

Title IV Part A

Fund 24189

Title IV is a Direct Student Services Grant. The Gadsden ISD Award for 2019-2020 is \$664,466. Within the parameters of the grant: at least 20% must be spent on “Well Rounded Educational Opportunities”; at least 20% must be spent on “ Safe and Healthy Students” and no more than 15% may be spent on the “Effective Use of Technology.”

The Executive Director conducted extensive stakeholder meetings to discuss this new grant. In attendance at the meetings were district instructional department Directors, principals, Special Education Specialists, Bilingual Specialists, Intervention Specialists, Federal Social Workers , Counselors, Curriculum Specialists, the Family Literacy Center supervisor and parents.

As a result of the meetings and a review of district data and DASH Plan, the following programs are proposed in the Title IV Direct Student Services Grant for 2019-20:

- To address the category of “Well Rounded Educational Opportunities” Two Lab Classrooms (K-3 and 4-6) will be established at 12 elementary campuses with the highest percentages of low-income students as reported by the state to GISD. A pilot Lab Classroom program was implemented in 2018-19 at 3 elementary schools using the protocol developed by the stakeholders. In regular meetings, teacher, principal input and observations of the Lab Classrooms, the protocol has been refined, and is ready for implementation with Title IV beginning in August 2019.
- To address the category of “Safe and Healthy Students”, the federal social workers will attend the OLWEUS Bullying Prevention training in the fall of 2019. This program has received national acclaim for the success in reducing the incidences of violence on school campuses across the United States. The federal social workers will become trainers and will train teachers on their assigned campuses.
- To further address the category of “Safe and Healthy Students” a two-day Transition Camp will be implemented in the summer of 2019 for 8th grade students transitioning into high school. During the camp, the students will meet their new teachers, learn about the clubs and school activities, hear presentations on graduation requirements, receive assistance to create the Next Step Plan, learn the school song, eat in the cafeteria and receive various incentives in addition to the school handbook. When the school year begins, they will receive invitations to attend the various club meetings. In order to measure the effectiveness of this Transition Camp, a survey was created this spring and sent to current 8th grade students to establish a baseline for their opinions/expectations of high school. A follow-up survey will be sent to the students at the beginning of the 2019-20 year to be able to compare their expectations to the reality of entering high school. Next May, these same surveys will be sent to 8th grade students who will participate in the Transition Camp. Results of the two groups will be compared to measure effectiveness of the Transition Camp. It is proposed that the Transition Camp will benefit students transitioning into high school from middle school by diminishing fears and worries about the rigors of the high school environment. They will experience high school as a welcoming rather than an unfamiliar culture. It is further proposed that these students will show improved attendance and engagement in their new high school communities due to reduced emotional stress.