



Student Support & Academic Enhancement Grants: Title IV, Part A of ESSA (Well-Rounded Program)

Subcommittee/Agency: Labor HHS and Ed/Department of Education

Program: Student Support & Academic Enhancement Grants—Title IV, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (Well-Rounded Program)

ACTFL/JNCL FY17 request: \$1.65 billion

ESSA authorized funding, FY17: \$1.65 billion

President's FY17 budget request: \$500 million

Background: In 2015, Congress worked in a bipartisan manner to pass the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The compromise that was ultimately signed into law prioritized Student Support & Academic Enhancement Grants (Title IV, Part A) with an authorization of \$1.65 billion—the third largest authorized program in ESSA. This section of the legislation includes the Well-Rounded Program, which provides for funding for foreign language programs, among other subjects. Language and communication are at the heart of the human experience and fundamental components of a solid educational foundation.

Request: The language learning community is very disappointed that the President's budget includes less than one-third of ESSA's \$1.65 billion authorization level. This allocation will severely limit the ability of states and districts to make meaningful investments in subjects that are essential to a well-rounded education, including language learning.

ACTFL & JNCL-NCLIS ask that you honor Congress' bipartisan commitment to providing students with a well-rounded education and fund the Student Support & Academic Enhancement Grants (Title IV, Part A) at its authorized level of \$1.65 billion.

Furthermore, we oppose the requested appropriations language that would allow states to limit or target the allowable uses in Title IV, Part A:

“Provided further, That, notwithstanding section 4105, funds available for subpart 1 of part A of title IV may be used by state educational agencies to make subgrants on a competitive basis to local educational agencies to carry out the activities authorized in sections 4107 through 4109, for a period not to exceed 3 years and in an amount not less than \$50,000 for each year: Provided further, That State educational agencies may give priority for such subgrants to local educational agencies that propose to carry out one or more of the activities authorized in such sections, as determined by the state.”