



Funding Sources

Funding streams and correlations for Brighten Learning Programs: The Social Express, Cool School, and Teen Career Path - and for the purchase of Professional Development for Teachers.

Funding Overview	Purpose	Our Correlation
<p>ARP ESSER American Rescue Plan Act – Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief funds</p>	<p>K-12 ARP ESSER 2020-21 funding is allocated based on the relative amount of Title I Part A funding.</p> <p>Evidence-based intervention to address learning loss in academic and social emotional needs.</p>	<p>Because funds may be used as per IDEA, Title 1, Perkins and other existing legislation, <i>Brighten Learning Programs</i> are correlated to ARP as defined by the relevant funding sources below.</p> <p>Brighten Learning is proud to partner with K12 schools to assist with the formation of plans required for implementing the 2021 American Rescue Plan (ESSER). In addition to cloud based interactive social emotional learning (SEL) for all students, we provide impactful professional development on SEL and restorative practices for educators.</p> <p>The Brighten Learning suite of programs includes targeted interventions and lesson plans to help educators address specific social skills. The program also provides pre/post assessments, reproducibles, and reporting features that measure both engagement and progress.</p>
<p>IDEA Individuals with Disabilities Education Act</p>	<p>Special Education Funding</p>	<p>Both Social Express and Cool School support Social Emotional goals in Individual Education Plans (IEP) and 504 plans, using a teacher friendly student management system called “Central Station.” The system allows teachers and professionals to manage individual student and group use of the program, track usage and progress, run reports, and even export data for IEP reporting compliance. Additionally, TCP helps students with special needs in transition by providing a virtual career exploration in a game-based environment so that students can discover their career path, and a curriculum for educators to teach students life and career readiness skills.</p>
<p>Perkins Funding Carl D. Perkins Act</p>	<p>Career & Technical Education (CTE)</p>	<p>Built with funds from a National Science Foundation Phase I & III grant, <i>Teen Career Path</i> is the only life skills-career readiness curriculum with an interactive</p>

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		<p>video game experience to discover a preferred career choice. Students in CTE programs are engaged right from the start as they “play employee for a day” and explore over 20 careers covering 15 career sectors. Students also prepare for life beyond school using our comprehensive Life & Career Readiness Curriculum.</p>
Dropout Prevention Grants	<p>Lower Dropout Rates & Increase Transition Success</p>	<p><i>The Social Express</i> is aligned with standards as researched and published by The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), ensuring the rigor of research based best practices. Research has validated the outcomes of CASEL standards. SEL interventions that address CASEL’s five core competencies increased students’ academic performance by 11 percentile points, compared to students who did not participate in such SEL programs. Students participating in SEL programs also showed improved classroom behavior, increased ability to manage stress and depression, and better attitudes about themselves, others, and school.*</p> <p><i>* Durlak, J. A., Weissberg, R. P., Dymnicki, A. B., Taylor, R. D. & Schellinger, K. B. (2011). The impact of enhancing students’ social and emotional learning: A meta-analysis of school-based universal interventions. Child Development, 82(1): 405–432.</i></p>
Title I of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)	<p>Meet Needs of Low-Income Students. Provide programs and services for struggling learners.</p>	<p>All three programs in the suite of curriculum – <i>The Social Express, Cool School and Teen Career Path</i> – are being used by thousands of students worldwide, a large percentage of which are located in inner city and lower socio-economic areas, with students representing a diverse background of ethnicity and proficiency in English Language.</p> <p>One study demonstrated the efficacy of this intervention specifically with African American Youth. This study examined the efficacy of a computer-based social skills training program, The Social Express. Independent researchers evaluated the program at both a school-wide level (Tier 1) and at a referred group level (Tier 2). The sample included third through fourth, and fifth grade students in a Title 1 public school with a 100% African American population. Pre-post comparisons at the individual level found that about 39% of the children had statistically significant improvement in social skills, with 9% indicating a decrease in problem behaviors.</p> <p>Another benefit of all of these programs is the ability to be accessed in an array of settings. So, whether the student is in a full 5-day/week instructional model, or remote for all/part of the week, it doesn’t matter. Students may access interactive components from any</p>

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		<p>device that can access the Internet. Their teachers may also provide the supportive materials in paper packets if no internet accessibility is available at home. Thus students, who are experiencing homelessness, can be provided with evidence based high quality SEL instruction, regardless of that status.</p>
<p>Title II Part A – Improving teacher and principal quality</p>	<p>The purpose of Title II, Part A is to increase the academic achievement of all students by helping schools and districts improve teacher and principal quality. This includes teacher preparation and qualifications of new teachers, recruitment and hiring, induction, professional development, and retention.</p>	<p>It is essential that schools/districts focus on building an environment for sustainability and maintenance of effort over the foreseeable future. The ESSER III funds from the American Recovery Act 2021 are intended to go beyond recovery and should be used to focus on deep systemic improvement. That provides a perfect opportunity to re-imagine the role of social emotional wellness and mental health. It underscores the importance of ensuring that our teachers have the appropriate training to recognize signs of festering emotional problems due to trauma from the current pandemic, and/or other underlying trauma.</p> <p>For that reason, Brighten Learning offers two outstanding Professional Development opportunities for all educators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trauma and Restorative Practices ● Social Emotional Learning and Equity <p>Please click this link to learn more about these awesome PD options: https://socialexpress.com/professional-development/.</p> <p>Also feel free to reach out to me for a meeting with Karen Allen, who can share more information about her amazing strategies and successes delivering this PD to schools.</p>
<p>Title IV Part A - provides funding to improve students' academic achievement by increasing school district capacity</p>	<p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Providing all students with access to a well-rounded education ● Improving school conditions for student learning; and ● Increasing the use of technology to enhance the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students. 	<p>“Social and emotional learning (SEL) is an integral part of education and human development. SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.” Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning. (CASEL)</p> <p>The Social Express is aligned with approved SEL standards from CASEL, which has been validated to maximize academic gains.</p>
<p>Title IV (B) 21st Century Community Learning Centers</p>	<p>Community resources before & after school hours</p>	<p>One of the best parts about all three of these products (<i>The Social Express, Cool School and Teen Career Path</i>) is that they can be used in an array, or combination of</p>

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	<p>American Rescue Plan provides funds to state and local education agencies to support students and learning recovery through afterschool and summer enrichment programs</p>	<p>alternative settings, including both summer school (aka Extended School Year) and after-school programs (aka Extended School Day).</p> <p>All 3 programs are easy to implement and require very little upfront training so that new teachers providing after school and summer school instruction can very quickly jump on and engage students with our cloud based animated programs and clever interactive simulations.</p> <p>Because the instruction is so highly engaging, students readily seek out time to ‘play’ on <i>The Social Express</i>, making it ideal for summer school and after school programs where motivation is a key factor to success.</p>
<p>1003a School Improvement Funds: Direct Student Services</p>	<p>Improve services at low-performing schools (includes CTE)</p>	<p><i>The Social Express</i> evidence-based programming supports entry into CTE and supports the needs of students in low performing schools to learn Social Emotional skills in a fun and engaging way. Students participating in SEL programs also showed improved classroom behavior, increased ability to manage stress and depression, and better attitudes about themselves, others, and school.*</p> <p><i>* Durlak, J. A., Weissberg, R. P., Dymnicki, A. B., Taylor, R. D. & Schellinger, K. B. (2011). The impact of enhancing students’ social and emotional learning: A meta-analysis of school-based universal interventions. Child Development, 82(1): 405–432.</i></p>
<p>MTSS -Multi-tiered systems of supports</p>	<p>This includes academic Response to Intervention (RTI), Positive Behavioral Interventions and mental health services</p>	<p><i>The Social Express and Cool School</i> are both designed with restorative practices in mind that support students’ mental health. Students who have experienced trauma are accommodated with both the content of rich social emotional skills (aligned to CASEL standards), and the engagement algorithms used within these clever simulations which provide positive reinforcement and validation of feelings. The low sensory environment supports trauma informed practices. Each webisode provides students with the opportunity to learn about and explore healthy strategies such as: emotional regulation and coping strategies, how to ask for help, identifying feelings, understanding non-verbal body language, and opportunities to explore correct and incorrect choices and related consequences.</p>

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<p>ESSER and GEER additional allowable uses</p>	<p>Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity as well as assistive technology or adaptive equipment)</p>	<p>At the core of the interactive curricula from <i>The Social Express</i>, is a supportive learning management system which allows teachers to individualize and personalize instruction.</p> <p>We also offer seamless interoperability with other popular Learning Management Systems (LMS) systems including Google Classroom, Microsoft One, Schoology, Clever and Canvas. It is easy for teachers to assign interactive lessons, or supportive extension activities for small group work using the very same LMS systems they use every day. This is just one way that The Brighten Learning suite of SEL tools can support the purchase of hardware, software and or connectivity.</p> <p>In addition, you can find more information at The Help Kids Recover website offers important information about federal stimulus funding available through the American Rescue Plan including the funding apportionment per state, examples of how states are using recovery funding, examples of partnerships in action at different levels (e.g., state, school district, school), contacts for afterschool state networks, and evidence-based strategies. This website is part of a campaign by Afterschool Alliance and many partners, including Boys and Girls Clubs of America, National Afterschool Association, National Summer Learning Association, and the YMCA. This resource supports the COVID-19 response</p> <p>https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/ncase-resource-library/help-kids-recover-maximize-student-recovery</p>