pi-top

Federal Funding

Funding for Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA)

At pi-top, our mission is to make teaching and learning computer science accessible for everyone.

From our online learning platform, Further, to our pi-top [4] and Robotics and Electronics accessory kits, our project-based materials and lessons inspire students and prepare them for 21st-century careers.

Title I, Part A	Title V
Title II	Perkins Grant
Title III	IDEA
Title IV	ESSER I, II, III

Learn how pi-top fits within allowable funding under Titles I, II, III, and IV of ESSA >

Title I, Part A

The largest source of federal funding to schools is from Title I, providing over $16 billion dollars to schools that serve a high number or high percentage of children from low-income families to ensure that these children are able to meet challenging state academic standards.

How pi-top aligns to Title I, Part A:

- pi-top is used by Title 1 schools for the basic purpose for which Title 1 was created—to give all children, regardless of family income, the opportunity and support to achieve or exceed proficiency on challenging state academic standards.

- We support students through a standards-based curriculum. The content can be teacher led or student paced.

- pi-top's project kits are carefully aligned with Common Core State Standards (CCSS), Computer Science Teachers Association standards (CSTA), International Society for Technology in Education standards (ISTE), and soon Teacher Keys Effectiveness System standards (TKES).

- pi-top's project-based materials and lessons teach skills that build the necessary scaffolding for college and 21st century career readiness, science, and technical subjects.

- Products can be used for lessons from beginner coding to advanced programming, offering differentiated instruction opportunities that eliminate the need to purchase different products for different skill levels. In addition, because the pi-top is Raspberry Pi based and not proprietary, it can be used in concert with other technology that schools have already invested in.

- pi-top's Raspberry Pi is a compact, completely mobile, battery powered device that is designed to be classroom durable making it a take-anywhere technology.

- Our innovative hands-on projects provide additional challenges and real-world relevance to students from diverse backgrounds in an inquiry-based model of instruction.

- pi-top supports Title I teachers by providing step-by-step computer science activities, easy to understand lesson plans, and comprehensive professional development activities, designed to give teachers who do not have a technology background the skills and confidence to implement pi-top into their lessons.

- Project based learning kits are flexibility designed and include equipment and technology that can be utilized in multiple settings, including at home.

- Our product can be implemented as project-based extension units in the core curriculum as well as in before and after school programs and in summer enrichment.

- Because pi-top's lessons and kits are reused and reproducible, they are a sustainable educational product. This sustainability along with the fact that the kits include all necessary supplies, make our product able to be used by families and other community agencies to support family engagement, a requirement of Title I funding.

- The resources provided allow educators to identify specific skills students are struggling with and assign standards-aligned activities to individual students. The self paced, independent structure frees teachers up for individual and small group support.

- pi-top's project based kits foster the confidence needed to make mistakes in a supportive environment. They build critical thinking skills and reliencey required for resolving errors.

- Our computer science content platform, Further, allows teachers to view student responses to tasks, monitor students' progress, and provide feedback.

Title II

Title II is focused on preparing, training, and recruiting high quality teachers and principals. With a focus on increasing student academic achievement through strategies such as improving teacher quality, Title II funds professional development activities that are sustained, intensive, collaborative, job-embedded, data-driven, and classroom-focused.

How pi-top's professional development aligns to Title II:

- pi-top allows teachers with or without a technology background to experience the curriculum firsthand and feel comfortable with the learning platform, resources, and kits.

- We provide educators with all the tools needed to make teaching and learning standards-based Computer Science easy and engaging. All lessons are standards aligned with support materials, teacher guides, and step by step instructions.

- We provide PD to teachers that is sustained, intensive, collaborative, relevant, and classroom-focused designed to engage and excite students' interest in computer science and STEAM.

- We understand the demands and time constraints of educators. As a result, professional development training is comprehensive, yet efficient, asynchronous, and can be delivered online making for a flexible and effective training experience.

- pi-top's professional development prepares and trains teachers to deliver a technology-focused, real-world, project-based curriculum with the goal of increasing student academic achievement.

- We focus on incorporating STEAM Education into technology classrooms as well as the traditional classroom settings in order to give students a more meaningful school experience.

- Utilizing the Further content platform, pi-top has the ability to curate a professional development session that reflects the unique needs of individual schools/districts.

- pi-top's teacher guides are reflective of scripted lesson plans so that teachers can easily and successfully implement the content

Title III

Title III provides federal funding that is focused on ensuring that English learners, including immigrant children and youth, attain English proficiency and develop high levels of academic achievement in English and meet the same challenging state academic standards of their English speaking peers.

Title III can be used to assist teachers and leaders in establishing, implementing, and sustaining effective language instruction educational programs and/or to promote family and community participation in language instruction educational programs for the parents, families, and communities of English learners.

How pi-top aligns to Title III:

✔ pi-top's curriculum, educational content, and hands-on kits align with national education standards and are also designed for the needs of underrepresented students, such as, English language learners

✔ The needs of English Language Learners have been carefully considered when developing pi-top's activities to include pictures and diagrams to facilitate ease of use and understanding.

✔ Due to the universal nature of coding language, our hands-on projects are inherently successful with English Language Learners.

✔ pi-top provides a valuable resource for parents, families, and communities of English learners because families can use the kits together.

Title IV (21ˢᵗ Century Schools)

Title IV is a block grant that provides over $1 billion in funding to school safety, well-rounded education, and educational technology initiatives. Under the CARES Act, these funds can now be used to fund any of these three priorities: providing students with a well-rounded education, maintaining student health and safety, and purchasing and implementing education technology and systems.*

How pi-top aligns to Title IV

- pi-top supports a well-rounded education and cultivates a more meaningful school experience for students by providing vibrant online and in-person project-based learning that fosters collaborative learning, self and peer reflection, response to feedback, and error resolution.

- As a hands-on education technology tool for science, engineering and coding, pi-top brings educational technology initiatives to life in the form of real world applications.

- pi-top's project-based materials and lessons are ISTE standard aligned and use the latest digital technologies to inspire students and prepare them with a well-rounded education, building the skills and fluency in digital safety essential for thriving in 21st-century careers.

- pi-top facilitates a well rounded education with alignment to English and Math standards

- pi-top fully emcompases STEAM education by engaging students in the use of robotics and engineering as well as science, art, history and math.

- pi-top aims to engage a diverse range of learners with its curriculum aligned project-based learning coding challenges and courses. pi-top's offerings are continuously updated with additional challenges and projects based on feedback from school and teacher partnerships.

- We create a learning environment that is flexible for use in the classroom as well as with virtual learning.

- Because pi-top's content is a technology education program that focuses on science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics initiatives, Title IV Part B- 21st Century Community Learning Centers funds can be used to purchase this product.

- pi-top's curriculum can be used by districts to provide families of students served by community learning centers the opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their children's education, including opportunities for creativity, emotional intelligence, and career readiness.

Title IV (21ˢᵗ Century Schools) continued...

An additional part of Title IV is Part B - 21ˢᵗ Century Community Learning Centers. The purpose of this part is to:

1. Provide opportunities for communities to establish or expand activities in community learning centers that provide opportunities for academic enrichment, including providing tutorial services to help students, particularly students who attend low-performing schools, to meet the challenging State academic standards;

2. Offer students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities, such as youth development activities, service learning, nutrition and health education, drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs, arts, music, physical fitness and wellness programs, technology education programs, financial literacy programs, environmental literacy programs, mathematics, science, career and technical programs, internship or apprenticeship programs, and other ties to an in-demand industry sector or occupation for high school students that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students; and

3. Offer families of students served by community learning centers opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their children's education, including opportunities for literacy and related educational development.

Title V

Title V, Part B directs funding to rural and low-income school districts that frequently lack the personnel and resources to compete for competitive funding streams.

How pi-top aligns to Title V:

✓ pi-top provides valuable exposure 21st-century career skills that students in rural and low-income communities may not otherwise have the opportunity to experience.

✓ Title V funds can be used for parent involvement activities. Because pi-top kits include all needed supplies and are portable, they make for an out-of-the-box family engagement learning experience.

Perkins Grant (CTE/VTE)

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act provides funding to states for the improvement of vocational and technical education programs. Federal funds are provided to states which then each use their own system to allocate funds and/or competitive grants to schools and post-secondary institutions. Generally, funds are used to create and maintain CTE programs in middle schools, high schools and technical education programs.

How pi-top aligns to Title I, Part A:

- pi-top supports career exploration with real-world, career-focused STEAM content for elementary, middle, high school students, and beyond.

- Our project-based materials and curriculum focus on electronics and computer technology, engineering and robotics, web technologies, game development, programming, and data analysis, in addition to many other areas of study.

- pi-top's learning platform supports inquiry-based learning in career and technical programs, through exposure to real-world computer-aided design tools, mathematical analysis, scientific inquiry, and engineering design to pose questions, seek answers, and develop solutions.

- Access to the Further Computer Science Library, the learning platform that supports pi-top products, contains easy computer science lessons that combine standards-aligned skills with relevant, real life activities to keep students excited to learn.

- The curriculum is scaffolded to expose students at different levels and ages to the world of technology. For example, younger students start with block based coding and transition into Python.

IDEA

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is the federal law ensuring students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education. IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education and related services to eligible infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities. Second only in size to Title I funds, school districts receive IDEA funds to help pay for the cost of providing services and education to children with disabilities.

How pi-top aligns to IDEA Funding:

- pi-top's curriculum is built with adaptability in mind, allowing students to work at their own pace and level.

- Lessons provide real-word content. Students begin with foundational knowledge and build their understanding and confidence as the lessons advance.

- pi-top's online curriculum includes extensions and scaffolding to accommodate learning differences, as well as student centered evaluations and non-traditional assessment that can be differentiated by the teacher.

- pi-top's online resources for project-based learning can be implemented in an inclusive learning environment as well as in a remediation session, one on one, or therapeutic environment.

- Through hands-on projects, pi-top is able to help level the playing field for all learners and engage those students who learn best through kinesthetic and teacher-led learning.

- Self-paced lessons enable students to work on projects at a speed that feels comfortable to them.

- pi-top's instructional materials include diagrams, scaffolded instructions, and videos that can be facilitated in

whole group or small groups which encourage students.

- pi-top's activities are facilitated using small groups which encourages students to support each other through collaborative learning.

- Many of pi-top's lessons can support motor skill development goals.

- Due to the nature of pi-top's project based learning curriculum and the need for students to conduct trials, the lessons build resilience, tolerance for error, and confidence.

- Our content is written to support different types of learners. The hands on capabilities support kinesthetic learners, images and graphics are for visual learners, and videos are added for visual/auditory learners.

- Customizable content allows teachers to create lessons that cater to the needs of their students and differentiate learning.

- Further's colour palette has been designed to reduce eye strain. The Foundation and Expansion plates are marked with colors that are easy for individuals with color blindness to recognize.

ESSER I, II, III

In response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the U.S. Congress passed the CARES Act, CRRSA Act and ARP Act - relief packages designed in part to provide states with both funding and streamlined waivers to give state educational agencies (SEAs) necessary flexibilities to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The relief packages included almost $200 billion in emergency education funding, channeled for public schools mainly through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund).

State awards for the ESSER Funds, rounds I, II and III, are in the same proportion that each state received under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, in fiscal year (FY) 2019–20. Each state must use no less than 90 percent of its allocation to make subgrants to local education agencies (LEAs), based on each LEA's share of funds received under Title I, Part A in fiscal year 2019–20.

How pi-top aligns to ESSER Funding:

- pi-top's offerings are authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and IDEA, as outlined above in funding descriptions for Title I, II, III, IV, V, and IDEA.

- pi-top directly addresses the unique needs of low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, and racial and ethnic minorities with its diversity and accessibility of content, activities, and assessments.

- pi-top's flexible project-based learning model can be implemented in concert with programs that need to transition to distance education to combat learning loss.

- Multidisciplinary, inquiry-based projects delivered through pi-top's online learning platform, Further, provides an innovative and effective means of addressing student engagement that may have been impacted from the significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus.

- pi-top's resources address engagement through the implementation of evidence-based interventions demonstrating student learning across pre- and post-assessments.

- Educators may choose digital, print, or both formats for selected activities to extend learning time, give added electronic exposure to students, or differentiate for student groups who need different levels of direct instruction and intervention.

- Because of pi-top's unique line of interactive STEAM project kits with online activities that can be accessed at any time, the content can be utilized in a multitude of settings, including core STEAM classes, remote, whole-class, or hybrid learning, maker spaces, enrichment, intervention, after-school, summer enrichment programs, and to combat learning loss due to COVID.

pi-top

We make the future.

pi-top is one of the fastest growing ed-tech companies and has a unique vision to increase access to coding and technical education through project-based learning. We want to inspire a generation of makers and give them the skills they need in a rapidly changing world.

If you want to learn more about us, check out our website below, or contact sales@pi-top.com

pi-top.com