PROTECT TITLE II-A

Local Impact on Santa Rosa County District Schools

$1,058,850 | 2026-27 TITLE II-A REQUESTED ALLOCATION

Title II-A supports the districtwide systems that develop educators, sustain instructional quality, and strengthen workforce stability.

Santa Rosa County District Schools respectfully requests Congressman Patronis's support in preserving Title II, Part A funding. Our 2026-27 consolidated application requests the full $1,058,850 allocation for Supporting Effective Instruction. These dollars are not an isolated program or a collection of optional workshops; they are woven into the district systems that help educators implement Florida's academic standards, strengthen classroom practice, support new teachers, develop school leaders, and respond to changing instructional needs.

Title II-A funding is the engine that transforms district curriculum and standards into high-quality classroom instruction, empowering educators across Santa Rosa County to implement new learning with confidence and consistency. The loss of these funds would result in the reduction of instructional capacity across the district. The grant supports standards-based professional learning in mathematics, science, social studies, STEAM, curriculum and textbook implementation, instructional strategies, leadership development, and the responsible use of emerging instructional technologies. It also supports coaching, instructional personnel, professional learning platforms and services, substitute coverage, stipends, and training opportunities that make meaningful participation possible. Without this funding, the district would have fewer ways to move new standards, curriculum, and instructional expectations from adoption into consistent classroom practice.

Our district has built the one of state's most successful alternative certification support programs, transforming professionals from other fields into highly effective, career educators. We employ approximately 150 alternatively certified teachers annually—professionals with degrees outside education who hold temporary teaching certificates. Our Professional Learning Certification Program (PLCP), directed by seven mentor coaches, supports these teachers' transition to professional certification through targeted coaching and collaborative practices that strengthen instructional implementation. We have 284 total completers in the life of the program: completers who have earned their Professional certificate because of PLCP (Title 2) support. That's 284 who would likely not have their professional certificate and would not be classroom teachers if we did not have this program. We retain over 90% of our PLCP participants year to year.

This model has consistently achieved the state's highest ratings, currently maintaining a 3.8 out of 4.0 scale with no other district ranking higher.

Florida's mandatory certification renewal requirements create a critical need for accessible, high-quality professional learning that Title II-A funding directly fulfills. To renew a Florida Professional Certificate, educators must complete the equivalent of six semester hours of renewal credit, including at least one semester hour - or 20 in-service points - in teaching students with disabilities. Educators in specified certification areas must also complete two college credits or 40 in-service points in evidence-based reading instruction, and educational leaders have additional renewal requirements. Title II-A helps sustain the district's professional learning infrastructure and access teachers need to meet these requirements. If federal support is reduced, the state requirements do not disappear; the cost and access burden shifts to the district, schools, and educators. That capacity is especially important in Santa Rosa County. The district serves nearly 30,000 students, including approximately 3,500 military-connected students, and our community is closely connected to Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field and the greater Pensacola military area. The military's Exceptional Family Member Program coordinates assignments with the availability of needed medical, developmental, and educational services for family members with special needs. In a community serving military families with exceptional needs, maintaining strong educator expertise in ESE, inclusive instruction, IEP implementation, and support for students with significant disabilities is essential. Reducing Title II-A would make it more difficult to provide professional learning consistently and at scale.

Title II-A funding is the backbone of Santa Rosa County's comprehensive educator support system, creating the infrastructure that keeps 250+ new teachers engaged, growing, and committed to staying in our classrooms. The grant helps sustain New Employee Orientation for approximately 250 educators, 36 Professional Learning Liaisons, 47 Teacher Induction Program leaders, mentoring and embedded support for beginning and developing teachers, and ongoing professional learning throughout the school year. These structures create a network of support around educators rather than leaving professional growth to chance. Reducing that network would

weaken induction, coaching, and access to learning precisely when districts are working to recruit and retain effective teachers.

Eliminating Title II-A funding doesn't eliminate costs—it simply forces districts to choose between cutting critical educator support or diverting over $1 million from already-stretched local budgets. District budgets, staffing plans, service agreements, subscriptions, stipends, substitute coverage, and professional learning calendars are developed before the school year begins. When federal funding incorporated into those plans is withdrawn or eliminated, the underlying need, state requirements, and many commitments remain. A loss of Title II-A could create up to $1.06 million in additional pressure on the local operating budget, requiring the district to redirect local dollars, scale back professional learning and educator-support services, delay implementation work, or reduce planned services. Eliminating the federal funding does not eliminate the cost; it transfers responsibility to the local district or forces the district to do less.

This concern is especially urgent because Title II-A is currently at risk at the federal level. The Administration's FY2027 budget request proposes $0 for Title II-A, and H.R. 9260, as reported by the House Appropriations Committee, would rescind $1.681 billion in advance School Improvement Programs funding made available on October 1, 2026. As of August 7, 2026, H.R. 9260 has been reported by the committee but has not been enacted. Congress therefore still has an opportunity to protect predictable, locally directed support for educator quality and workforce stability.

OUR REQUEST TO CONGRESSMAN PATRONIS

Oppose rescission of previously appropriated Title II-A advance funding; support continued dedicated Title II-A funding in FY2027; and protect predictable federal allocations so districts can honor planned staffing, contracts, and professional learning.

PROTECT TITLE II-A

Local Impact on Santa Rosa County District Schools

WHAT TITLE II-A MAKES POSSIBLE LOCALLY

INSTRUCTIONAL QUALITY & STUDENT LEARNING

- Standards-based professional learning across core content and STEAM
- Curriculum, textbook, and instructional-strategy implementation
- Coaching and embedded support that turn expectations into classroom practice

STATE-REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

- Certificate renewal includes 20 in-service points in teaching students with disabilities
- Applicable certificates also require 40 in-service points in evidence-based reading instruction
- Title II helps make required learning accessible through district systems, time, and support

ESE & MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

- Approximately 3,500 military-connected students are served districtwide
- The local military community supports Exceptional Family Member Program families with special needs
- Strong ESE expertise is critical for inclusive instruction, IEP implementation, and significant disabilities

LOCAL BUDGET & WORKFORCE STABILITY

- New Employee Orientation, induction, mentoring, and teacher-leader networks strengthen retention
- Protects local dollars from absorbing federally supported commitments
- Avoids forcing a choice between educator support and other operating priorities

IF TITLE II-A IS PULLED BACK OR ELIMINATED

REQUIREMENTS REMAIN

Florida certification requirements - including SWD/ESE and applicable reading coursework, alternatively certified support - remain even if federal support is reduced.

LESS SUPPORT

Fewer districtwide resources would be available for ESE expertise, induction, standards implementation, coaching, and ongoing professional learning.

MORE LOCAL COST

Up to $1.06 million in federal support would have to be replaced locally, redirected from other priorities, or reflected in reduced services.

BUDGET REALITY: Removing Title II-A does not remove state certification requirements, student needs, or commitments already built into the district plan. It shifts the cost to the local operating budget or requires reductions in educator support and implementation capacity.

FEDERAL CONTEXT: The Administration's FY2027 budget request proposes $0 for Title II-A. H.R. 9260, reported by the House Appropriations Committee on June 11, 2026, would rescind $1.681 billion in advance School Improvement Programs funding made available on October 1, 2026. The bill has not been enacted as of August 7, 2026.

THE LOCAL ASK

1. Oppose rescission of previously appropriated Title II-A advance funding.

2. Support continued dedicated Title II-A funding in FY2027.

3. Protect predictable federal allocations so districts can honor staffing, contractual, and professional learning commitments.

Title II-A gives Santa Rosa County local flexibility to meet state requirements and invest in the people and systems that improve instruction. Losing it would not eliminate the requirements or student needs - it would shift the burden locally or reduce support for teachers and students.

Sources: Santa Rosa County District Schools 2026-27 Consolidated Application, Title II, Part A, and district enrollment information; Florida Department of Education, Educator Certification Renewal Requirements; Military OneSource / NAS Pensacola and NAS Whiting Field Exceptional Family Member Program information; U.S. Department of Education FY2027 Congressional Justification; H.R. 9260 (Reported in House, June 11, 2026), U.S. Government Publishing Office.