

SPOTLIGHT ON:**ARIZONA****TITLE IV-A IMPLEMENTATION****TITLE IV-A USE OF FUNDS:**

Leveraging State Set-Aside Funds to Provide Innovative Training and Technical Assistance

Using Title IV, Part A (Title IV-A) state set-aside funds, leveraging internal staffing expertise, and collaborating with other state agencies and local partners, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) provides a variety of options for Title IV-A training and technical assistance (T/TA) to local education agencies (LEAs) across the state. Three standout approaches are described below.

[ADE] centers our T/TA on information sharing and relevancy building. My team understands the transformative potential these funds have for our students and schools. Through intentional relationship building, we hope to create a sense of relevancy for our stakeholders.

STATE TITLE IV-A SYMPOSIUM

Known in 2020 as the “Reimagine Education With Title IV-A Symposium,” ADE hosts an annual Title IV-A event designed specifically to provide professional development for enrichment educators, support staff, and administrators in Title IV-A focus areas, including the arts, physical education, and education technology. The symposium features interdisciplinary local and national



Reimagine Education With Title IV-A

experts in a wide range of supported content areas. It also serves as a vehicle for ADE to spread awareness of Title IV-A and



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the types of activities and programs the funding can support. The cost of the event is absorbed through participant registration and a portion of ADE's state set-aside funds.

MICRO-TRAININGS

ADE's micro-trainings are a result of collaboration between the state's Title IV-A State Coordinator and the Title IV-A Digital Learning Specialist. With their 5- to 8-minute length, the trainings are designed to maximize efficiencies of time and reach a wider range of stakeholders than can be engaged by a full- or half-day training. Training topics include a breakdown of each Title IV-A priority content area (Well-Rounded Education, Safe and Healthy Students, and Effective Use of Technology), the grant application process, and the Title IV-A application requirements.

PODCAST SERIES

Launching in September 2020 is ADE's "Reimagine Education With Title IV-A Podcast," a monthly discussion of education trends across the nation, spotlighting subject areas supported by the Title IV-A program. Each episode is 15-30 minutes in length and highlights examples of best practices and innovations happening across Arizona and beyond.

In addition to the T/TA opportunities described above, ADE offers a [catalog of professional development opportunities](#); a list of [online learning](#)

[and enrichment resources](#) for educators; a [Title IV-A blog](#); and discipline-specific options such as the [Arts Ed Dashboard](#), a project in partnership with other state agencies and local arts nonprofits. All of ADE's described T/TA activities are funded in part or wholly through the state set-aside funds. Per the Title IV-A statute, one way states can use these funds (no more than 5 percent of the state's total allotment) is to provide T/TA and capacity building to LEAs that receive a Title IV-A allocation.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION TAKEAWAYS

ADE uses a variety of innovative strategies to provide T/TA to stakeholders. This section explores considerations that may be replicated elsewhere.

SUGGESTED PRACTICE

Connect with colleagues and leverage the network.

Arizona State Coordinator Dustin Loehr cautions that "there is no way your team (or you, alone) can 'be the expert' in all the areas supported by Title IV-A." Instead, Arizona cultivates a repository of expert information and engages a network of local partners, peer agencies, and national organizations representing Title IV-A supported content areas. Creating a broad network of supports across the Title IV-A spectrum allows ADE staff to connect LEAs to targeted resources.

SUGGESTED PRACTICE

Use data to inform T/TA.

To ensure that the T/TA ADE provides is intentional and relevant, Arizona uses information gathered from the Title IV-A statute, the state's Every Student Succeeds Act plan, stakeholder feedback, student data, and T/TA evaluation data to design events. ADE's goal is to deliver T/TA activities that both benefit the LEAs and support the state's responsibility to successfully implement Title IV-A.

SUGGESTED PRACTICE

Be flexible and have a backup plan.

In 2020, ADE had to adjust quickly to an online platform because it was prevented from meeting in person for the annual Title IV Symposium. This was the agency's first conference held entirely online; since then, several other units within the Department have utilized the same platform for their own trainings and events. This challenge became an opportunity for ADE to demonstrate how to effectively utilize technology.

Learn more about ADE's T/TA on its [Title IV-A Web page](#) and by reading [ADE's 2019-2020 Title IV-A Year End Report](#).

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