

Title IV-A Funds for Digital Citizenship

Summary: The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) has the goal of preparing our students to graduate from high school prepared for college and career. But not all students start their path to the goal on equal footing. Title IV, Part A funding helps support equity of opportunity for all students. Also known as the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (SSAE) this funding helps local education agencies (LEAs) to provide access to education, improve conditions for student learning and improve the use of technology to help students become digitally literate. This paper clarifies how Title IV-A funding can be used in digital citizenship learning.

✓**ProTIP:** Share this document with your district grant writer or federal programs director.

How can Title IV-A funding align with digital citizenship?

Title IV-A SSAE grants work to improve student success by:

1. Providing all students with access to a well-rounded education
2. Improving school conditions for learning
3. Improve the use of technology for academic achievement and digital literacy of students

Digital citizenship is the the ethical and responsible use of technology. It's part of a well-rounded education; digital citizenship-related state standards are found in multiple subjects through grades K-12. An essential part of digital citizenship is digital literacy, the wide range of skills needed to find, use, create and navigate technologies and the internet. Digital literacy skills are needed to access educational information in schools, research, complete assignments and much more. Those skills are needed across subject areas and into higher education and the workforce.

Digital citizenship affects all ages of students, but older elementary students and middle schoolers, Grades 4-7 have particular needs. This is the time they get their first smartphones and social media accounts. Digital citizenship education should be reinforced during this time period. Digital Respons-Ability has developed a targeted digital citizenship program for students, with additional support for parents, that can meet the Title IV-A requirements.

Why Digital Respons-Ability?

Digital Respons-Ability is a research-based provider of digital citizenship education, serving K-12 students, parents and educators since 2016. We have taught tens of thousands of K-12 students in deep-dive, in-person digital citizenship classes as the state provider in Utah of online safety education since 2019. Digital Respons-Ability also has a state contract to teach parents how they can help their children navigate technology. We are the only company providing so many direct services and in-person trainings of digital citizenship in the world.

Digital Respons-Ability employs research-based digital citizenship curriculum during in-person, classroom-based learning to support SEL and change digital behavior. Data from surveys administered to over 3000 K-12 students in Utah from January-March 2020 indicated that:

- 96% of 3-6 graders and 74% of K-2 students felt that would know how to keep themselves safe online
- 68% of K-2 students knew the names of their feelings some or most of the time
- 100% of 8th grade students felt they could use technology for good

Digital Respons-Ability has taught tens of thousands of students, parents and educators digital citizenship.

Respons-Able Student Online modules (RSO)

Based on Digital Respons-Ability's direct work with students, we have adapted our curriculum to be online. These self-paced modules are divided into two courses: Respons-Able Students 1 (grades 4-6) and Respons-Able Students 2 (grades 6-8).

Each module is 1-2 hours long and includes interactive activities and an optional assessment with a certificate.

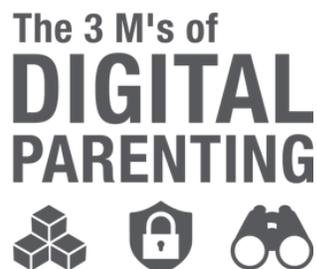
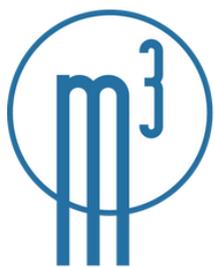
The topics included in the RSO modules include:

- Computational Thinking
- Online safety and ethics
- Digital communication
- Digital footprint
- Cyberbullying
- Digital commerce
- Digital empathy
- Media Literacy
- Digital wellness
- Using Tech for Good
- Preparing for College and Career
- Digital identities and goal-setting

Included with the student modules are resources for teachers and parents so they can reinforce the digital citizenship learning in the classroom or at home.

Supplemental resource: Respons-Able Digital Parenting

Technology can be a way that school districts can better engage, communicate and work with parents. Or it can be a source for stress and division. Digital citizenship education must not only include the educators, but also the parents. Digital Respons-Ability has taught thousands of parents, virtually and in-person, focusing on strategies and information for parenting around technology.



Through their "3Ms of Digital Parenting" class and related services they can help support parent family/parent/community engagement work. The virtual classes are 1-2 hours long, and include sharing strategies to parent around technology to different age groups with the "3Ms of Digital Parenting". Parents will be connected with free resources and a newsletter when attending.

These classes are available in English or Spanish. Respons-Able Digital Parenting is bundled at a discount with the RSO program to help engage the broader school community.