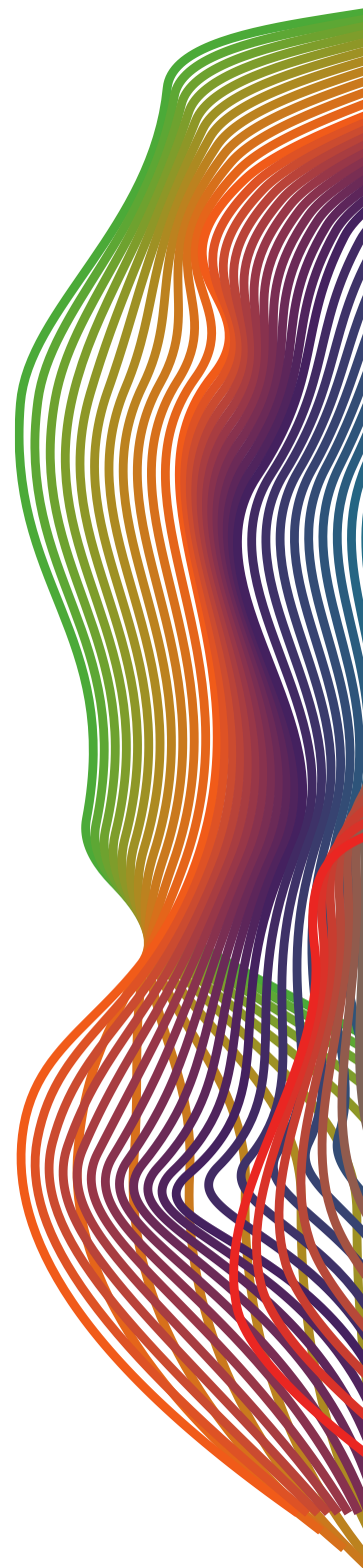
PLTW

**Utilizing ESSA  
Funding to Implement  
or Strengthen Your  
Project Lead The Way  
Programs**

Across the country, state leaders, educators, career and technical education (CTE) advocates, and industry experts are working together to leverage the, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to provide students with access to high-quality career learning experiences.

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) has impacted millions of students across all 50 states and is proud to be part of these efforts. Our programs are designed to empower all students to learn transportable, in-demand skills validated by the world's leading companies, while providing an invaluable connection between what students are learning in the classroom today and how it applies to the career paths they'll take in the future. PLTW programs also provide teachers with the training, resources, and tools to lead student learning. Schools and districts across the country are implementing PLTW programs to support ESSA's goal to provide all students with a high-quality career learning education.

ESSA provides considerable flexibility for states and stresses the importance of equitable access to a high-quality STEM education. There are nine titles in the ESSA, with four of those titles containing significant support for PLTW programs. Local and state rules may influence how your school or district can utilize ESSA funding, so school leaders should work with their district CTE leadership to apply for and secure funding under the titles below.



## Title I Part A

Title I Part A provides funding to support schools with a high number of students from low-income families, but funding is also meant to ensure all students meet rigorous academic standards regardless of economic status. In schools where more than 40 percent of students come from low-income families, schools may use the funding on schoolwide programs that improve achievement for all students.

Under the law, schools should have flexibility to use the funds to support PLTW programs. Funding can be used to support Title I schoolwide PLTW programs; acquire new technology like tablets, laptops, and other devices; and support programs such as PLTW “that incorporate experiential learning opportunities and promote skills attainment important to in-demand occupations or industries.”

## Title II Part A

One of the purposes of Title II funding grants is to increase student achievement through teacher professional development.

Districts and schools can use Title II Part A funding in a variety of ways to support PLTW Professional Development including recruiting, teacher training, course implementation, and innovative pay structures. According to the federal statute and guidance, specific activities may include:

- Providing professional learning opportunities to STEM educators.
- Supporting STEM educators as they implement new courses, such as computer science and engineering.
- Providing differential or incentive pay for educators in high-need subject areas, such as STEM, to serve in high-need schools, or to reward the work of teachers and leaders who have demonstrated effectiveness in improving student outcomes in STEM areas.

## Title III

Title III funding focuses on English language learners and helping them attain English literacy and meet the same state academic standards in reading/language arts, mathematics, and science.

Districts and schools can use Title III funds for PLTW programs and teacher professional development if the purpose is to enhance the achievement of English language learners. According to the statute and guidance, states could dedicate funds to:

- Upgrade programs to increase digital learning resources and materials in non-English

languages to support achievement in STEM areas. Of note, PLTW Launch and PLTW Gateway are available in both English and Spanish.

- Assist English learners in achieving at higher levels in science. Strategies can include professional development for educators, providing technical assistance to districts, or implementing or upgrading programs.

## Title IV Part A

Title IV Part A funding is allocated to three content areas: well-rounded educational opportunities, safe and healthy students, and effective use of technology. The most significant opportunities for the use of ESSA funds to support PLTW programs and related professional development are contained in the well-rounded educational opportunities and effective use of technology content areas.

Districts wishing to implement or expand PLTW programs could dedicate Title IV funding for the following:

- Programs that improve instruction and student engagement in STEM subjects, including computer science, which PLTW offers in grades PreK-12. This includes increasing access to underrepresented students, providing hands-on learning opportunities, and teacher professional development.
- Initiatives that increase participation in AP and dual enrollment courses. Schools can implement both PLTW Computer Science Principles and Computer Science A as AP courses, as endorsed by the College Board. Additionally, the AP + PLTW program encourages student participation in all three high school pathways and builds student interest in STEM degrees and careers.
- Blended learning projects and the ongoing professional development to support such projects.
- School or district-wide approaches to inform instruction, support teacher collaboration, and personalize learning through technology. This includes personalized online professional development and teacher micro-credential programs. Through PLTW Professional Development, teachers have access to online training, teacher resources, and credentialing opportunities.

Local and state rules may further influence how your school or district can utilize ESSA funding. Also of note, ESSA stresses and requires evidence-based implementations and encourages districts to look for practices and activities based on formal and well-designed and implemented research.

**i** We want to continue to strengthen our partnership as your district is preparing its plan. Let us be a resource for you during this process. Visit the School Locator on [pltw.org](http://pltw.org) to find PLTW programs in your area and make connections, collaborate, and learn how you can maximize ESSA funds with PLTW.