



**TALAWANDA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

131 W. Chestnut Street, Oxford, Ohio 45056 | [www.talawanda.org](http://www.talawanda.org)

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*Talawanda School District EMPOWERS Every Learner Every Day!*

## FQA6 Funding Types and Federal Money

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This is a TSD communication addressing questions and concerns related to the Talawanda School District and its fiscal distress. Our goal is to provide as much information as possible so that community members understand TSD finances.

### **Question 1: Isn't all the money Talawanda receives the same and can be used for anything?**

No, the money Talawanda School District receives is not equal and cannot be used for any/all purchases. Talawanda School District is obligated by law to spend and account for the funds as required by that law.

Below are some examples of the money we receive and how we can use it:

**General Fund (or operating money):** This General Fund money is used for Talawanda School District operations. This money pays for TSD's daily expenses. Roughly 74% of our operating budget pays for our staffing and benefits. The rest of the General Fund pays for items such as: electricity, propane, fuel (buses, trucks, mowers), liability insurance, transportation, additional staff members that are contracted out with other entities, supplies (classroom, custodial, building), equipment (technology/chromebooks and any item that costs \$1,000.00 or more) and finally all fees that we must pay to the state and butler county auditor to help defray their costs in distributing property tax (and our school district income tax) collections to us.

**Permanent Improvement (or PI money):** Talawanda School District can only use this PI fund for capital improvements. This fund may pay for items such as HVAC, HVAC upgrades/improvements, desks, chairs, building renovations, new buildings, windows, roofs, doors, kitchen equipment and anything that has a life/use longer than 5 years. This fund **cannot** be used for daily operations.

### **Question 2: Doesn't TSD receive federal funding and shouldn't that help?**

Yes, we apply and receive federal funding each year. Yes, the federal funding does help with educational programming. However, the federal funding must be used according to the federal requirements and does not provide enough annual funding to operate these TSD programs.

TSD has received a few different types of federal funding explained below:

- a. **COVID19/ESSER/ARP funds:** Due to the COVID19 pandemic, Talawanda School District applied and received COVID-19 funds. All of the COVID19 funds must be connected and used for COVID-19 such as learning loss mitigation, cleaning supplies, masks, facility improvements to help with COVID-19 mitigation, and hotspots (WiFi). One of the COVID-19 funds (ARP-ESSER) required the school district to seek input from the stakeholders. We provided a survey in which 331 people completed the survey. We also announced at our Board of Education meetings the process, requirement, and gave individuals the opportunity to speak at the Public Sessions or contact the Treasurer/Superintendent. Remember the COVID-19 could only be spent on certain items so the survey was adjusted to ensure compliance. The first and second COVID-19 money had different conditions and requirements that did not require stakeholder input. Talawanda School District posted its COVID-19 plan on the website along with any updates.

TSD has or plans to spend COVID-19/ESSER/ARP funds on the following:

- Cleaning supplies
- Masks
- Equipment such as disinfectant sprayers
- TMS Air Handler and new windows (not completed yet)
- Additions to the playgrounds (Elementary-not completed yet)
- Intervention teacher at each of the elementary buildings for 2 years
- One building substitute per building for 3 years
- Substitute and extra nurses to contact trace and assist
- WiFi (hotspots)
- Additional computers, iPads, replacement parts
- Summer school
- Learning loss mitigation supports, resources, instruction, and remediation
- Zoom licenses
- Masks and student/staff barriers

In addition:

- b. **Title 1, Title 2, Title 3 and others**

These funds are provided to schools who apply and meet the federal requirements annually. We post in the news as well as on our websites (usually in May before a Board meeting) an opportunity for our community to come and learn about these federal funds and ideas for the funds.

**Title 1A Improving Basic Programs:** Don't be fooled by the title. It is not for all students. These funds are provided to schools who have students from low socio economic backgrounds and have academic challenges. The use of this money must provide extra instruction and support and not be used to pay for a current teacher (supplanting). TSD receives an average of \$375,000 each year, but this amount does

fluctuate with the needs of our low socioeconomic students. TSD is required to administer and account for any of our non-public schools to use these funds. The non-public schools who opt in receive some of this money from us. TSD currently uses this money to pay for three (3) Title 1 teachers at the elementary level.

**Title ID Neglected:** TSD receives an average of \$19,000 a year. This amount changes vastly each year and can only be spent on students who are deemed neglected. Students from Bunker Hill qualify for this money. Tutoring, counseling, and support are a few acceptable expenditures. *This money cannot supplant or pay for current staff required to operate our schools.*

**Title IIA Supporting Effective Instruction:** TSD receives approximately \$83,000 per year. Again, this amount fluctuates each year. This money may be used for coaching, supporting staff, and professional development. TSD uses this money to pay for one (1) instructional coach and for our yearly professional development needs. Some of the professional development needs are mandated by law and some are at the direction of the district (mental health, new adoptions, assessments, academic, SEL standards). *This money cannot supplant or pay for current staff required to operate schools in TSD.*

**Title III Language Instruction for English Learners:** TSD has entered into a consortium agreement with Butler County Educational Service Center (BCESC). Other school districts have also joined this consortium. TSD pools our money to provide services to students who are learning English as a second language. Pooling our money allows us to work with other schools to maximize our money. TSD receives very little money in this consortium (approximately \$8,000) which on its own would not provide enough services for our English language learners. This money cannot supplant or pay for current staff required to operate TSD schools.

**Title IVA Student Support and Academic Support:** TSD receives approximately \$29,000 per year. Again, this amount changes yearly. This fund pays for some of the STEM expenses such as materials, resources, and professional development. *This money cannot supplant or pay for current staff required to operate our schools.*

**IDEA B Special Education:** TSD receives an average of \$575,000 per year. Again, this amount can change each year. TSD uses this money to pay for teachers, paraprofessionals, support staff, equipment, and transportation for students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs). This money must connect to students in meeting their federal requirements found in each IEP. *It does not cover our special education costs.* In fact, it is a very small amount of money compared to what is needed to educate students with IEPs in our district.

**IDEA Early Childhood Special Education:** TSD receives approximately \$18,000 per year. Again, this amount changes each year. This money may only be used for students with IEPs (disabilities) in the PreK setting. TSD currently uses this money to pay for a partial teacher's salary and benefits. Again, it does not pay for all of the staff member's salary and benefits, but it helps.

**Expanding Opportunities for Each Child-Non Competitive Grant:** TSD receives about \$9,000 a year. This money is not guaranteed each year. TSD uses this money for counseling programs, test preparation, FAFSA, career/college exploration, AP test fees, and Butler Tech career exploration. Students in buildings are prioritized by the need to receive services in these areas. *This money cannot supplant or pay for current staff required to operate TSD schools.*

Additional Information may be found at:

\*Board of Education Meeting videos

<https://www.talawanda.org/departments/board-of-education-30/virtual-boe-meetings-links-314/>  
or [www.talawanda.org](http://www.talawanda.org) Click Departments Click Board of Education Click Videos)

\*\*[www.talawanda.org](http://www.talawanda.org) or

<https://www.talawanda.org/departments/treasurer---finance-42/understanding-school-finance-395>

\*\*\*CUPP Report November 2021 at:

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/School-Payment-Reports/District-Profile-Reports>

\*\*\*\*Ohio Department of Education report cards at <https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/> or <https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/district/gradrate/046151>