M. René Islas Crescere Strategies LLC 1319 Bayliss Drive Alexandria, VA 22302

January 19, 2021

Ms. Janice Marks 7661 E. Camino Amistoso Tucson, AZ 85750

Dear Ms. Marks,

Thank you for your request for information regarding state and local education agency uses of ESSA Title I, Part A funds. More specifically, you asked if schools may only use Title I, Part A funds to purchase materials or programs that meet certain levels of evidence as specified in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015.

The U.S. Department encourages states, local education agencies, and schools to use Title I, Part A funds to support programs with evidence of effectiveness. Under Title I, Part A, states should use funds to support programs that meet any of the four tiers of evidence as specified below in the ESSA law:

WHAT IS AN "EVIDENCE-BASED" INTERVENTION?

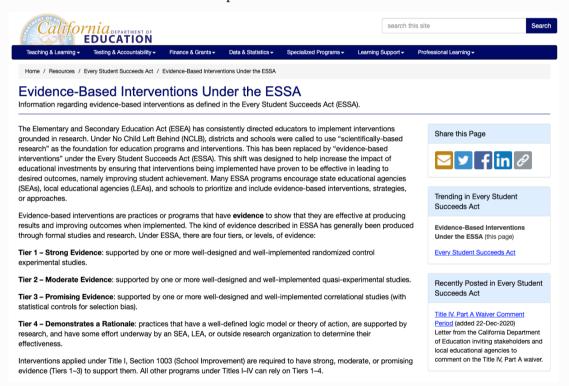
(from section 8101(21)(A) of the ESEA)

- "...the term 'evidence-based,' when used with respect to a State, local educational agency, or school activity, means an activity, strategy, or intervention that
 - (i) demonstrates a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes based on –
 - (I) strong evidence from at least one well-designed and well-implemented experimental
 - (II) moderate evidence from at least one well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study; or
 - (III) promising evidence from at least one well-designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias; or
 - (ii) (I) demonstrates a rationale based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluation that such activity, strategy, or intervention is likely to improve student outcomes or other relevant outcomes; and
 - (II) includes ongoing efforts to examine the effects of such activity, strategy, or intervention.

The School Improvement Grant Program (Title I, Sec. 1003g) requires grantees to use interventions that meet one of the more rigorous three tiers (Tiers I-III). Grantees may fund programs that meet any of the four tiers of evidence under most other federal education programs in Title I-IV.

Schools may purchase programs, such as Page A Day Math Kits, supported with research outlined in the National Math Panel Report, with Title I, Part A funds. Additionally, Education Support Specialist Raquel Alvara at the Arizona Department of Education shared that ADE encourages districts to use the funds on programs that align with tiers I-IV and their local needs assessment. She noted that they prioritize enforcement of the evidence of effectiveness rules for schools receiving funding to support School Improvement efforts under Title I, Sec. 1003.

Linked <u>here</u> is some guidance from ADE on the tiers of evidence. Additionally, I included clear guidance from the California State Department of Education below:



Kind regards,

M. René Islas

CEO

Crescere Strategies LLC

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