

Every Student Succeeds Act

Career Guidance and Counseling

THE PASSAGE OF THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA) marked a major step toward ensuring that all students are prepared to graduate from high school ready for college and careers. The new law includes critical measures to strengthen the role of CTE in our nation's K-12 education system.

TITLE IV OF ESSA has consolidated multiple programs that provide for a range of student support services into a single block grant. Under ESSA, states and school districts would have the flexibility to use this funding to support activities that advance the use of technology in the classroom, improve school climate and provide students with a well-rounded education. ESSA recognizes the academic rigor of CTE programs by including CTE in the definition of a well-rounded education, alongside other critical subjects that contribute to the academic and career success of all students.

To support a well-rounded education, funding provided through Title IV of ESSA can ensure that school counselors have greater access to the resources and information they need to help students make informed decisions about their futures. ESSA encourages school districts to offer college and career guidance programs, which may include career awareness and exploration activities that expose students to a range of career options and the educational pathways aligned to their long-term goals.

This section of Title IV also allows school districts to implement effective strategies for training school counselors in the use of labor market information. Professional development can be provided for counselors that enable them to use this information to identify local workforce needs, so they can better advise students on careers in growing fields available in their community.

Additionally, counselors could use funding in Title IV of

How Does ESSA Support Career Guidance and Counseling?

- Encourages School Districts to Offer College and Career Guidance Programs
- Promotes Career Awareness and Exploration Activities
- Supports Training for Counselors on Using Labor Market Information to Advise Students on Postsecondary and Career Goals
- Promotes Efforts to Increase Financial Literacy for Students
- Increases Awareness of Federal Financial Aid Opportunities

ESSA to increase students' financial literacy, so they have the tools to make smart financial decisions. Counselors can also implement activities that help to inform students planning to pursue postsecondary education about the federal financial aid options available to them to pay for their education. Increasing student awareness of financial aid programs can break down barriers to accessing programs that lead to a degree or other postsecondary credential that will support students' career success.

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) is the nation's largest education association dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. For more information, contact: Mitch Coppes (mcoppes@acteonline.org or 703-683-3111), ACTE, 1410 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, www.acteonline.org.

