



Every Student Succeeds Act Funding

LENA is a national nonprofit offering programs for parents, caregivers, and teachers that support districts' and schools' Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) programming. LENA supports ESSA's focus on expanding access, improving quality, and building student engagement and parent involvement by providing adults with actionable feedback and strengths-based coaching to create sustainable increases in the quality and quantity of talk with children.

Multiple independent evaluations have shown positive results with LENA: stronger families, improved classroom quality, and increased early literacy and school readiness. You can read more about LENA effectiveness at www.lena.org/effectiveness.

LENA Programs Evaluated by ESSA Evidence Level¹

	Strong Evidence	Moderate Evidence	Promising Evidence
LENA Grow			
LENA Start			

ESSA Title I & LENA


ESSA Title I, Part A is designed to provide resources to schools and districts to ensure that all children have a fair, equitable, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and close educational achievement gaps. At LENA we know that this starts by ensuring healthy brain development in a child's earliest years through serve-and-return interactions (conversational turns).

LENA programs can be used by LEAs to:

- Improve teaching by promoting effective instruction for at-risk children and for enriched and accelerated programs;
- Establish accountability based on results; and
- Increase early literacy skills and interactive talk to build school readiness.

¹Evidence-based is defined in ESSA in Sec. 8101(21), as shown below: (21) EVIDENCE-BASED.— (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term “evidence-based”, when used with respect to a State, local educational agency, or school activity, means an activity, strategy, or intervention that— (i) demonstrates a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes based on— (I) **strong evidence** from at least 1 well-designed and well-implemented experimental study; (II) **moderate evidence** from at least 1 well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study; or (III) **promising evidence** from at least 1 well-designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias; or (ii) (I) demonstrates a rationale based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluation that such activity, strategy, or intervention is likely to improve student outcomes or other relevant outcomes; and (II) includes ongoing efforts to examine the effects of such activity, strategy, or intervention.

Title I Alignment





<p>Section 1112 (c)(7) Meets High Quality Head Start Standards</p>		<p>LENA programs can support increased quality in Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms and home-based programming. Learn more about our Head Start alignments at www.lena.org/head-start.</p>
<p>Section 1116(e) Professional development that is inclusive of ECE and other school leaders.</p>		<p>LENA Grow supports stakeholders at every level, helping teachers gain the skills to measurably improve classroom quality by boosting interactions and helping leadership make more informed planning and policy decisions.</p>
<p>Section 1116(e) Provides training material to help parents work with their children to improve literacy achievements.</p>		<p>Parents receive feedback and training on increasing interactions through LENA Start parent groups. LENA Grow's built-in family engagement materials make it easy to support parents in coordination with teacher professional development.</p>
<p>Section 1116(e) Implements a model approach for parent involvement.</p>		<p>A study from the University of Minnesota indicates that LENA Start is a good tier 1 intervention, and that it can serve as a universal-access program that can provide additional resources to families.</p>
<p>Section 1116 (a)(3)(d)(ii) Supports programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school.</p>		<p>LENA programs can be implemented in a variety of settings to best reach families where they are, whether with virtual or in-person program delivery. LENA programs are available in English and Spanish and provide feedback on interactions in any language.</p>
<p>Section 1116 (a)(3)(d)(iii) Disseminates information on best practices focused on parent and family engagement.</p>		<p>With a strong evidence base and research-informed approach, LENA is proven effective and has research partnerships with hundreds of universities around the world. LENA is aligned to the Head Start Early Learning Framework and state standards.</p>
<p>Section 1116 (a)(3)(d)(iv) Supports collaborating with community-based or other organizations with a record of success in improving and increasing parent and family engagement.</p>		<p>LENA programs offer multiple ways to collaborate with community-based partners to further support parent and family engagement.</p>

ESSA Title II & LENA

ESSA Title II is designed to improve the quality and effectiveness of educators, increase the number of educators who are effective in improving student academic achievement in schools, and provide low-income and minority students greater access to effective educators.





LENA Programs can be used by LEA's to:

- Help teachers gain the skills to measurably improve classroom quality;
- Boost classrooms and group interactions through effective coaching strategies; and
- Help leadership make informed planning and policy decisions.

Title II Alignment		
<p>Section 2101 (4)(B)(ii)(II) Provides training to principals, other school leaders, coaches, mentors, and evaluators on how to accurately differentiate performance.</p>		<p>LENA Grow gives both child-level and classroom-level data to help school leaders understand how to increase quality. With training for leadership and coaches, our support team ensures you can take a data-driven approach to understanding quality.</p>
<p>Section 2101 (4)(B)(iii) Improves equitable access to effective teachers.</p>		<p>LENA Grow is a scalable way to increase teacher efficacy while also ensuring equity within classrooms. 94% of LENA Grow teachers report increased job satisfaction and confidence in their teaching abilities and children who begin below average in LENA Grow classrooms experience a 56% increase in conversational turns.</p>
<p>Section 2101 (4)(B)(v)(I) Opportunities for effective teachers to lead evidence-based professional development.</p>		<p>LENA Grow coaching can be delivered through a peer coach or master teacher model. LENA provides training to the district's designated "coaches."</p>
<p>Section 2101 (4)(B)(vii)(XIII) Supporting opportunities for school leaders, and early childhood education program directors, to participate in joint efforts to address the transition to elementary school, including issues related to school readiness.</p>		<p>LENA Grow can improve school readiness by providing children with high quality classrooms. A study from the University of Kansas shows that 82% of children in LENA Grow classrooms were assessed to be "on track" in their expressive language abilities, using the Early Communication Indicator, at the end of the program compared to just 38% of a comparison group.</p>

LEARN

The Literacy Education for All, Results of the Nation (Title II, Part B, Subpart 2 - Section 2221) provides a strong federal investment in high quality literacy instruction that will help states improve programs to strengthen the literacy skills of all students, from birth to grade twelve. LEARN can be utilized to implement evidence-based programs to ensure high quality comprehensive literacy instruction.





LEARN Alignment		
Section 2226 (a)(2) Development of early literacy services and programs that encourage parents to read aloud to their children starting at infancy.		All LENA programs have a focus on shared reading as a primary tool for increasing interaction. 98% of caregivers who initially reported never reading with children began to read with children at least once a day after completing LENA Start. 66% of caregivers who initially reported reading with children once a day began to read with children multiple times a day.
Section 2224 (C)(2) Provides high-quality professional development opportunities for early childhood educators and school leaders.		LENA Grow is an innovative, evidence-based professional development program for infant, toddler, and pre-k teachers. Measuring the most predictive elements of child outcomes, LENA Grow supports stakeholders at every level, helping teachers gain the skills to measurably improve classroom quality by boosting interactions and helping leadership make more informed planning and policy decisions.
Section 2223 (d)(1) Trains personnel to develop and administer evidence-based early childhood education literacy initiatives.		All LENA programs operate on a "train-the-trainer" method where LENA program staff train local district personnel to implement and administer our programs. Many partners report increased capacity for their staff as they build understanding of the importance of early language and interaction, as well as learn best practices for supporting parents, families, and teachers.
Section 2223 (d)(2) Coordinate involvement of families, ECE program staff, and other school leaders in literacy development of students.		LENA programs are designed to bring together families and district staff with objective feedback and strengths-based coaching to improve outcomes for their children.

ESSA Title III & LENA

ESSA Title III, Part A is designed to improve the education of English Learners (EL) and immigrant children/youth by assisting students to meet challenging state academic standards with an emphasis on encouraging parent, family, and community involvement in language instruction programs.

LENA programs can be used by LEA's to:

- Reinforce EL education through talking, reading, and singing;
- Promote meaningful parent and family engagement; and
- Build community engagement and network parent groups.

Title III Alignment		
<p>Section 3102 (5) Promotes parental, family, and community participation in language instruction educational programs for English learners.</p>		<p>LENA programs are all available in both English and Spanish and provide feedback on interactions in any language. LENA programs are adaptable to all communities and are culturally and linguistically responsive.</p>
<p>Section 3111 (b)(2)(B) Provides effective teacher and principal preparation, and effective professional development activities related to the education of English learners.</p>		<p>With LENA Grow's child-level data, teachers and administrators can better understand the in-classroom experience of English language learners and ensure they are receiving equitable interactions to improve outcomes.</p>
<p>Section 3111 (b)(2)(D)(i) Identifies and implements effective language instruction educational programs and curricula for teaching English learners.</p>		<p>LENA Start materials are all bilingual, allowing English learner families to see materials in both English and Spanish to best support their learning.</p>
<p>Section 3111 (b)(2)(B)(ii) Improves teaching skills in meeting the diverse needs of English learners.</p>		<p>With LENA Grow's child-level data, teachers can better understand the in-classroom experience of English language learners and ensure they are receiving equitable interactions to improve outcomes.</p>

Incorporating LENA into a Proposal

Sample Text for incorporating LENA Grow:

Utilizing data driven reports that track metrics such as adult word count and conversational turns per hour, LENA Grow provides opportunities for high-quality professional development training and coaching for early childhood educators and school leaders. LENA Grow is an evidence-based professional development program for infant, toddler, and pre-k teachers that measures the most predictive elements of school readiness with an emphasis on interactive talk. LENA will partner with program managers and coaches to train on implementing LENA Grow data and resources to meet key objectives.

Sample Text for Incorporating LENA Start:

LENA Start is an evidence-based, parent group program designed to increase conversation and interactive talk between parents/caregivers and their youngest children — a proven key factor in early literacy skills to best build school readiness. LENA Start takes a strength-based approach to teach parents early talk skills by leveraging instructional videos, peer group sharing, printed resources, self-reflection, and actionable feedback. The program can be implemented virtually to extend reach through the community. LENA Start encourages family engagement and can be used to reinforce EL Learning with sessions centered around talking, reading, and singing. LENA will partner with program directors and coordinators in training, data analysis, and ongoing support to ensure successful implementation with high fidelity.