

BASIC PROVISIONS IN ESSA FOR LIBRARIES, TECHNOLOGY, AND DIGITAL LEARNING

Included in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

1. The law allows state education agencies (SEA) to use funds to support the instructional services provided by effective school library programs.
2. Local education agencies (LEA) Title I plans must address access to effective school library programs as part of professional development efforts.
3. Schools/districts must develop plans describing how effective school library programs will provide students an opportunity to develop digital literacy skills and improve academic achievement.
4. Adds school librarians to the list of educational specialists eligible for federal dollars spent on professional development, and to support the instructional services provided by effective school library programs.
5. The SEA shall use funds to disseminate through a website and professional development any promising practices related to technology instruction, data security, and acquiring and implementing technology tools that increase access to personalized, rigorous learning experiences supported by technology (sec. 4103).

What ESSA Does Not Include

1. Does not define an effective school library program*.
2. Does not require or mandate school librarian staffing, whether certified or not.

Implied (not explicitly stated) recommendations for the State Library, SEA or combination of both

1. Develop a definition* of an “effective school library program”
2. Prepare talking points, and suggest solutions for ESSA implementation as SEA implementation work starts.
3. Support local schools and districts in applying federal funds toward improving school library programs.
4. Enhance technology access and professional development for effective use of technologies in classrooms.
5. Through the specific inclusion of libraries and librarians in various sections, ESSA recognizes that these programs and staff are essential and integral components of a student’s education, and as such, eligible for federal education dollars.

Title I Part A Subpart 1– Improving Basic Programs Operated by State and Local Educational Agencies

§1111 State plans; §1112 LEA uses

Description	Provisions related to libraries, technology, or digital learning
The LEA must develop plans to implement federal education activities.	Local plans are to include a description of how the LEA will assist schools in developing effective school library programs to provide students an opportunity to develop digital literacy skills and improve academic achievement.

Title II, Part A Sec. 2101 Formula Grants to States – Supporting Effective Instruction

§2101 State formula grants uses; §2103 LEA plans

Provides for funds to the SEA and LEA for increasing academic achievement by improving teacher and principal quality, primarily through professional development.	Authorizes SEA and LEA to use funds to support the instructional services provided by effective school library programs.
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Title II, Part B, Subpart 2 – Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN)

§ 2221 thru 2224: purpose, SEA and LEA requirements

New literacy program to help improve student academic achievement in reading and writing by providing federal support to States to develop, revise, or update comprehensive literacy instruction plans.	LEA grants for K-5 and 6-12 to provide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – High-quality professional development teachers, literacy coaches, literacy specialists, ESL, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, school librarians, paraprofessionals, and other program staff.
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	– Time for teachers (and other literacy staff, as appropriate, such as school librarians or specialized instructional support personnel) to meet to plan comprehensive literacy instruction.
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Title II, Part B, Subpart 1—Teacher and School Leader Incentive Program

§2226 – Innovative Approaches to Literacy

Description	Provisions related to libraries, technology, or digital learning
Authorizes the Innovative Approaches to Literacy grant program, with dedicated funding to promote literacy programs in low income communities.	Authorizes funds to be used for developing and enhancing effective school library programs in schools applying for grants that meet low-income criteria. May include professional development for school librarians, books, and up-to-date materials to high-need schools.

Title II, Part B, Subpart 2,

§2232 – Presidential & Congressional Academies for American History & Civics

American History and Civics Education grant program to improve the quality of American history education and teaching	Public libraries, higher education institution, nonprofit educational organization, museum, are among those eligible to apply for one of twelve grants to develop seminars or institutes for teachers of American history and civics.
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Title IV, Part A Subpart 1

§4103 – Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

Student Support and Academic State formula grant program to help SEA and school districts target federal resources on local priorities.	<p>Authorizes SEA to use funds to assist LEAs identify and address technology readiness needs and provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Internet connectivity and access to school libraries. – Teachers, paraprofessionals, school librarians and media personnel, with the knowledge and skills to effectively use and integrate technology to improve instruction and student achievement.
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Title IV, Part A —21st Century Schools

§4109. Activities to support the effective use of technology

An LEA receiving more than \$30,000 under sec. 4105 is required to do a needs assessment that may include a review of classroom use of technology, improvement strategies, or infrastructure.	An LEA, or consortium of such agencies, that receives an allocation under section 4015(a) shall use a portion of such funds to improve the use of technology for improving academic achievement, academic growth, and digital literacy of all students identified in the needs assessment conducted under section 4106(d).
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Title IV, Part B – 21st Century Community Learning Centers

§4201 through 4206

State allotments provided upon receipt of SEA application to support community learning centers for children that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours.	Authorizes SEA subgrants to be used to support expanded library service hours.
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Definitions in Title VIII and other areas that apply to specific activities.

Specialized instructional support personnel	Definition now includes “school librarians.” §8001 (18)(A)
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Children's Internet Protection Act	Funds available under part B of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, or under section 231 of the Library Services and Technology Act, may be used to buy or acquire technology protection measures necessary to meet the requirements of the law.
Digital learning	Any instructional practice that effectively uses technology to strengthen a student's learning experience including interactive learning and access to online databases and other primary source documents.
Education technology	One of three priority areas supported by the new \$1.6 billion Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants program. In addition, ESSA enables districts to invest professional development resources into educators, principals, and other school leaders' capacities to more effectively use and protect student data. The law also directs the U.S. Department of Education's research arm to study students' home broadband needs and obstacles and produce a report to Congress by mid-2017.
High-need school	A school that located where 30% or more of students are from families with incomes below the poverty line. For Innovative Approaches to Literacy grants, definition is 20% of students are from families with income below the poverty line.
Professional development	Activities that are an integral part of school and local educational agency strategies for providing educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to enable students to succeed in a well-rounded education and to meet State academic standards. Includes teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, and, as applicable, early childhood educators.
STEM master teacher corps	State-led effort to elevate the status of the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teaching profession
Technology	Modern information, computer and communication technology products, services, or tools, including the Internet computer devices and other hardware, software applications, data systems, and other electronic content (including multimedia content) and data storage.

Additional reading about provisions for libraries in ESSA

- 12/9/15.....[Education Week](#)
- 12/9/15.....[School Library Journal](#)
- 12/10/15...[American Libraries](#)
- 12/10/15...[Full text of Every Students Succeeds Act](#). S.1177
- Undated....[ALA/AASL summary of ESSA changes](#)

* An "effective school library program" was defined in S.312 (The [SKILLS Act](#)), incorporated in part in the ESSA law, as one that: (1) is staffed by a state sanctioned school librarian; (2) has up-to-date materials and technology, including broadband; (3) includes regular collaboration between teachers and school librarians concerning school reform efforts; and (4) supports the development of digital literacy skills. This definition is not included in ESSA.