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**Discretionary grants** are competitive initiatives that open throughout the year. It is a good idea to regularly check the U.S. Department of Education [funding forecast](#). The competitive initiatives under ESSA have not been finalized. Information is included below on the programs most aligned with AVID which are likely to continue in some form under ESSA and others that do not fall under ESSA.

In the right column, links are to information on the grant program. Links in the left column direct to specific AVID resources on the program.

<p><a href="#">DoDEA MCASP</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Military-Connected LEAs for Academic and Support Programs</a> supports research-based programs to increase student achievement and ease the challenges that military dependent children face due to their parents' service. This is a Department of Defense program. Last Competition: May 2016</p>
<p><a href="#">GEAR UP</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP)</a> increases the number of low-income middle and high school students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Competition now open!</p>
<p>High Quality Charter Schools</p>	<p><a href="#">Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grants for Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools</a> supports the expanded enrollment of one or more existing charter schools by substantially increasing the number of available seats per school, or the opening of one or more new charter schools. Last competition June 2016; next competition expected in Summer 2017</p>
<p><a href="#">MSAP</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP)</a> establishes magnet schools to eliminate, reduce, or prevent minority group isolation; to provide students with challenging academic standards; to implement diversity and increase choice; and to strengthen students' knowledge of academic subjects and marketable skills. Applications due: April 11, 2017</p>
<p><a href="#">Education, Innovation, and Research</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Education, Innovation, and Research</a> supports the creation, development, implementation, replication, or taking to scale entrepreneurial, evidence-based, field-initiated innovations to improve student achievement and attainment for high-need students; and rigorously evaluate such innovations. Applications due: April 11, 2017</p>
<p>Promise Neighborhoods</p>	<p><a href="#">Promise Neighborhoods Program</a> supports community partnerships that improve the educational/ developmental outcomes of children and youth in distressed communities, transforming those communities by building a continuum of cradle-to-career solutions for educational programs in schools and for family and community supports, with schools at the center. Last competition September 2016</p>



School Climate Transformation	<a href="#"><u>School Climate Transformation</u></a> grants develop, enhance, or expand systems of support for, and technical assistance to, schools implementing an evidence-based framework for improving behavioral outcomes and learning conditions for all students. Last competition: June 2014
<a href="#"><u>SIG</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>School Improvement Grant 1003q (a.k.a. SIG or School Turnaround Grant)</u></a> supports the lowest performing schools (priority schools, bottom 5%) in each state. USDOE allocates funding to each State DOE to use to make competitive sub-grants to school districts to measurably turnaround the schools, using effective, targeted strategies to focus on the students with the greatest needs. RFP deadlines for school districts vary in different states.
Skills for Success	<a href="#"><u>Skills for Success</u></a> supports implementation and research of programs for students in middle grades to support the development of academic motivation (i.e., academic behaviors, perseverance, mindsets) and non-cognitive skills (i.e., self-control, social skills, emotional skills, critical thinking, communication, planning, learning strategies). Last competition: July 2015
<a href="#"><u>Teacher and School Leader Incentive Fund</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Teacher and School Leader Incentive Fund</u></a> supports comprehensive performance-based compensation systems or human capital management systems for teachers, principals, and other school leaders who raise student academic achievement and close the achievement gap between high- and low-performing students. Applications due: March 24, 2017
Turnaround School Leaders	<a href="#"><u>Turnaround School Leaders Program</u></a> supports projects to develop and implement or enhance and implement a leadership pipeline that selects, prepares, places, supports, and retains school leaders for School Improvement Grant (SIG) schools and/or SIG-eligible schools in a local educational agency (LEA) or consortium of LEAs. Last competition: May 2014
21st CCLC	<a href="#"><u>21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)</u></a> support the creation of academic enrichment after school and during summer for students who attend high-poverty, low-performing schools. State RFP deadlines are throughout the year.
FSCSP	<a href="#"><u>Full Service Community Schools Program (FSCSP)</u></a> supports partnership projects to coordinate academic, social, health services among high-need elementary and secondary schools; the school district; and community-based or nonprofit organizations. Full-service community schools provide comprehensive academic, social, and health services to improve educational outcomes. Last competition: May 2014



Talent Search	<u>Talent Search</u> provides academic and career support programs toward the goal of increasing the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds who graduate from high school and enroll in and complete postsecondary education. Last competition: February 2016
<u>Upward Bound</u>	<u>Upward Bound</u> projects support high school students from low-income families, first-generation military veterans and first-generation college students as they prepare for college. All Upward Bound projects provide instruction in math, laboratory science, composition, literature and foreign language, and individual and group interactions. Potential Grantees are Institutions of Higher Education, public and private agencies or organizations, and in exceptional cases, secondary schools. Next competition expected Fall 2017