

Funding Strategy Guide for Designated Schools

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with schools that have been designated as CSI, ISI, or MIS will be awarded **Investment in Schools (IIS) Grant** funds from OSSE for each year of the three-year designation period. The purpose of the IIS grant is to support LEAs and schools with implementing their School Improvement Plans (SIPs). To gain access to this funding, LEAs with schools designated as CSI, ISI, and MIS must submit an Investment in Schools (IIS) grant application and budget – along with their final and approved Needs Assessment, Resource Allocation Review, and School Improvement Plans, as applicable – which will then be reviewed by OSSE for approval.

In addition to this targeted school improvement grant program, LEAs also have access to additional annual federal grant funding such as **Title I-A** and **SOAR Academic Quality**, which they may also use as additional fund sources to support the successful implementation and execution of their SIPs.

This guide provides a non-exhaustive list of resources, aligned to the five (5) domains in the *Accelerate DC* framework and corresponding strategies, that may be purchased with these federal grant funds.

Accelerate DC Domain:

Transformational Leadership

Key practices in this domain include:

- Prioritize improvement and communicate its urgency
- Develop and monitor short- and long-term goals and strategies based on customized needs
- Customize and target support to meet needs
- Develop strong and aligned instructional leadership

The below table lists strategies aligned to this domain and how Investment in Schools, Title I-A, and SOAR Academic Quality grant funds can be leveraged to resource these strategies.

Aligned Strategies for Transformational Leadership	Examples of Resources
Leadership coaching for principals and school leadership teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract with executive coach • Conference registration and travel
Creation of diverse career pathways for teacher leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentive stipends for participating teachers • Contract to design program
School leader pipeline development and succession planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing • Contract to support planning • Professional development
Distributive leadership model implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing • Stipends

Accelerate DC Domain:

Talent Development

Key Practices in this domain include:

- Instructional coaching for educators
- Increased compensation for school leaders and educators in exchange for clear accountability metrics and/or increased time commitments
- Educator trainings on the science of reading (e.g., LETRS), as well as other research-backed trainings (e.g., math bootcamps)
- Classroom management training

The below table lists strategies aligned to this domain and how Investment in Schools, Title I-A, and SOAR Academic Quality grant funds can be leveraged to resource these strategies.

Aligned Strategies for Talent Development	Examples of Resources
Instructional coaching for educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing • Professional development for instructional coaches
Increased compensation for school leaders and educators in exchange for clear accountability metrics and/or increased time commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bonuses for educators based on performance
Educator trainings on the Science of Reading (e.g. LETRS) as well as other research-backed trainings (e.g. math bootcamps)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional development for teachers • On-going, real-time coaching for teachers • Curriculum and aligned materials
Classroom management training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional development for teachers • On-going, real-time coaching for teachers • Supplies for classroom protocols/procedures • Family engagement activities

Accelerate DC Domain:

Instructional Excellence

Key Practices in this domain include:

- Provide rigorous, evidence-based, high-quality Tier 1 instruction
- Diagnose and respond to student learning needs
- Target supports for students with the greatest needs

The below table lists strategies aligned to this domain and how Investment in Schools, Title I-A, and SOAR Academic Quality grant funds can be leveraged to resource these strategies.

Aligned Strategies for Instructional Excellence	Examples of Resources
High-quality instructional materials and implementation supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum and aligned materials • Professional development • Staff overseeing implementation • Family engagement activities aligned to the curriculum
High-impact tutoring targeting highest-need students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tutors / Contract with tutoring provider • Staffing (e.g. tutoring manager) • Tutoring curriculum

Aligned Strategies for Instructional Excellence	Examples of Resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation for students • Operational costs of extended school time
Use of validated interim assessments to target supports based on data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessments • Data system • Professional development • Staffing • Family engagement activities
Implementation of multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing • Data system • Implementing evidence-based interventions for identified students / student groups
Expanded planning and collaboration time for educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stipends for teachers (e.g. extended hours) • Materials for collaborative time (e.g. paper, large sticky notes)
Use of research-backed technology to help provide individualized supports based on student needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blended learning resources (e.g. curriculum licenses, learning management platform) • Devices • Hotspot / Internet services • Professional development • Family engagement activities

Accelerate DC Domain:

Strong School Culture and Climate

Key Practices in this domain include:

- Build a strong community intensely focused on student academic acceleration and wellbeing
- Solicit and act upon ongoing stakeholder input from the school community
- Engage students and families in pursuing the student’s education goals
- Provide wraparound supports based on student, family, and community needs

The below table lists some strategies aligned to this domain and how Investment in Schools, Title I-A, and SOAR Academic Quality grant funds can be leveraged to resource these strategies.

Aligned Strategies for Strong School Culture and Climate	Examples of Resources
Conducting home visits to re-engage chronically absent students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stipends • Staffing • Training • Transportation support for staff
Implementation of a positive behavior management system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data system • Staffing

Aligned Strategies for Strong School Culture and Climate	Examples of Resources
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PBIS resources (e.g. incentives)
Coaching for school leaders on developing and maintaining effective partnerships with community-based organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing • Professional development • Contract with community-based organization
School behavioral health training and curricula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional development • Curriculum and aligned materials
Access to evidence-based behavioral health interventions (e.g., cognitive behavioral therapy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing • Behavioral health curriculum • Professional development

Accelerate DC Domain:

Organizational Health

Key Practices in this domain include:

- Build a strong community intensely focused on student academic acceleration and wellbeing
- Solicit and act upon ongoing stakeholder input from the school community
- Engage students and families in pursuing the student’s education goals
- Provide wraparound supports based on student, family, and community needs

The below table lists some strategies aligned to this domain and how Investment in Schools, Title I-A, and SOAR Academic Quality grant funds can be leveraged to resource these strategies.

Aligned Strategies for Organizational Health	Examples of Resources
Extended instructional time through an extended school day and/or school year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stipends • Operational costs of an extended calendar • Professional development • Curriculum and aligned materials • Transportation for students
Conducting a school-day audit to evaluate the use of time and maximize instructional class time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing • Stipends • Contract for an audit • Implementation of recommendations resulting from audit outcomes
Assessment of resource allocation in school budget and relative impact of each item on student outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing • Stipends • Contract to conduct assessment of resource allocation • Implementation of recommendations resulting from the assessment

Aligned Strategies for Organizational Health	Examples of Resources
Consultation on relevant school policies to support effective implementation (e.g., school immunization policy, mental health guidelines)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staffing• Stipends• Contract for external review of school policies• Implementation of recommendations resulting from the review