

Region 15 Board of Education

March 22, 2021

Breakdown of Federal and State Grants to Support School Reopening

Grant Overview

- Congress set aside approximately \$13.2 billion of the \$30.75 billion allotted to the Education Stabilization Fund through the CARES Act for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund). The Department will award these grants to State educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs), including charter schools that are LEAs, with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the Nation.
- ESSER Fund awards to SEAs (state education agencies) are in the same proportion as each State received funds under Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, in fiscal year 2019.
- LEAs (local education agencies) were awarded funds based on the same formulas
- <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund/>

Allocation Guidelines

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

| Grant | Allocation | Year | Status |
|---------|-------------|-----------|-------------------|
| ESSER 1 | \$118,590 | 2020-2022 | Completed |
| ESSER 2 | \$525,776 | 2020-2023 | In Process |
| ESSER 3 | \$1,305,888 | 2021-2024 | Not yet available |

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

| Grant | Funding |
|---------|---|
| ESSER 1 | Purchased replacement laptops and Chromebooks July 2020 |
| ESSER 2 | Online Learning Tools, Substitutes, PPE Custodial coverage, equipment rental, furniture needed to open schools |
| ESSER 3 | Awaiting application, confirmation of timeline and appropriations |

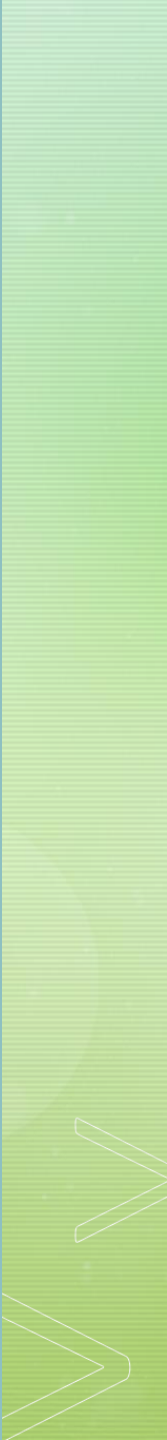


Summary of Allowable Funding ESSER 3

- Use for educational purposes begin on page 35 of the 628-page Recovery Act
- 20% of the ESSR 3 (American Recovery Act) must address learning loss; The other 80% can be used for a wide variety of instructional needs, pandemic responses, emergency preparedness, capital improvements to minimize the spread of infectious diseases
- Technology to improve connectivity and reliability or student access.
- Acquisition, administration or integration of assessments to aide in student differentiation and instruction
- School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs
- Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement



Avoiding Long Term Risk

- Adding staffing could impact future budgets
 - If we use grant funds for staffing, we need to plan for the positions to sunset with the grant or a plan to shift funds to the operating budget over the next few years
 - Programs or tools with reoccurring licensing costs
 - Purchasing equipment that will require replacement
 - Offloading items currently in the operating budget
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Potential Applications

- We have three years to allocate funds
- Funds can provide a safety net to mitigate future risk
- Afterschool Intervention Programs
- Contingency staffing should we be faced with reopening schools with social distancing requirements
- One Time Capital Improvements
 - Windows, flooring

What Can't Be Done

- Why HVAC upgrades are unlikely
 - Scale to add systems in places where it doesn't already exist will quickly exceed available funding. Currently only PHS is fully air conditioned.
- Supplanting
- Extensions beyond funding window
- While allocation totals have been provided, the grant application and final details are not yet available