



Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA): References to Specialized Instructional Support Personnel

Specialized Instructional Support Personnel/Services (SISP)

Defined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (2015), the term ‘specialized instructional support personnel’ means— “(i) school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists; and “(ii) other qualified professional personnel, such as school nurses, speech language pathologists, and school librarians, involved in providing assessment, diagnosis, counseling, educational, therapeutic, and other necessary services (including related services as that term is defined in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401) as part of a comprehensive program to meet student needs.”

SISP are further referenced throughout the law and reaffirmed as an important stakeholder in the development and implementation of state and local education programs. The following citations in law highlight the role and inclusion of SISP.

Title I—Improving Basic Programs Operated by State and Local Educational Agencies

- Sec. 1111(a)(1)(A): States must consult SISP in developing their Title I plans.
- Sec. 1111(a)(4)(A)(ii)(I): SISP must be represented on multi-disciplinary peer review teams that review State plans.
- Sec. 1112(a)(1)(A): School districts must consult SISP in developing their Title I plans.
- Sec. 1112(b)(9): The local plan must describe how teachers and principals in Title I "targeted assistance schools," in consultation with SISP and other groups, will identify children most in need of Title I services.
- Sec. 1114(b)(2): Title I "schoolwide" program plans must be developed in consultation with SISP, "as appropriate," among other stakeholders.
- Sec. 1114(b)(7)(A)(iii)(I): Schoolwide plans must address strategies used to address needs especially of at risk students, which may include counseling, school-based mental health programs, and specialized instructional support services.
- Sec. 1115(b)(2)(D): Targeted assistance schools may use funds for professional development for school personnel, including "SISP, if appropriate."
- Sec. 1116(a)(3)(D): School districts can use "parent engagement" funds to provide professional development, which may be provided jointly to SISP and other school personnel and family members.

Title II—Preparing, Training & Recruiting High-Quality Teachers, Principals, & Other School Leaders

- Sec. 2101(c)(4)(B)(xv): States may use Title II formula grant funds to provide training to prevent and recognize child sexual abuse for all school personnel, including SISP.
- Sec. 2101(d)(3)(A): States must consult with SISP in developing their application for Title II funds.
- Sec. 2102(b)(3)(A): School districts must consult with SISP in developing their application for Title II funds.
- Sec. 2103(b)(3)(L): School districts may use Title II funds to provide training to prevent and recognize child sexual abuse for all school personnel, including SISP.
- Sec. 2223(d); Sec. 2224(c)-(e): Literacy grant funds to support birth-grade 12 literacy may be used for professional development for SISP and other professionals; to coordinate the involvement of families and staff, including SISP, as appropriate, in literacy development for children served under the grant; and to provide time for teachers, and SISP as appropriate, to plan comprehensive literacy instruction.
- Sec. 2244(b)(4): A center is established on students at risk of not attaining full literacy skills due to disability. One of the purposes of the center is to identify or develop evidence-based professional development for educators, including SISP, to understand early indicators of language/reading/executive functioning problems, use screening assessments for early identification beginning in kindergarten, and implement evidence-based instruction.

Title IV—21st Century Schools

- Sec. 4001(b): Title IV funds may not be used for medical services or drug treatment or rehabilitation, except for integrated student supports, SISP services, or referral to treatment for impacted students.
- Sec. 4104(b)(3)(C)(v): Title IV State funds may be used to provide school personnel, including SISP, with knowledge and skills to use technology effectively, including integration of technology to improve instruction and student achievement.
- Sec. 4106(c)(1), (2): School districts must consult SISP in developing their applications for Title IV block grant funds and engage in continued consultation in order to meet the purposes of the grant.
- Sec. 4108(5)(A)(ii); (D): Title IV block grant funds may be used for high-quality training for SISP and other school personnel on suicide prevention, effective and trauma-informed practices in classroom management, crisis management and conflict resolution techniques, human trafficking, school-based violence prevention strategies, drug abuse prevention, and bullying and harassment prevention.
- Sec. 4303(h)(1): Under the Charter School Grants program, grantees may use funds to prepare school staff, including SISP, by paying costs of providing professional development and hiring and compensating, during the grant planning period, teachers, school leaders, and SISP.
- Sec. 4625(e)(3): Under Full-Service Community Schools grants, funds must be used to, if applicable, coordinate and integrate services provided by community-based organizations and government agencies with services provided by SISP.
-

Title VI—Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native Education

- Sec. 6122(a)(2): Pre- and in-service training is available to Native American individuals to become SISP.

Title VIII—General Provisions

- Sec. 8002(42): SISP are included in the list of educators in the definition of "professional development."
- Sec. 8002(47): This is the definition of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel and Services

Title IX—Education for the Homeless and Other Laws

- Sec. 9102(g)(1)(D): State plans for grants for the education for homeless children must include a description of programs for school personnel, including SISP, to heighten awareness of specific needs of homeless and runaway children and youth.