



COVID Relief Funding Update

US Department of Education to State Education Commissioners (January 2021)

The Cares Act funding has closed however ARPA funding is available. The American Rescue Plan Act, passed on March 11, 2021, provided \$122.7 billion in supplemental ESSER funding, known as the ESSER III fund. The SEAs are required to reserve their allocations to carry out activities: 5% to address learning loss, 1% for afterschool activities, and 1% for summer learning programs. The period of availability for ARP ESSER III grant funds is from March 13, 2021 (with pre-award), to September 30, 2024 (with carryover).

SIGNED INTO LAW DECEMBER 27, 2020

Amount for K-12

- The legislation allocates 54.3 billion in new funding for K-12
- \$4 billion for governors to spend at their discretion, including 2.7 billion for private schools

School Challenges

- Schools and Districts are dealing with how to address learning loss
- Continuing to educate students while lessening the spread of COVID
- Many districts are still having issues on how to bring their students and staff back to campus safely and responsibly.

Allowable Uses and Examples

- Local Education Agencies have flexibility on use of funds as long as it is tied to COVID related expenditures. Here are some examples in the next column:
 - Purchasing educational technology that aids in regular and substantive interaction between students and educators.
 - Planning and coordinating during long-term closures, including providing technology for online learning.

- Planning and implementing online learning during the summer months.
- Utilizing ESSER funding to pay the non-discount portion or E-Rate filing this year OR pay use the funding to pay for the technology elements that E-Rate does not cover.
- Supporting provisions found in major education laws, including the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). [Title IV-A](#) of ESSA and [Part D](#) of IDEA permits federal funds toward professional learning in effective edtech use.
- Funds may be used for costs dating back to March 13, 2020, when the national emergency was declared.

Disbursement of Funds

- The funding will be allocated to the local education agencies (similar to how the CARES dollars were distributed)
- Each State Department of Education will release a sub grant application to the LEAs in their State
- Each State Department of Education will release their own priorities, application process, and time frames for schools to apply for these funds.

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