

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

TITLE IV, PART A: STUDENT SUPPORT AND ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT GRANT Grant Period July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2022

Title IV, Part A (T4PA), the Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant, provides supports to ensure our education system prepares every student to graduate from high school ready for college and career success. The T4PA grant is specifically directed toward improving the lowest-performing schools and providing each and every student with a well-rounded education; school conditions that ensure learning in safe and healthy school environments; and technology that improves academic achievement and digital learning. T4PA is intended to address these three priority areas in order to improve academic outcomes for all students regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, family income, sex (including gender identity), sexual orientation, disability, language status, or migrant status.

Currently, T4PA includes several special rules which impact grantee ability to address the unprecedented obstacles associated with COVID-19. For the past two grant years, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) had permission to offer grantees relief from some of these rules through waivers; however, we were unable to extend those waivers to the newest grant year (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022). The United States Department of Education has recently invited states to apply for these same waiver opportunities, for the newest grant year.

The specific T4PA flexibilities that could be made available to grantees include:

- Section 4106(d) of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA, related to LEA needs assessments for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Section 4106(e)(2)(C), (D), and (E) of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA, with respect to content-area spending requirements for Federal fiscal year (FY) 2020 Title IV, Part A funds.
- Section 4109(b) of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA, with respect to the fifteen percent spending limitation for technology infrastructure for FY 2020 Title IV, Part A funds.

All other requirements in Title IV, Part A of the ESEA would continue to apply.

Through this announcement, and as required by ESEA section 8401(b)(3)(A), the CSDE is providing the public and interested LEAs notice and opportunity to comment on its plan to pursue the three, above-described waivers. Comments are due via email to SDE.Title4@ct.gov by 5:00 PM on Friday, February 5, 2021. All comments received will be a matter of public record and will be sent to the U.S. Department of Education when the CSDE submits the waiver request.

If you have any questions regarding these waivers, please contact Lynn Cipriano, T4PA Program Manager, at 860-713-6457.

Thank you.