



ASCD®

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Policy Points

FUNDING SOURCES FOR EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Federal, state, and local school funding continues to shrink, leaving school and district administrators scrambling to find dollars for teacher and school leader professional development. Forty-five states are implementing new standards and assessments that require aligned instructional strategies that guide students to deeper levels of understanding and application of knowledge. In addition, many states are developing and implementing new teacher evaluation systems based, at least in part, on student test scores (see the [February 2013 edition of *Policy Points* \[PDF\]](#) on evaluating teachers). In today's evolving education environment, it's crucial to ensure educators receive the support and training necessary to address complex new assessments and benchmarks.

MANY FEDERAL PROGRAMS CURRENTLY SUPPORT EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

The following programs vary from broad (teacher quality in general) to specific (math and science); some are made available by formula to all states while others are competitive grants. Some programs require states to allocate funds to districts by formulas that vary according to program requirements. Educators are encouraged to see if their school or district receives funding through any of the formula-based programs or if their school is eligible to apply for funding through the competitive grant programs.

(Funding levels represent FY13 funding for each national program.)



IDEA Part B State Grants provide funds to assist states and districts in educating children and youth with disabilities, including funding for technical assistance, personnel preparation, and professional development and training. (\$11 billion by formula to states, ranging from \$16 million in Washington, D.C., to \$308 million in North Carolina to \$927 million in Texas.)



ESEA, Title II provides grants to state and local education agencies, state agencies for higher education, and eligible partnerships to increase student academic achievement through certain strategies. Eligible strategies include improving teacher and principal quality and increasing the number of highly qualified teachers in the classroom and highly qualified principals and assistant principals in schools.

- Improving Teacher Quality State Grants (\$1 billion available by formula to states, ranging from \$15 million in Utah to \$40 million in Indiana to \$187 million in Texas.)

ASCD Policy Points is an ASCD Educator Advocates resource that spotlights timely education policy issues of importance to all educators. Future editions may illuminate education issues on which you can take action and will include links to useful resources, infographics, and tips for increasing your influence with policymakers and other education stakeholders. **Sign up at www.educatoradvocates.org to receive the *Capitol Connection* e-newsletter and the most up-to-date information on federal education policy.**

- Mathematics and Science Partnerships (\$141 million available by formula to states, which then offer competitive grants to high-need districts in partnership with higher education institutions and other eligible entities.)

Example: An elementary school in Louisiana immersed teachers in hands-on activities, scientific investigations, and field experiences, and used technology to enhance and maximize their experiences integrating math and science.

- Transition to Teaching (\$25 million available by competitive grants to states, districts, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit entities.)
- School Leadership Program (\$27 million available by competitive grant to districts, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit entities.)



Career and Technical Education (CTE) provides funds to develop the academic, career, and technical skills of secondary and postsecondary students who elect to enroll in CTE programs; the program includes funding for professional development programs for teachers, counselors, and administrators. (\$1 billion available by formula to states, ranging from \$4 million in Alaska to \$21 million in Missouri to \$41 million in Pennsylvania.)

English Language Acquisition State Grants provide funds to assist personnel in meeting state and local certification and licensing requirements for teaching limited English proficiency children and to improve instructional programs for English language learners. (\$694 million by formula to states, ranging from \$3 million in Arkansas to \$27 million in Illinois to \$55 million in New York.)

The Race to the Top program funds improvements in learning and teaching that will directly enhance student achievement and educator effectiveness. (\$48 million by competitive grants—check the fund website for state and district listings.)

School Improvement Grants, ESEA Title I, Sec. 1003(g) provides funding to recruit, retain, and support effective educators. (\$506 million available by formula to states, ranging from \$1.4 million in Delaware to \$16 million in Georgia to \$26 million in Florida.)



Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) provides funding to improve student achievement through increased teacher and leader effectiveness. (\$284 million awarded by competitive grants to states and districts.)

Example: The Los Angeles USD used TIF funds to reach their goal of 100 percent “effective” teachers and school leaders in 2012, including the awarding of recruitment bonuses for effective or highly effective science, technology, engineering, and math educators and special educators to serve in the district’s highest need schools.



Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) provides funds to rural districts to meet federal education requirements. (\$170 million available by formula to districts that meet rural district eligibility.)

Example: A rural school district in Alaska used REAP funds for cost-effective professional development related to the use of technology and connecting the school to local heritage and culture.



IDEA Part D National Programs offer competitive grants to states to help support special educators and families and to train them in the use of evidence-based strategies. Part D provides grants through seven discrete funding streams, including two that are specific to professional development: State Personnel Development grants (\$42 million) and Personnel Preparation (\$84 million).



Magnet Schools Assistance Program provides grants to districts implementing court-ordered or federally approved voluntary desegregation plans. The grants support capacity development—the ability of a school to help all its students meet more challenging standards—through professional development and other activities that will enable the continued operation of the magnet schools at a high performance level after funding ends. (\$92 million available.)



Carol M. White Physical Education Program funds opportunities for professional development for teachers of physical education to stay abreast of the latest research, issues, and trends in the fields of physical education, physical fitness, and nutrition. (\$75 million available by competitive grants to districts, schools, and nongovernmental organizations.)



Higher Education Act, Title II funds Teacher Quality Partnership grants to improve the preparation of prospective teachers and enhance professional development activities for new teachers. (\$40 million available by competitive grants to districts in partnership with institutions of higher education.)



CDC’s Coordinated School Health program funds 22 states and one tribal organization to help build and strengthen their capacity to improve child and adolescent health, including professional development for teachers. (\$13 million available by competitive grants to states.)