

# FUNDING REFERENCE GUIDE

## Sources for K-12 Public School Funding



In March 2021, the Department of Education announced that under the [American Rescue Plan](#) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) fund, \$122 billion will be allocated nationwide to address the many impacts of COVID-19 on K-12 education.

With this unprecedented amount of federal funding going into K-12 education, how can you use these new resources to help learners get caught up and set them up for success?

This quick reference guide will help schools and districts navigate these funds to purchase Defined Learning materials that combat learning loss and drive student engagement.

### **ESSER and other government funds can be used to purchase Defined Learning:**

- Defined Learning follows the evidence-based Understanding by Design Framework by Jay McTigue and Grant Wiggins
- Research shows that students who used PBL by Defined Learning outperformed their peers by over +5 points
- Our online platform allows schools to provide ALL students with equitable access to careers
- 3 Edtech Digest Awards (2020): Best Content Provider Solution, 21st Century Skills Solution and STEM Solution
- Project-based lessons are available in Spanish and English

## **ESSER I/ESSER II**

ESSER I/ESSER II funds are allocated to address the impact of COVID-19 on K-12 schools. Funds are provided as formula grants to states based on each state's share of Title I funds received in the most recent fiscal year. Districts can use their ESSER I/ESSER II funds toward materials that address learning loss, formative and summative assessments, technology, professional development (PD), summer school activities, and social-emotional learning (SEL) programs.

[Using this funding for Defined Learning:](#) Defined Learning offers a variety of products and services that directly correlate to ESSER I & II funding intentions, including addressing learning loss, authentic assessments, professional development, and summer school activities.

## **TITLE I, A**

The Title I formula allocates funds to improve basic programs and ensure that economically and socially disadvantaged students receive equal opportunity access to a quality education. Title I funds can be used in a variety of ways to help students meet state academic standards, including investing in additional teachers, intervention programs, supplemental materials, technology, and professional development (PD).

[Using this funding for Defined Learning:](#) Defined Learning's namesake supplemental content system for K-12 education provides students with standards-aligned performance tasks that are rooted in Project-Based Learning (PBL) and influenced by the Understanding by Design Framework. Defined Learning provides teachers with the educational and assessment tools needed to implement high-quality PBL. Our projects give ALL students equal opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills to the real-world. To support usage and build teacher capacity for PBL, Defined Learning delivers a comprehensive offering of professional development options for schools.

## TITLE II

Title II funds are allocated to increase academic achievement by improving teacher and principal quality. Specifically, the funds may be used to increase the number of highly qualified teachers in classrooms; increase the number of highly qualified principals and assistant principals in schools; and increase the effectiveness of teachers and principals.

[Using this funding for Defined Learning](#): Defined Learning offers a variety of professional development options intended to strengthen school leadership and build teacher capacity. Simply put, Project-Based Learning (PBL) provides quality instruction to students and directly engages them in the content.

Defined Learning offers professional development options that focus on building foundational and advanced knowledge of PBL. Additionally, Defined Learning's series of Micro-Credentials allow school districts to recognize successful individual professional development course work.

## TITLE III

Title III funds are allocated to help schools supplement their language instruction programs so students can gain proficiency in speaking, listening to, reading, and writing English. Funds are distributed to school districts based on the number of (English Language Learners (ELLs) and immigrant populations

[Using this funding for Defined Learning](#): Defined Learning's namesake system for K-12 education provides teachers with the educational and assessment tools needed to implement high-quality PBL. Our projects give ALL students equal opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills to the real-world – regardless of their proficiency in speaking, listening to, reading and writing in English. At the toggle of a button, all content within Defined Learning can be translated to Spanish, and likewise back to English. Speech-to-Text features allow additional support to those students who may need it. In addition to Spanish, through the integration of Google Translate educators can translate Defined Learning content to any language at the click of a button.

## 1003 School Improvement Funds

States determine whether to distribute these funds through competitive grants or by formula. School improvement funds are directed toward the states' lowest performing schools for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) or Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI). All intervention, strategies, and activities funded by 1003a must be evidence-based.

[Using this funding for Defined Learning](#): Defined Learning products are developed based upon the Understanding by Design GRASPs framework (Goal, Role, Audience, Situation, Products, Standards) structure to provide students with the opportunities to apply what they have learned in the classroom to real world problems and challenges. The performance tasks encourage students to transfer knowledge. The Project Based Learning performance tasks address the Gold Standard Design Elements and teacher practices identified by PBL Works and supported by numerous research studies addressing student engagement and increased educational outcomes for students as related to content and 21st century skills.

Defined Learning utilizes substantial research for its performance task design process, implementation strategies for teachers, and formative and summative assessment opportunities for teachers and students. This structure and associated processes increase educational outcomes for students, as related to content and 21st century skills.

Research Supporting Defined Learning Design Elements and Teacher Practices to Increase Student Learning Outcomes can be provided when requested.

## **SSAE**

The SSAE Grant is designed to help schools invest in programs that support safe and healthy students, well-rounded curriculum, and effective use of technology. Funds are distributed to local education agencies (LEAs) based on their Title I allocation. Districts must submit applications to the State describing how they plan to use the funds.

[Using this funding for Defined Learning](#): Defined Learning has products that are perfect for SSAE-funded programs. Defined Learning levels the playing field for ALL students, regardless of sex, age, race, or socio-economic background. Defined Learning's content is cross-curricular in nature, providing students with a well-rounded, engaging and enjoyable education. Student interaction with the Defined Learning digital platform will help to develop their digital literacy and improve their overall academic achievement.

## **TITLE IV, B**

Title IV, B provides funds to increase access to school building services and before- and afterschool programs for K-12 students attending low-performing schools. Typical grant awards are for 3-5 years

[Using this funding for Defined Learning](#): Defined Learning's mission is to empower teachers to engage students in meaningful project-based learning that builds future-ready skills. We provide the tools teachers need to implement high-quality PBL that inspires learners and helps them build the critical skills they need to succeed in college, careers and life. Defined Learning offers two content systems that are perfect for before and after school K-12 programs.



## About Defined Learning

Defined Learning is an online project-based learning solution that provides K-12 teachers with the tools they need to implement high-quality PBL; a library of standards-aligned performance tasks, career videos, research resources, and more. Our engaging projects are based on real-world situations in STEM careers to give students the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills to real-world challenges.

Defined Learning creates excitement about careers and empowers students to build the critical skills they need to succeed in college, careers, and life.

To learn more, visit [www.definedlearning.com](http://www.definedlearning.com)

