

# Beyond Budget Uncertainty: Funding That Sticks

## What Works

Districts can sustain and scale human skills instruction by using existing funding sources more strategically.

### 1. Use What You Already Have

These core federal funding sources are often used to support initiatives like Second Step® programs:

- **Title I-A** → Academic and whole-child programs
- **Title II-A** → Educator/leader professional learning
- **Title III-A** → English learner supports and family engagement
- **Title IV-A** → Well-rounded education and safe and healthy schools
- **IDEA** → Support for students with disabilities
- **McKinney-Vento** → Support for students experiencing homelessness

### 2. Braid and Blend Funding

- **Braiding:** Coordinating activities across multiple funding streams toward shared goals
- **Blending:** Combining funds from multiple sources to support a single initiative

### 3. Align Funds to Shared Outcomes

Keep budgets separate, but aim for the same goals:

- Increased attendance
- Fewer office discipline referrals
- Improved school climate

### 4. Make Second Step® Programs Stick

Include Second Step programs in your core strategy to make them sustainable:

- Written into strategic or improvement plans
- Accountability metrics and outcomes tracking and reporting
- Dedicated leadership and ownership of implementation
- Explicit school or system scheduling

- Training and coaching supports
- Integration with MTSS, PBIS, or other systems strategies

**Programs That Stick =  
Priority + Budgeted + Sustained**

### Roadmap to Stability

1. **Identify your core priorities.** Consider key challenges like behavior, attendance, climate, and/or mental well-being.
2. **Map human skills instruction to those priorities.**
3. **Audit current funding streams** to see where human skills instruction fits.
4. **Build a funding plan** that accounts for which funding types support key outcomes.
5. **Protect implementation** by naming Second Step programs in school and system plans, providing protected time, and designating strong leadership.
6. **Make programs stick** to ensure sustainability.

### Invest in What Works

Schools that implement Second Step K–8 digital programs with fidelity see outcomes like improved:



**Attendance**



**Behavior**



**School  
Climate**



**Academic  
Motivation**

[Learn more about Second Step evidence](#)

**[Let Us Help You Build a Sustainable Initiative](#)**