

Federal Funding Sources

The following U.S. Department of Education grants are possible funding sources for schools hoping to plan and implement a Freshman Transition course and school-wide initiative.

Each grant has unique eligibility requirements and funding timetables. Because new funding can become available throughout the year, be sure to check the Forecast of Funding Opportunities Under the Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs for the current fiscal year for upcoming funding competitions. ~ www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html

Most federal grant competitions are announced in Federal Register Notices, so reviewing that resource on a regular basis is another strategy that may lead to funding. ~ www.ed.gov/news/fedregister

Current and Proposed Programs

College- and Career-Ready Students

www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/index.html

The reauthorization plan for Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (currently Title I Grants to LEAs) would require states to adopt standards that build toward college- and career- readiness and implement high-quality assessments aligned with these college- and career-readiness standards and capable of measuring individual student growth toward college- and career readiness.

School Turnaround Grants

www2.ed.gov/programs/sif/index.html

The School Turnaround Grants (currently School Improvement Grants) program would play a critical role in the new Title I statewide accountability systems by providing significant resources for local education agencies to implement rigorous school intervention models in their lowest-performing schools. While there would be new flexibility to develop new improvement strategies and interventions for most schools, they would still be required to implement specific, meaningful intervention models in their very lowest-performing schools.

College Pathways and Accelerated Learning (proposed replacement for High School Graduation Initiative)

www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget14/crosscuttingissues/highschoolgrad.pdf

This proposed replacement for the High School Graduation Initiative would be a part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization. The new program would be called College Pathways and Accelerated Learning, and would support “efforts in high-poverty middle and high schools to provide students with accelerated learning opportunities (such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, dual high school/college enrollment, and early college high schools.)”

The Department of Education explained the proposed change by stating: “Although students at risk of dropping out are often not considered appropriate for enrollment in these types of programs, educators find that giving them the opportunity to enroll and succeed in demanding courses can be a successful approach, as many students lose interest in and subsequently leave school because they are unchallenged by the standard curriculum.” (See information on an effective dual enrollment freshman transition model on pages 80-87.)

Tech Prep Education and the Perkins Act

www2.ed.gov/programs/techprep/index.html and www2.ed.gov/policy/sectech/leg/perkins/index.html

States award these federal grant funds to consortia of LEAs and postsecondary education institutions for the development and operation of programs consisting of the last two years of secondary education and at least two years of postsecondary education, designed to provide Tech-Prep education to the student leading to an associate degree or a two-year certificate.

One of the Tech Prep elements required under the Perkins law is preparatory services such as recruitment, career and personal counseling, and occupational assessment.

Vocational Education—Basic Grants to States

www2.ed.gov/programs/ctesbg/index.html

Federal funds are made available to develop more fully the academic and career and technical skills of students who elect to enroll in career and technical programs.

State grants help state and local schools offer programs to develop the academic, vocational, and technical skills of students in high schools, community colleges, and regional technical centers. Funds from this program can be used for a broad range of programs, services, and activities designed to improve career-technical education programs.

Upward Bound Program

www2.ed.gov/programs/trioupbound/index.html

Upward Bound provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. Upward Bound serves: high school students from low-income families; and high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree. The goal of Upward Bound is to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of post-secondary education.

GEAR UP: Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

www2.ed.gov/programs/gearup/index.html

This discretionary grant program is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education. GEAR UP provides six-year grants to states and partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools. GEAR UP grantees serve an entire cohort of students beginning no later than the seventh grade and follow the cohort through high school.

Small, Rural School Achievement Program

www2.ed.gov/programs/reapsrsa/index.html

The purpose of this program is to provide financial assistance to rural districts to assist them in meeting their state's definition of adequate yearly progress. Applicants do not compete but rather are entitled to funds if they meet basic eligibility requirements.

Key Websites from the U.S. Department of Education

Information about U.S. Department of Education Programs

www2.ed.gov/programs

Find U.S. Department of Education Grants by Eligibility

www2.ed.gov/programs/find/elig/index.html