

## Suggested Non-Regulatory Guidance on Title II Part A

### Gifted and Talented Students

**Q: Does Title II, Part A of ESSA require SEAs to address the needs of educators that support gifted and talented students?**

Yes. The new law now requires states to include in their applications for funds a description of how the SEA will improve the skills of teachers, principals, or other school leaders in order to enable them to identify and provide instruction for students with specific learning needs, **including students who are gifted and talented.**

(§2101(d)(2)(J))

**Q: What approaches might states use to improve skills that enable teachers, principals or other school leaders to identify students who are gifted and talented and provide instruction based on their needs?**

State education agency staff may use funds to expand their technical assistance to include strategies that will support teachers and other school leaders in identifying and providing effective instruction for gifted and talented students based on their needs. This may include: introducing district personnel to a range of assessment instruments and/or to the development of multiple criteria examples to be used to identify students from underrepresented populations; using local norm references to identify gifted and talented students from underserved populations; expanding current differentiation instruction to include strategies that are shown to be successful specifically with advanced learners; determining when and what form of acceleration is appropriate; working with school counselors and other leaders on social, emotional, and other counseling issues that can arise with gifted and talented students; and encouraging districts to develop systematic plans to ensure that all classroom teachers understand the indicators of giftedness and have a repertoire of strategies to support and challenge students appropriately.

**Local use of funds:**

**Q: Must LEAs use Title II, Part A funds to support gifted and talented students?**

Yes. To support effective instruction, LEAs that receive a sub-grant from the SEA must address the learning needs of gifted and talented students with the funds. (§ 2103(b)(2))

**Q: In what ways may LEAs use their Title II, Part A funds to support gifted and talented students?**

ESSA permits LEAs to use Title II funds to provide training that supports the identification of gifted and talented students who have not been formally identified for gifted education services and to implement instructional practices, such as enrichment, acceleration, curriculum compacting, dual or concurrent enrollment programs, and early entrance to kindergarten, that support the education of these students. (§ 2103(b)(3)(J)) LEAs should consider leveraging Title II funds to support all teachers that may encounter children with gifts and talents through effective professional learning.