

FOR ARKANSAS BOARDS OF EDUCATION

Paying for AI training with funds you already have.

Boards approve the budget, so the first question about AI training is often how the district will pay for it. Many Arkansas districts can use training dollars they already receive, without asking taxpayers for anything new.

FEDERAL**Title II, Part A**

This program supports professional development for teachers, principals and other school leaders. Training every educator on the district's AI policy is professional development, so many districts can plan for it here.

FEDERAL**Title IV, Part A**

This program includes the effective use of technology, and that includes professional learning for educators on using technology well. AI training for staff can fit within this part of the program.

STATE AND LOCAL**Professional development funds**

Arkansas educators complete professional development each year, and many districts set aside local or state funds for it. AI training can count toward the hours your staff already need.

In July 2025, the U.S. Department of Education issued guidance encouraging schools to use federal funds for responsible, educator-led uses of AI. **Your district may already hold training dollars that it has not yet spent this year.**

- 1** Your superintendent asks the district's federal programs coordinator which training funds remain available for this school year.
- 2** The coordinator confirms that AI training fits the district's federal programs plan and follows the rules, including the rule that federal funds add to, and do not replace, local spending.
- 3** The business manager adds the cost and the funding source to the agenda item, so the board can approve the plan and the budget in one vote.
- 4** The district keeps attendance records and the Annual AI Report to the Board, which document how the funds served staff and students.

Every program has its own rules, so **your federal programs coordinator and your business manager make the final call** on which funds the district uses.