

# Incorporating Technology in the Classroom

## What to Learn from Your State's ESSA Plan

States will be responsible for distributing most of the funding that support digital learning efforts, internet connectivity enhancement, and access to technology in schools to LEAs through a state-determined formula and/or sub-grant process. LEAs should learn more about how their local technology needs align with state priorities.

## Guidance for School Improvement

Technology is no longer treated as a compartmentalized component of the new law, as it was in NCLB's Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) grant program. Rather, it is included in several parts of ESSA as an important solution for a range of educational needs and as a strategy for school improvement. ESSA also emphasizes new models of learning and recognizes technology's role in making them a reality, such as "digital learning" and "blended learning."

Title I flexibility includes opportunities for schools to use technology in the classroom as a strategy for improving student academic achievement.

Up to 60 percent of Title IV's Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant funding can be used to support innovative education technology strategies, including technology infrastructure (no more than 15 percent).

Additionally, Title II funds can be used for professional development to support technology in schools, including integration of technology into curriculum and instruction.

Learn more about how to use ESSA funds to support technology in the classroom and in schools at the Office of Educational Technology website: [tech.ed.gov/ESSA](http://tech.ed.gov/ESSA).

## Find Support for this Strategy in ESSA

- TITLE I, PART A: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies
- TITLE II, PART A: Building Systems of Support for Excellent Teaching and Learning
- TITLE III, PART A: English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement Act
- TITLE IV, PART A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

## What is Digital Learning?



ESSA defines digital learning as "any instructional practice that effectively uses technology to strengthen a student's learning experience and encompasses a wide spectrum of tools and practices." This can include:

- Interactive resources, digital content, software or simulations
- Access to online databases and primary-source documents
- Use of data and information to personalize learning and provide targeted supplementary instruction
- Online and computer-based assessments
- Learning environments that promote collaboration and communication
- Hybrid or blended learning models
- Access to online courses for students in rural areas

## Essential Stakeholders

- ✓ Local internet providers, including University systems
- ✓ Businesses and non-profit organizations that support technology use among youth and/or in classrooms
- ✓ Families and students, including those that are often underrepresented
- ✓ Library systems and personnel
- ✓ Technology experts to engage students in 21st Century Skills
- ✓ ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education)
- ✓ Peer principals, superintendents, and other school and district leaders
- ✓ Gifted and Talented program leaders
- ✓ Charter Management Organizations (CMO) and charter school leaders

## Ask the Experts

- ✓ [ESSA, EdTech and the Future of Education](#) (Center for Digital Education)
- ✓ [Who's Who: Edu Stakeholders and How to Find Them](#) (The Ed Tech Handbook)
- ✓ [Guide to Choosing Digital Content and Curriculum](#) (Center for Digital Education)

### Spotlight on Coachella Valley, CA Wi-Fi Enabled Buses



Coachella Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) in California serves a low-income population, with 100 percent of its students receiving free or reduced-priced lunches. In 2011, Superintendent Adams coordinated an effort to ensure every student had a web-enabled device and access to the internet. As part of this effort, Adams and his team initiated the Wi-Fi on Wheels program, which places routers on school buses and equips them with a ruggedized, secure mobile network from Cradlepoint so students can access the internet while traveling to and from school. Since implementation, the district's graduation rate, which hovered around 70 percent when Adams joined CVUSD, now exceeds the national level at 84 percent. "It's opened up the world of education for our students," says Adams. "If you're not connected, it's difficult to be successful."

Several other school districts, including Miami-Dade County Public Schools in Florida and Kanawha County Schools in West Virginia, have implemented bus-based mobile Wi-Fi from Cradlepoint.