Ohio | Department of Education

Title III: Purposes and Subgrantee Activities

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Sources: Elementary and Secondary Education Act as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Sections 3102, 3115

Key Words: Title III; English learners; Immigrant children and youth

Summary: The purpose of Title III is to meet the needs of English learners, develop effective language instruction programs, build agencies' capacities, promote parental involvement, streamline programs, hold state and local educational agencies accountable and provide flexibility for agencies. ESSA outlines the following purposes and activities as to how the funds can be used by subgrantees in the following sections.

General Purposes of Title III (ESSA 3102)

The purposes of Title III include the following:

(1) Helping ensure English learners, including immigrant children and youth, attain English proficiency and develop high levels of academic achievement in English;

(2) Assisting all English learners, including immigrant children and youth, to achieve at high levels in academic subjects so that all English learners can meet the same challenging State academic standards that all children are expected to meet;

(3) Assisting teachers (including preschool teachers), principals and other school leaders, state educational agencies, local educational agencies and schools in establishing, implementing and sustaining effective language instruction educational programs designed to assist in teaching English learners, including immigrant children and youth;

(4) Assisting teachers (including preschool teachers), principals and other school leaders, state educational agencies and local educational agencies to develop and enhance their capacity to provide effective instructional programs designed to prepare English learners, including immigrant children and youth, to enter English instructional settings; and

(5) Promoting parental, family and community participation in language instruction educational programs for the parents, families and communities of English learners.

Purposes of Subgrants (ESSA 3115a)

The Ohio Department of Education makes subgrants to eligible districts and community schools from funds received by the Department under Title III only if the district or school agrees to expend the funds to improve the education of English learners by assisting the children to learn English and meet Ohio's challenging academic standards. In carrying out activities with such funds, the eligible entity shall use effective approaches and methodologies for teaching English learners and immigrant children and youth for the following purposes:

(1) Developing and implementing new language instruction educational programs and academic content instructional programs for English learners and immigrant children and youth, including early childhood education programs, elementary school programs and secondary school programs;

(2) Carrying out highly focused, innovative, locally designed activities to expand or enhance existing language instruction educational programs and academic content instructional programs for English learners and immigrant children and youth;

(3) Implementing, within an individual school, schoolwide programs for restructuring, reforming and upgrading all relevant programs, activities and operations relating to language instruction educational programs and academic content instruction for English learners and immigrant children and youth;

(4) Implementing, within the entire jurisdiction of a local educational agency, agency-wide programs for restructuring, reforming and upgrading all relevant programs, activities and operations relating to language instruction educational programs and academic content instruction for English learners and immigrant children and youth.

Direct Administrative Expenses (ESSA 3115b)

Each subgrantee receiving Title III for a fiscal year may use not more than 2 percent of such funds for the cost of administering the grant and related activities.

Required Subgrantee Activities (ESSA 3115c)

A subgrantee receiving Title III funds shall use the funds for the following:

(1) Increasing the English language proficiency of English learners by providing effective language instruction educational programs that meet the needs of English learners and demonstrate success in increasing:
   a) English language proficiency; and
   b) Student academic achievement.

(2) Providing effective professional development to classroom teachers (including teachers in classroom settings that are not the settings of language instruction educational programs), principals and other school leaders, administrators, and other school or community-based organizational personnel, that is:
   a) Designed to improve the instruction and assessment of English learners;
   b) Designed to enhance the ability of such teachers, principals and other school leaders to understand and implement curricula, assessment practices and measures, and instructional strategies for English learners;
   c) Effective in increasing children's English language proficiency or substantially increasing the subject matter knowledge, teaching knowledge and teaching skills of such teachers; and
   d) Of sufficient intensity and duration (which shall not include activities such as one-day or short-term workshops and conferences) to have a positive and lasting impact on teachers' performance in the classroom, except that this subparagraph shall not apply to an activity that is one component of a long-term, comprehensive professional development plan established by a teacher and the teacher's supervisor based on an assessment of the needs of the teacher, the supervisor, the students of the teacher and any local educational agency employing the teacher, as appropriate; and

(3) Providing and implementing other effective activities and strategies that enhance or supplement language instruction educational programs for English learners, which do the following:
   a) Include parent, family and community engagement activities; and
   b) May include strategies that serve to coordinate and align related programs.

Authorized Subgrantee Activities (3115d)

A subgrantee receiving Title III funds may use the funds to achieve any of the purposes described in subsection 3115(a) by undertaking one or more of the following activities:

(1) Upgrading program objectives and effective instructional strategies;

(2) Improving the instructional program for English learners by identifying, acquiring and upgrading curricula, instructional materials, educational software and assessment procedures;

(3) Providing to English learners the following:
   a) Tutorials and academic or career and technical education; and
   b) Intensified instruction, which may include materials in a language that the student can understand, interpreters and translators.

(4) Developing and implementing effective preschool, elementary school or secondary school language instruction educational programs that are coordinated with other relevant programs and services;

(5) Improving the English language proficiency and academic achievement of English learners;

(6) Providing community participation programs, family literacy services, and parent and family outreach and training activities to English learners and their families for the following:
   a) To improve the English language skills of English learners; and
   b) To assist parents and families in helping their children improve their academic achievement and becoming active participants in the education of their children.

(7) Improving the instruction of English learners, which may include English learners with a disability, by providing for the following:
   a) The acquisition or development of educational technology or instructional materials;
   b) Access to, and participation in, electronic networks for materials, training and communication; and
   c) Incorporation of the resources described in subparagraphs (a) and (b) into curricula and programs, such as those funded under this subpart.

(8) Offering early college high school or dual or concurrent enrollment programs or courses designed to help English learners achieve success in postsecondary education.

(9) Carrying out other activities that are consistent with the purposes of this section.

Activities by Districts and Community Schools Experiencing Substantial Increases in Immigrant Children and Youth (ESSA 3115e)

In general, a subgrantee receiving Title III Immigrants funds (ESSA 3114(d)(1)) shall use the funds to pay for activities that provide enhanced instructional opportunities for immigrant children and youth, which may include the following:

(1) Family literacy, parent and family outreach, and training activities designed to assist parents and families to become active participants in the education of their children;

(2) Recruitment of, and support for, personnel, including teachers and paraprofessionals who have been specifically trained, or are being trained, to provide services to immigrant children and youth;

(3) Provision of tutorials, mentoring, and academic or career counseling for immigrant children and youth;

(4) Identification, development, and acquisition of curricular materials, educational software, and technologies to be used in the program carried out with awarded funds;

(5) Basic instructional services that are directly attributable to the presence of immigrant children and youth in the local educational agency involved, including the payment of costs of providing additional classroom supplies, costs of transportation, or such other costs as are directly attributable to such additional basic instructional services;

(6) Other instructional services that are designed to assist immigrant children and youth to achieve in elementary schools and secondary schools in the United States, such as programs of introduction to the educational system and civics education; and

(7) Activities, coordinated with community-based organizations, institutions of higher education, private sector entities or other entities with expertise in working with immigrants, to assist parents and families of immigrant children and youth by offering comprehensive community services.

Supplement, Not Supplant (ESSA 3115g)

Title III funds shall be used so as to supplement the level of federal, state and local public funds that, in the absence of such availability, would have been expended for programs for English learners and immigrant children and youth and in no case to supplant such federal, state and local public funds.

In practice, the prohibition against supplanting under Title III means that recipients may not use those funds to pay for services that, in the absence of Title III funds, would be necessary to be provided by other federal, state or local funds.

Review the federal guidance on Title III's Supplement, not Supplant provision for additional understanding.