

Effective Use of Technology Moving Beyond Infrastructure



Effective Use of Technology

The purpose of funds used in this area is to improve the use of technology to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students. It is imperative that districts think beyond purchasing devices, software, subscriptions, and site licenses. A school having a 1 to 1 student/device ratio does not translate to educators or students utilizing them to their full potential. So, what is the effective use of technology? It focuses on the ability of both the educators and students in using effective or innovative strategies for specialized or rigorous academic courses through the use of technology.

Spending Requirements

Districts whose Title IV allocation is \$30,000 or above **must spend a portion** of their funds in the Effective Use of Technology (EUT) category. A portion has not been defined in a specific dollar amount, but rather an amount identified by the district to support an activity, professional development, or program that aligns with the purpose of EUT funds. The amount spent in EUT is known as your EUT budget.

All districts that expend funds in EUT are restricted to spending **no more than 15%** of their overall EUT budget on technology infrastructure.

Example: District A- Title IV allocation: \$76,845 (20% minimum is \$15,369)

Budget Breakdown

- Well-rounded education (WR) \$28,000
- Improving conditions for student learning (SH) \$25,000
- Effective use of Technology \$23,845 (15% of \$23,845 = \$3,576.75) The amount they can spend on technology infrastructure is \$3,576.75.

Budget Check

Q. Did the district budget meet the minimum 20% rule in SH and WR?

A. Yes. Both areas spent the minimum of 20% of the total allocation which is \$15,369.

Q. In EUT, can the district spend \$8,000 in a combination for IXL and Schoology?

A. No. IXL and Schoology are considered technology infrastructure. No more than 15% of their EUT budget, which is \$3,576.75, can be spent on infrastructure. IXL and Schoology may be allowable expenditures under Well-Rounded if the district has determined a need in that area.

Note: The 15% infrastructure amount is based on the overall EUT budget; therefore, if the EUT budget is amended to a lower amount, then the 15% amount would also be lowered. Districts must be cautious when amending their EUT budget, especially if they have already claimed any items that are considered infrastructure. If districts amend their EUT budget and it results in expenditures exceeding the maximum 15%, the district will be required to cover the expenditures.

Supplant Vs. Supplement

Title IV program funds may be used only to supplement, and not supplant, non-federal funds that would otherwise be available for activities authorized under Section 4110. This means that, in general, districts may not use Title IV program funds for the cost of activities in the three program content areas – well-rounded education, improve conditions for student learning, and effective use of technology – if the cost of those activities would have otherwise been paid with state or local funds in the absence of the Title IV program funds.

The three Presumptions of Supplanting guiding questions are:

- 1) Are the expenditures or activities required by other Federal, State, or local laws?
- 2) Were the expenditures or activities funded in previous years by non-Federal funds?
- 3) Would the expenditures or activities happen in the absence of Federal funds?

Q. What if the district paid for our Technology Coordinator's salary last year, but now, this year, we want to cover their salary with Title IV funds? Is this allowable?

A. Possibly. Because the district previously paid for this position with district funds, the presumption of supplanting exists. Therefore, the activity would be unallowable. However, if the district can provide strong justification to overcome the supplanting finding, the activity could be allowable. The district would need to provide documentation that at the board level this position would be cut due to lack of funding. Board meeting minutes would need to be provided for review and consideration.

Allowable Use of Funds (*All Title IV program/activity decisions should be based on identified needs and plans for evaluation should focus on increasing student outcomes.*)

- Developing or using effective or innovative strategies for the delivery of specialized or rigorous academic courses through the use of technology.
- Carrying out blended learning activities (must include ongoing professional development for teachers).
- Providing professional development on the use of technology to enable teachers to increase student achievement in STEAM areas.
- Providing students in rural, remote, and underserved areas with the resources to take advantage of high-quality digital learning experiences.
- Providing educators, school leaders, and administrators with the professional learning tools, devices, content, and resources to:
 - Personalize learning.
 - Discover, adapt, and share relevant high-quality educational resources.
 - Use technology effectively in the classroom.
 - Implement and support school and district-wide approaches for using technology to inform instruction, support teacher collaboration, and personalize learning.
- Building technological capacity and infrastructure (see below)

Technology Infrastructure Expenditures Restricted to 15% CAP of your EUT Budget	Non-Technology Infrastructure Expenditures 15% CAP does not apply
700- Property/Equipment - smartboards, projectors, Wi-Fi routers, hotspots, 3D printer, printer, headphones, keyboards, ILA Translators, laptops, iPads, document cameras, iPods, e-readers, monitors, etc.	Professional development specific to blended learning, personalized learning, or using educational technology tools in the classroom.
600- Software purchases for blended learning, personalized learning, instructional support, SIS, testing, etc. (e.g., IXL, Schoology, curriculum specific software, device support software, etc.)	Staff to support integration of educational technology tools and professional development.
800- Site licenses for blended learning, personalized learning, instructional support, SIS, testing, etc.	Funds for substitutes to cover classrooms for attending professional development, observing colleagues, participating in coaching/mentoring, etc. as it relates to Effective Use of Technology.

***Maintenance, repair, or updating devices is not an allowable expense associated with EUT; rather, these are day-to-day operating expenses and, therefore, district responsibilities.**