

ESSA Elevator Speech Examples

ESSA KEY Messages	Story and Fact/Data	The Ask	Pulling It All Together
<p>[Title I] School librarians and access to effective school library programs impact student achievement, digital literacy skills, and school climate/culture.</p>	<p>Nearly 60 percent of first year college students require some remediation.¹ The critical thinking and research skills developed in an effective school library program are essential components of college readiness.</p>	<p>Ensure that students have access to school library programs throughout k-12 schooling.</p>	<p>We are seeing a disparity in preparedness among our incoming students. We count on students having digital literacy and information literacy skills that will allow them to do college level work and, all too often, those skills must be remediated. That deficit negatively impacts student engagement, retention, and academic performance. Please use Title I funds to help close that gap and ensure that all students in [state] have access to effective K-12 school library programs. (Speaker: College Administrator. Audience: State Legislator or Board of Ed Official.)</p>
<p>[Title II, Part A] School librarians are teacher leaders, providing professional development, building capacities around technology integration, and collaborating with colleagues for instruction and assessment.</p>	<p>Librarians lead professional development and committees. In this district, librarians trained teachers so that students can maintain digital portfolios across content areas.</p>	<p>Include school librarians in Title II funding plans for the state.</p>	<p>My librarians are integral to staff development and, in addition to leading committees throughout our district, they deliver quarterly professional development workshops for our teachers. Because of the librarians, our middle school students now have cross content digital portfolios. I urge you to specifically identify school librarians in state plans for use of Title II funds. (Speaker: District Administrator. Audience: State Board Official.)</p>
<p>[Title II, Part B, Subpart 1] School librarians are uniquely suited to lead the effort in applying for competitive grants because of their expertise and access to strong professional learning.</p>	<p>I have written more than \$25,000 in grants, and my literacy action research project provided the data and supporting documentation for our district's successful IAL grant last year.</p>	<p>Appoint a librarian to the district's Title II grant team.</p>	<p>Through successful grant writing, I have secured more than \$25,000 in library resources that are shared by teachers and students throughout the school. In addition, my literacy action research was incorporated into the district's IAL grant. Please appoint me to the district's Title II grant team. (Speaker: Librarian. Audience: District Administrator.)</p>

¹ Southern Regional Education Board, National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, "Beyond the Rhetoric: Improving College Readiness Through Coherent State Policy," 2010.

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<p>[Title IV, Part A] School librarians increase access to personalized, rigorous learning experiences supported by technology, allowing equitable resources for all students.</p>	<p>I work with the 5th grade science teacher to provide supplementary materials to the textbook for struggling and advanced readers. This allows all students to understand the core principles of topics such as electricity, and to scaffold to texts of higher reading levels.</p>	<p>Allocate block grant funds for library resources.</p>	<p>Our school library offers digital and print materials that are accessible to every student in the building and this is critically important to our diverse population. When our 5th graders do their science unit on electricity, the library is able to supplement the text with materials from our shared databases, which even include audio support for struggling readers and English language learners. We also offer supplemental reading materials for kids performing above grade level. It is critical to have these resources in a place where all students and teachers can access them; please ensure that [state's] implementation plan includes school libraries in its programs eligible for Title IV funds. [Speaker: Librarian. Audience: State Board Official.]</p>