



APERTURE EDUCATION
A RIVERSIDE INSIGHTS COMPANY



DESSA SYSTEM

SCHOOL FUNDING GUIDE

FEDERAL FUNDING AT-A-GLANCE

An overview of available federal funding for the DESSA System can be found below.

Title I Funding (ESEA)

Title I funding, which surpasses \$18 billion yearly, is dedicated to schools with a significant population of economically disadvantaged students. Its mission is to provide vital support and resources to districts and charter schools, enhancing curriculum, promoting collaboration among stakeholders, and maintaining high expectations for both educators and students. Through these initiatives, Title I aims to boost accountability, strengthen school-family partnerships, empower educators with decision-making autonomy, and ultimately, improve academic achievement among students in these schools, ensuring they meet state academic standards.

Title II Funding

High-quality teachers play a pivotal role in fostering student success and academic achievement. By providing educators with proper training and tools through initiatives, we empower them to deliver effective instruction tailored to students' diverse needs. Investing in teacher development ensures a positive impact on student learning outcomes, ultimately shaping the future generation's educational journey.

Title IV Funding

Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grants, established under ESSA, serve as a vital resource in enhancing academic achievement. By bolstering the capabilities of states, local educational agencies, schools, and communities, these grants facilitate the provision of a well-rounded education, improve school conditions conducive to learning, and promote the effective integration of technology. Ultimately, this funding empowers educators and communities to nurture holistic student development, fostering academic success, and digital literacy for all learners.

Title VI Funding

Each learner can benefit from specialized instruction and tailored program design, with resources available for advanced academics, special education, English language learners, social-emotional behavior skills, response to intervention, and early childhood education.

Title VIII Funding

Personalized assessment, instruction, solutions, and online options offer educators valuable insights into student performance and needs. This enables tailored interventions and support services, ultimately improving academic achievement, school climate, and digital literacy, fostering a conducive learning environment and promoting student success.

IDEA: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

The support of IDEA funds enables all parties involved in a student's education to access consistent, up-to-date information and provide assistance to exceptional learners collectively. It includes an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Report that facilitates the monitoring and sharing of data among specialists, administrators, teachers, and families, ensuring everyone stays informed and can contribute to the student's success.

Project AWARE Grants

This program aims to establish a sustainable framework for mental health support in schools. Recipients will collaborate with various stakeholders including state, local, and tribal education agencies, mental health organizations, community providers, school staff, families, and students. Through these partnerships, award recipients will implement activities to promote mental health awareness, prevention, intervention, and resilience among school-aged youth, ensuring they have access to effective behavioral health services. SAMHSA's goal is to foster positive social and emotional development in youth and prevent violence in schools.

Promoting Student Resilience Program

By prioritizing cultural relevance and continuous support, this program strives to foster positive school climates and trauma-informed approaches, ultimately improving care for school-aged youth.



TITLE I

Title I is the largest source of federal funding to schools is from Title I, providing over \$18 billion to schools that serve a high number of children from low-income families to ensure that these children are able to meet challenging state academic standards.

How DESSA System Aligns to Title I:

- The **DESSA** is accessible: The teacher-completed DESSA is available in English and Spanish. The **DESSA Student** is available in 15 languages.
- The strength-based perspective encourages educators to view students positively, supporting them at their current level while nurturing ongoing growth. This shift in mindset fosters a positive school environment conducive to continual improvement and development.
- The **DESSA System** universal screeners and assessments acknowledges students' strengths while guiding their growth areas, fostering deeper relationships between educators and students.
- The **DESSA Student** is a student-completed assessment that promptly reveals students' top skills and relative strengths upon completion. Highlighting these top skills boosts student confidence, fosters active engagement in their development, and empowers them to make informed decisions about which skills they wish to enhance further.
- Utilize **DESSA Student** to empower students and foster student agency. By capturing student voices and emphasizing their opinions and choices, students are encouraged to take ownership of their learning journey, enhancing engagement and investment in their academic progress.

The **DESSA System** proactively pinpoints opportunities for student skill development. This approach ensures that all students have access to needed resources earlier on. A proactive approach also can reduce costs and consequences of a reactive approach to mental, emotional, and behavioral challenges.

TITLE II

With a focus on increasing student academic achievement through strategies such as improving teacher quality, Title II funds professional development activities that are sustained, intensive, collaborative, job-embedded, data-driven, and classroom-focused.

How DESSA System Aligns to Title II:

- The **DESSA Implementation Services** resources encompass a wide range of training opportunities and professional learning to guide social-emotional behavioral program implementation success.
- Utilizing district- and school-level data insights, administrators and instructional leaders can design customized professional development sessions and cultivate community-wide best practices to enhance educational outcomes.
- Educator Social Emotional Reflection and Training (EdSERT) offered within the **DESSA Implementation Services** promotes a holistic program fostering social-emotional behavioral comprehension and teaching proficiency, leading to improved student outcomes, reduced stress, and decreased turnover rates.

The **DESSA System** offers resources to support educators in teaching social-emotional skills and build their own resilience.

TITLE IV

Title IV is a block grant that provides over \$1 billion in funding toward school safety, well-rounded education, and educational technology initiatives. Under the CARES Act, these funds can now be used to fund any of these three priorities: providing students with well-rounded education, maintaining student health and safety, or purchasing and implementing education technology and systems.

How DESSA System Aligns to Title IV:

- The **DESSA System** works in harmony with college and career readiness frameworks such as Profile of a Graduate, to cultivate 21st-century skills, character traits, and social-emotional behavioral competencies. By nurturing adaptability, fostering effective collaboration, and promoting resilience, students are equipped to excel in diverse personal and professional settings.
- The **DESSA System** empowers educators with data-driven insights to create enriching learning experiences for all students.
- The **DESSA Strategies & Interventions** equip educators with resources to nurture a culture of continuous improvement, promoting equitable access to quality education, and preparing students for success in the digital age.
- The **DESSA Strategies & Interventions** harness research to guide impactful skill-building plans for educators.

The **DESSA System** prioritizes building healthy relationships among educators, students, and the wider school community through a strength-based approach. By equipping individuals with social-emotional behavioral skills, it fosters a nurturing school environment that empowers the growth of every individual.

TITLE VI

Title VI focuses on specialized instruction and tailored program design with resources available for advanced academics, special education, English language learners, social-emotional behavior skills, response to intervention, and early childhood education.

How DESSA System Aligns to Title VI:

- The **DESSA Assessments & Screeners** emphasizes cultivating healthy relationships among educators, students, and the broader school community using a strength-based approach. By providing individuals with social and emotional skills, it nurtures a supportive school environment conducive to the growth of each individual.
- The **DESSA Assessments & Screeners** proactively identify issues impacting at-risk students before they affect student wellbeing, academic performance, or school climate. By offering immediate and actionable support, the program cultivates a more equitable learning environment.
- Administrators and instructional leaders harness district- and school-level data insights from **DESSA Assessments & Screeners** to tailor professional development sessions and foster community-wide best practices, thereby enriching educational outcomes across the district/program.
- **DESSA Implementation Services** provide practical solutions and resources to guide educators in instruction, intervention, learning, and behavior support.

By focusing on favorable student behavior and early identification of strengths, we actively identify avenues for student development. This proactive strategy mitigates the substantial costs and ramifications linked with mental, emotional, and behavioral hurdles that come with a reactive approach.

TITLE VIII

Title VIII focuses on personalized learning through an emphasis on resources that support school climate and digital literacy, ultimately fostering a conducive learning environment and promoting student success.

How DESSA System Aligns to Title VIII:

- **DESSA Assessments & Screeners** provide measures which can guide understanding of student behavior, attendance, and success.
- The **DESSA Student** provides opportunities for students that are designed to bolster their growth and enhance skill development.
- Through the **DESSA Student**, educators can cross-reference their educator-completed **DESSA Assessments** information with students' self-reported assessment to build the fullest whole child understanding.
- High quality, rigorous social-emotional behavioral data inputs into MTSS promotes differentiated instruction.
- Evidence-based assessment designations are highly aligned to promoting student outcomes.

The **DESSA System's Strategies & Interventions** provide data-driven recommendation to help educators understand how to support students and differentiate learning.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

IDEA is the federal law ensuring students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education. IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services to eligible infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities.

How DESSA System aligns to IDEA:

- The **DESSA Strategies and Interventions** connects assessment outcomes to practical student assistance, aligning with the MTSS framework to create a robust skill-building system.
- The **DESSA Strategies & Interventions** allows district leaders to monitor strategy implementation and completion. With customizable groupings, educators can efficiently tailor interventions to specific student needs, ensuring optimal utilization of resources aligned with IDEA funding objectives.
- The progress monitoring capability of the **DESSA System** aids teachers in identifying students who may need extra support during critical early learning stages, supporting the objectives of IDEA funding.

Vital for navigating school and workforce pressures, the **DESSA System** proactively fosters resilience, aligning with IDEA funding priorities.

PROJECT AWARE GRANTS

Through partnerships with other educational entities, districts implement activities to promote mental health awareness, prevention, intervention, and resilience among school-aged youth, ensuring students have access to effective behavioral health services.

How DESSA System Aligns to Project AWARE Grants:

- Utilize the **DESSA Assessments & Screeners** to identify student strengths and needs across core social-emotional behavioral competencies.
- **DESSA Assessments & Screeners** encourage program development based on actionable insights, which contributes to fostering improved behavior, mental wellbeing, and academic outcomes.
- Educators utilize the data from **DESSA Assessments & Screeners** to proactively identify at-risk students and guide their social-emotional behavioral skill development. This approach is essential for students to effectively navigate the pressures and stresses encountered in school or the workforce, strengthening their resilience.
- Through personalized SMART Goals, **DESSA Student** empowers students to choose the skills they wish to enhance and set their own objectives. This self-directed approach promotes self-efficacy, instilling a lasting sense of self-worth as they navigate their academic journey.

A proactive, strength-based approach to student behavior mitigates the significant costs and repercussions associated with a reactive approach to mental, emotional, and behavioral challenges.

PROMOTING STUDENT RESILIENCE PROGRAM FUNDING: WELLNESS AND RESILIENCY IN EDUCATION

This program strives to foster positive school climates and trauma-informed approaches, ultimately improving care for school-aged youth.

How DESSA System Aligns to Promoting Student Resilience Program Funding:

- The **DESSA System** empowers program development by providing actionable insights, leading to enhanced behavior, mental wellbeing, and academic achievements.
- The **DESSA Assessments & Screeners** are specifically designed for educators to pinpoint student strengths and areas for growth across key social-emotional behavioral competencies.
- Through personalized SMART Goals in the **DESSA Student**, students are empowered to select skills for improvement and establish their own learning objectives. This self-directed method fosters self-efficacy, nurturing an enduring sense of self-worth throughout their academic endeavors.

By focusing on positive student behavior, district/programs can build stronger relationships with students and foster deeper connections with families and caregivers.



CONCLUSION

The **DESSA System** is the only resilience system that has an extensive research base compliant with the requirements for federal funding. Take advantage of the **DESSA Assessments & Screeners**, **DESSA Student**, **DESSA Strategies & Interventions**, and **DESSA Implementation Services** to provide the most reliable measure of student needs.

For more information, visit apertureed.com, or contact us at info@apertureed.com



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