

THE HEIGHTS FORUM

Funding Speaking Engagements through Title Funds

Title funds are federal monies administered through your Local Educational Agency (LEA)—typically your local school district. Certain Title programs require LEAs to provide equitable services to eligible private school teachers, administrators, and other educational personnel, including professional development opportunities.

Accessing Title funds allows schools to draw on resources that support teachers and school leaders while continuing to pursue their unique educational mission and approach.

Title funding is organized into several categories. Title II, Part A—which supports professional development for teachers, principals, and other school leaders—is the category most commonly used to bring Heights Forum speakers to schools and diocesan training events. Your LEA can also help identify other funding categories that may apply.

Using Title funds requires some planning and coordination, but the process becomes much more manageable once the necessary relationships and procedures are in place. LEAs typically consult with eligible private schools annually regarding available services and opportunities.

To explore using Title funds for a Heights Forum speaking engagement, start by contacting your local school district and identifying the person responsible for administering Title funds. Your LEA can then guide your school through the process of accessing available Title-funded services.

If your school is new to this process, a few important points are worth keeping in mind:

- Though funded activities must be secular, neutral, and nonideological, professional development may be provided by organizations or speakers with a religious affiliation, provided the funded portion of the program meets Title requirements.
- Partial funding is possible. In some cases, an LEA may determine that only certain portions of an engagement are eligible for Title funding based on the session's content. If needed, the Heights Forum can provide a breakdown of the educational and professional development components of a program.
- Collaboration with your LEA is key. Schools and LEAs may occasionally need additional clarification about the process or available options. Developing a positive working relationship with your LEA and working through requirements together will serve your school well over time.
- Funds are not paid directly to schools. Title funds are not typically provided as a direct reimbursement or payment to the school. Instead, the LEA maintains control of the funds and facilitates the purchase of approved professional development services on behalf of eligible private schools.

The Heights Forum is happy to provide any necessary forms, documentation, or information needed to support the approval process. Your LEA will inform you of the specific materials required.