

# FAST and ESEA Funds

Families & Schools Together (FAST) offers training, support, and programming to strengthen relationships between children, families, schools, and the community. FAST is directly aligned with the purpose of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and schools can use multiple ESEA funding sources for the FAST Program and the FAST Institute. Read on for more specific information.

## The FAST® Program

The FAST Program is an internationally acclaimed, evidence-based family engagement program that supports child well-being and learning readiness, empowers parents, and builds social capital so children can thrive. [LINK →](#)

## The FAST® Institute

The FAST Institute provides training and coaching for family engagement professionals, educators, and staff to help schools create a welcoming environment for all families—particularly for families of color and low-income families. [LINK →](#)

## Requirements

Family engagement is a critical element in school success, which is why ESEA funding sources may be used for these initiatives. Here are the requirements in order to utilize ESEA funds: *(1) There must be a comprehensive needs assessment that includes family and community participation. (a) There must be ongoing evaluation of the programming determined through the needs assessment; families and the community should be a part of the evaluation.*

## Sources

When the above requirements have been met, the following ESEA funds may be used:

### Title I, Part A

Title I, Part A funds could be used for both the FAST Program and the FAST Institute.

- Title I, Part A funds are used to provide academic support to students who need it most.
- Parent and Family Engagement is a required component of Title I, Part A programs.
- School districts that receive more than \$500,000 in Title I, Part A funds MUST reserve at least one percent (1%) for parent and family engagement activities. (School districts are allowed to reserve more than one percent.)

### Title II, Part A

Title I, Part A funds could be used for the FAST Institute.

- Title II, Part A funds are primarily for professional development activities that support students and help them meet academic standards.
- Professional development may also include activities to help school staff effectively engage families and the community.

### Title III, Part A

Title III, Part A funds could be used for both the FAST Program and the FAST Institute if those initiatives are supporting English Learners and their families.

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## Title IV, Part A

Title IV, Part A funds are likely not an allowable funding source for FAST as they must be used for one of the following three areas:

- Well-Rounded Educational Opportunities,
- Safe and Healthy Students, and
- Effective Use of Technology.

## Title IV, Part B (21st Century Community Learning Centers)

This is a competitive grant program, run once a year by the State Education Agency. These grants require opportunities for educational supports for families, so the FAST Program could be included in the application for this grant. (Because this is a grant for programs to support students and families, it would not be an appropriate funding source for the FAST Institute.)

**Contact your school or district ESEA coordinator** to discuss utilizing these funds for FAST. They can work with you to determine whether funds may be available for use.

## Associated costs

### **FAST Program**

- *Contracted team training and program evaluation costs* are paid directly to the FAST Office and cover FAST Team certification in the program model as well as all needed training materials (handbooks, etc.).  
\*Once a team is certified they can run without the training; ongoing costs include program evaluation/licensing paid to FAST Office.
- *Trainer travel expenses* for FAST Trainer to travel to the site over the course of five (5) visits - initial training, three site visits, and one wrap-up training to certify the site.
- *Team member stipends* (handled locally) which include payment to each team member for their work as part of the FAST Team.

- *Program activity materials* and other supplies (handled locally) which include supplies for kids time, program activity materials, and FASTWORKS (contact FAST for more detail on the budget).

### **FAST Institute**

FAST Institute can contract with schools for a flat rate which includes readiness assessment, site visit, training, coaching, ongoing support, and travel for FAST Trainer, or can contract for pieces individually. Other costs may arise depending on the circumstances of the work done through the Institute; for example, stipends for parent participants on the family engagement coaching team or funding for activities/events planned with families.

