

## Use Of Federal Funds for Pre-kindergarten (Pre-K)

### Questions & Answers

#### 1. What is House Bill 1890 (HB1890)?

On April 13, 2022, [HB1890](#) was passed and amended T.C.A. § 49-6-301(a) to include the following in the state's definition of what constitutes an elementary school:

For purposes of federal funding, "elementary schools" are schools serving any combination of pre-kindergarten through grade six (pre-K–6) (T.C.A. § 49-6-301(a)).

#### 2. How does this change in state law impact federal programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)?

This addition to the state's definition of what constitutes an elementary school provides greater flexibility to local education agencies (LEAs) when deciding how to spend some federal education program funds. Tennessee LEAs may choose whether or not to serve pre-K students and instructional staff with funds from the following programs:

- Title I, Part A
- Title II, Part A
- Title IV, Part A
- Title V, part B

#### 3. Does the change in state law also impact ESSER 2.0 and 3.0?

Yes. LEAs may choose to utilize ESSER 2.0 and 3.0 funds for allowable purposes for pre-K students and instructional staff.

#### 4. Why can't LEAs serve pre-K students and instructional staff with program funds from Title I, Part C?

In Tennessee, Title I, Part C services are delivered to migratory pre-K students by the Migrant Education Program (MEP) vendor, Arroyo Research Services. LEAs may utilize Title I, Part C funds for K-12 migratory students only.

#### 5. Why can't LEAs serve pre-K students and instructional staff with program funds from Title III, Part A?

In Tennessee, students are identified as English learners (ELs) and are eligible to receive English as a Second Language (ESL) services beginning in kindergarten. Because Title III funds may only be utilized on identified ELs, pre-K students would not be eligible.

**6. Does this mean that pre-K students are now “fund generators” for Title I, Part A purposes?**

No. LEAs will continue using low-income data from grades K-12 only for Title I, Part A purposes. This change in state law will not impact allocations for ESEA/ESSA programs; it will simply give LEAs more flexibility when deciding how to spend some program funds.

**7. If an LEA already uses Title I, Part A funds to operate a pre-K classroom, will any changes need to be made?**

No. Under ESSA, LEAs may use Title I, Part A funds to operate pre-K classrooms as a district set aside, or an individual Title I school may utilize funds for pre-K students and/or staff.

**8. How does this change in state law impact ESEA/ESSA equitable services?**

Like LEAs, Tennessee non-public schools that participate in ESEA/ESSA equitable services may now direct grant funds to pre-K students and/or instructional staff. It is important to note that this change will **not** impact allocations to non-public schools. As explained above, pre-K students will not act as fund generators for Title I, Part A purposes; therefore, equitable services allocations will not be impacted.

For FY23, LEAs should allow participating non-public schools to make adjustments to ESEA/ESSA grant budgets as needed. For FY24, equitable services intent to participate and affirmation forms will be edited to reflect the addition of pre-K programming. Questions regarding equitable services should be directed to [Danny.Bounds@tn.gov](mailto:Danny.Bounds@tn.gov).

**9. What are some examples of how federal education funds may be used for pre-K students and/or instructional staff?**

Program	Possible Use of Funds for Pre-K Students	Possible Use of Funds for Pre-K Instructional Staff
Title I, Part A	Purchasing supplemental instructional supplies, materials, software, and equipment for the pre-K program	Hiring supplemental pre-K teachers and educational assistants
Title II, Part A	N/A - Title II, Part A may not be used for direct services to students	Offering supplemental professional development, including job-embedded supports for pre-K instructional staff
Title IV, Part A	Providing afterschool and summer enrichment activities to students participating in pre-K programs	Providing supplemental training for pre-K staff on STEM instruction for 3-5 year-olds
Title V, Part B	Any applicable and allowable use of funds under Titles I, II, or IV	Any applicable and allowable use of funds under Titles I, II, or IV
ESSER 2.0 and 3.0	Purchasing pre-K curriculum or assessments to include social-emotional learning as well as academics	Funding summer preparation programs for pre-K/incoming kindergarten students, including parent education activities

**10. How can an LEA budget funds for pre-K students and/or instructional staff in the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA)?**

LEAs should follow the typical steps in ePlan to revise the CFA and should add information regarding purchases to budget and program details pages as needed. To help indicate if funds will be directed to pre-K programs, a new section has been added to the Title I, Part A; Title II, Part A; Title IV, Part A; and Title V, Part B program detail pages of the CFA. For each grant, the LEA will:

- Indicate if grant funds will be directed to pre-K students and/or instructional staff.
- Indicate how many pre-K students will be impacted by grant funds.
- Indicate how many pre-K instructional staff will be impacted by grant funds.

**Use of Funds for PreK:** For purposes of federal funding, "elementary schools" are schools serving any combination of pre-kindergarten through grade six (PreK-6) (TCA §49-6-301(a)). Indicate below whether funds from this grant will be directed to PreK students and/or instructional staff (i.e., teachers, coaches, paraprofessionals).

\* Does the LEA utilize grant funds from this program for PreK?

\* How many PreK students are served with grant funds from this program?

\* How many instructional staff (i.e., teachers, coaches, paraprofessionals) are served with grant funds from this program?

If no grant funds will be used to serve pre-K students and/or instructional staff, LEAs should select "No" from the drop-down menu and enter zero (0) for the number of students and staff served.

**11. How can an LEA budget funds for pre-K students and/or instructional staff in the ESSER 2.0 and/or ESSER 3.0 application(s)?**

LEAs should follow the typical steps to revise these applications in ePlan and should add information regarding purchases to budget and spending plan pages as needed.

**12. Who can I contact with questions?**

Questions focused on ESEA/ESSA should be directed to the assigned [ESEA Divisional Coordinator](#). Questions focused on ESSER should be directed to the assigned [ESSER Divisional Coordinator](#).