

# EdTech Funding Cheat Sheet

Top 3 Sources for Public School Funding, including ESSER



## State and Local Funding

States and local governments contribute significantly to education funding – averaging over 90% of public education revenues. Most districts allocate funds from state and local governments to ensure their education technology budgets are sustained and implemented with fidelity. Common budget categorizations for edtech investments include curriculum and instruction or instructional technology. States often use funding formulas.

## Federal Funding

### ESSA and DreamBox

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), enacted in 2015, ensures that all students have access to an equitable and excellent education. ESSA's consolidated grant programs promote the use of federal dollars on programs with “evidence-based” effectiveness. This ensures the approaches and programs being implemented improve educational outcomes and close achievement gaps. **DreamBox Learning® Math is the only comprehensive K–8 math program rated strong by [Evidence for ESSA](#)**, and independently proven to positively impact student achievement.

## Federal Funds and Programs<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Formula Funding

These non-competitive formula grant programs award funding based on predetermined formulas and are often referred to as state-administered programs.

ESSER I/ESSER II	Supplemental	Technology	PD	RTI	Pre-K	SEL
	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
<p><b>Overview:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Using This Funding for DreamBox:</b> Districts are encouraged to prioritize using their ESSER I/ESSER II funds for evidence-based practices and programs that redesign assessments. DreamBox uses a powerful combination of engaging, evidence-based math curriculum and embedded formative assessments to adapt to each student's unique learning needs. DreamBox can be used as a digital math supplement to an existing curriculum and/or as an intervention tool to support academic growth, especially for students who experienced learning loss.</p>						

Don't miss out on using your ESSER funding to bring DreamBox to your school!

[Learn More](#)

<sup>1</sup> <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/find/title/index.html>

## 1. Formula Funding (continued)

Title I, A: Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged	Supplemental ✓	Technology ✓	PD ✓	RTI ✓	Pre-K ✓	SEL ✓
<p><b>Overview:</b> 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).</p> <p><b>Using This Funding for DreamBox:</b> Under ESSA, there are four tiers, or levels, of evidence—and Title I school improvement programs require the highest degree of evidence. Independent research confirms that DreamBox meets that higher bar. Title I schools and targeted programs use DreamBox as a digital math supplement to their existing program and/or as an intervention tool to support academic growth for every student.</p>						
Title II, A: Improving Teacher Quality	Supplemental	Technology	PD ✓	RTI	Pre-K	SEL
<p><b>Overview:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Using This Funding for DreamBox:</b> Most districts use Title II funds to provide PD that is job-embedded, data-driven, and classroom-focused. DreamBox gives teachers access to job-embedded, math-specific PD relevant to the math their students are learning so they can immediately apply it in the classroom.</p>						
Title III: Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient (LEP) and Immigrant Students	Supplemental ✓	Technology ✓	PD ✓	RTI	Pre-K	SEL
<p><b>Overview:</b> 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 served.</p> <p><b>Using This Funding for DreamBox:</b> Districts purchase DreamBox using Title III funds to provide supplemental digital programs for ELLs that increase their language proficiency and academic achievement. Available in English and Spanish, DreamBox provides a rich visual and conceptual learning experience that helps ELLs develop language proficiency and is proven to increase math achievement.</p>						
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)	Supplemental ✓	Technology ✓	PD ✓	RTI ✓	Pre-K ✓	SEL ✓
<p><b>Overview:</b> IDEA provides over \$12 billion in federal education funding – primarily to offset the costs of education needs for students with disabilities from ages 3 through 21. State educational agencies distribute these funds to districts based on the number of students with individualized education plans (IEPs).</p> <p><b>Using This Funding for DreamBox:</b> Using a powerful combination of engaging, evidence-based math curriculum and embedded formative assessment, DreamBox adapts to each student’s unique learning needs. Many districts use IDEA funds to purchase DreamBox for early intervening services (EIS) to support their response-to intervention model, targeting low-achieving and at-risk students not identified with a learning disability.</p>						
1003a School Improvement Funds	Supplemental ✓	Technology ✓	PD ✓	RTI ✓	Pre-K	SEL
<p><b>Overview:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Using This Funding for DreamBox:</b> Districts use evidence-based DreamBox as a component of their school improvement strategy—leveraging the technology-driven supports and interventions within DreamBox to elevate their competency-based instructional program.</p>						

## 2. Competitive Funding

These discretionary grant funds are awarded on the basis of a competitive process. Eligible districts must submit proposals that describe how they plan to use the additional funding.

Title IV, A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) Grant	Supplemental	Technology	PD	RTI	Pre-K	SEL
<p><b>Overview:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Using This Funding for DreamBox:</b> Districts purchase DreamBox with these funds to support STEM initiatives and student programs that provide well-rounded educational opportunities. DreamBox districts also apply these funds under the “effective use of technology” category to invest in materials and PD that support teachers and their implementation of digital content.</p>	✓	✓	✓			✓
Title IV, B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers	Supplemental	Technology	PD	RTI	Pre-K	SEL
<p><b>Overview:</b> Title IV, B provides funds to increase access to school building services and before- and after-school programs for K–12 students attending low-performing schools. Typical grant awards are for 3–5 years.</p> <p><b>Using This Funding for DreamBox:</b> Schools often apply these funds for enrichment activities, including the use of technology for academic remediation and tutoring in before- and after-school programs. DreamBox is an effective solution for learning centers because it uses targeted intervention tools and engaging K–8 math learning experiences to help students fill learning gaps.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Head Start	Supplemental	Technology	PD	RTI	Pre-K	SEL
<p><b>Overview:</b> Administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, Head Start promotes school readiness of children under the age of 5 from low-income families through education, health, social, and other services. Grants are typically awarded to public and private agencies.</p> <p><b>Using This Funding for DreamBox:</b> DreamBox offers engaging Pre–K/T–K lessons and content to students in Head Start programs. DreamBox helps young students build early foundational skills and confidence in mathematics to catapult their learning in elementary school.</p>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

## 3. Grant Funding

This [2021 Grants Guide](#) identifies more than 50 organizations and businesses that offer a variety of cash, in-kind donations, or grants to help fund everything from STEM programs for students to new technology for classrooms, and PD opportunities for teachers.

### About DreamBox

DreamBox is an award-winning, online K–8 math program that is both engaging and proven to boost your child’s math performance. Created by educators, DreamBox math lessons dynamically adapt and adjust based on how students are solving problems—providing your child with personalized one-on-one instruction to meet their unique needs. Districts can use ESSER funds to get DreamBox today.

Learn more. Visit [dreambox.com](https://dreambox.com)

