

STEM: Develop students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills through engaging, hands-on activities.

Catapult Learning's new STEM curriculum is based on the engineering design process. This supplemental STEM curriculum is modular in design and able to be implemented:

- During and after school
- During summer school
- As professional development



Federal Programs for STEM

The chart below explains the ESSA programs that can provide funding for **STEM**, gives a brief statement of program purpose, explains how students can be qualified for program services, describes the definition of educational need, and provides tips on how the funds can be effectively used depending on the circumstances.

ESSA PROGRAM	QUALIFICATION/CONSIDERATION	DEFINITION OF NEED	TIPS
<p>TITLE I Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged</p> <p>PURPOSE To provide high-quality supplemental instruction and to close achievement gaps.</p>	<p>Student meets definition of educational need determined through consultation and resides in a Title I attendance area.</p> <p>Title I can be conducted as a pull-out program, before or after school, during the summer, or on weekends.</p>	<p>The elements of educational need must be age appropriate, objective, and contain at least two measures defining educational need. Examples of measures defining educational need are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test score at or below a cut-off percentile • In-class assessments in reading/language arts and/or math • Teacher indications of classroom/learning issues • Report card grades • Parent concerns and recommendations • Portfolio of work in class and completed at home 	<p>The definition of educational need can include science scores and performance in addition to reading/language arts and math indicators, and executive functioning and classroom dispositions.</p>
<p>TITLE IIA Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High Quality Teachers, Principals, or Other School Leaders</p> <p>PURPOSE Title IIA funds a wide array of PD through a proportional share of the total Title IIA allocation received by the LEA, based on students attending the private school within the LEA regardless of where the children reside.</p>	<p>Carrying out STEM activities is specifically mentioned in the statute as one of the allowable activities under Title IIA. The private school should be prepared to present a PD plan as part of the consultation process that, to the greatest extent possible, is a high-quality sustained program. PD can include coaching, workshops, trainings, etc. Materials needed for the PD can be purchased with Title IIA funds, but student materials cannot be purchased with Title IIA funds.</p>	<p>Participants receive program benefits based on the needs of their students. Private schools should present a simple professional development plan in consultation with public school officials, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student needs to be met (provide data such as student achievement data and teacher input) • Activities (workshops, conferences, trainings, coaching, etc.) • Timeline • Intended outcome • Cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating PD with student services in STEM can be very effective for student learning. • The justification for the program of services under Title IIA is the needs of the students and not the needs of the teachers or other educational personnel.

ESSA PROGRAM	QUALIFICATION/CONSIDERATION	DEFINITION OF NEED	TIPS
<p>TITLE IVA Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants</p> <p>PURPOSE To promote access to a well rounded education, improve conditions for student learning, and improve the use of technology for academic achievement. The three categories of uses for funds are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Well-Rounded Education 2. Safe and Healthy Students 3. Effective Use of Technology 	<p>Funds are distributed on a per-pupil basis according to the number of children attending the private school located in the LEA, regardless of where the child resides.</p> <p>Private school officials can request that funds be used in any of the three categories under Title IVA. There is no requirement that funds be distributed among the three categories for the private school program.</p>	<p>Private school officials, during consultation, can articulate a general need for their students focusing on one or more of the three categories for expenditure of funds, or can focus their request on a specific group of students. For example, you might articulate a general need such as helping all students with learning needs to better focus in the classroom, or adding a STEM component to student instruction. On the other hand, maybe you have moved the focus of Title I toward a STEM program of instruction. Title IVA can provide additional STEM resources for Title I eligible students who were not able to receive services from Title I because funds were insufficient.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As with any federal education program, private school officials should be prepared when beginning consultation to provide a plan for the use of funds within one or more of the spending categories, a goal for student achievement, and a plan for determining if the program was beneficial. • If the Title I program utilizes STEM, Title IVA can serve students in STEM that are not eligible under Title I or extend the Title I services for eligible students that are not being served because funding is insufficient.