



WELCOME  
SERVE  
CELEBRATE

TIPS FOR ACCESSING

# TITLE FUNDS

*Program for Inclusive Education (PIE)*

*Title funds are supplemental federal dollars through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) that Catholic schools can use for resources and direct support of students, including those with disabilities.*

## OVERVIEW OF ESSA

The Every Student Succeeds Act is the federal law ensuring schools provide a quality education to all students. It establishes requirements and accountability for academic achievement. ESSA focuses on disadvantaged students living in poverty and requires an equal opportunity for students who receive special education services. It outlines title funding opportunities and requires Catholic schools to receive an equitable, proportionate share for their students.

## TYPES OF TITLE FUNDS

*Title funds are allocated across the following four expenditures:*

**TITLE I** High Percentage of Low-Income Families

**TITLE II** Professional Development

**TITLE III** Immigrant & Limited English Proficiency

**TITLE IV** 21st-Century Learning Center Programs  
(e.g., STEM, technology)



## TIPS FOR ACCESSING TITLE FUNDS

*Catholic schools are entitled to their equitable share of Title funding, but your local school district cannot set funds aside for you until you make a formal agreement together. Because every state operates differently, taking proactive steps will alleviate surprises.*

### **1. CONNECT WITH YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT EARLY.**

Build relationships and engage with your local education agency (LEA). Inquire early about projected allocations and ask for the utilized formula. Plan collaboratively and early to make the best use of your dollars.

### **2. UNDERSTAND HOW ESSA PROVISIONS POSITIVELY IMPACT YOUR SCHOOL.**

Consult with your LEA and reach agreement on equitable and effective programs. Create alternate programs if programming does not meet your needs as a Catholic school. Request written documentation and expect information about proportionate share. Utilize a third party such as an ombudsman when necessary, to ensure monitoring and enforcement of equitable service provisions.

### **3. KNOW WHAT CONSTITUTES PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**

Overall, professional development provides educators with knowledge and skills to enable student success. It is more than a one-time workshop; it should integrate intensive, collaborative, data-driven, classroom-focused learning opportunities, including observations with feedback. Moreover, Catholic schools should work with experienced practitioners from the field and faculty from institutions of higher education.

### **4. DIVIDE AND CONQUER.**

Create partnerships with other local Catholic schools so that one or two passionate leaders can streamline the conversation. Having one conversation simplifies the process with the LEA and helps administrators with the process.