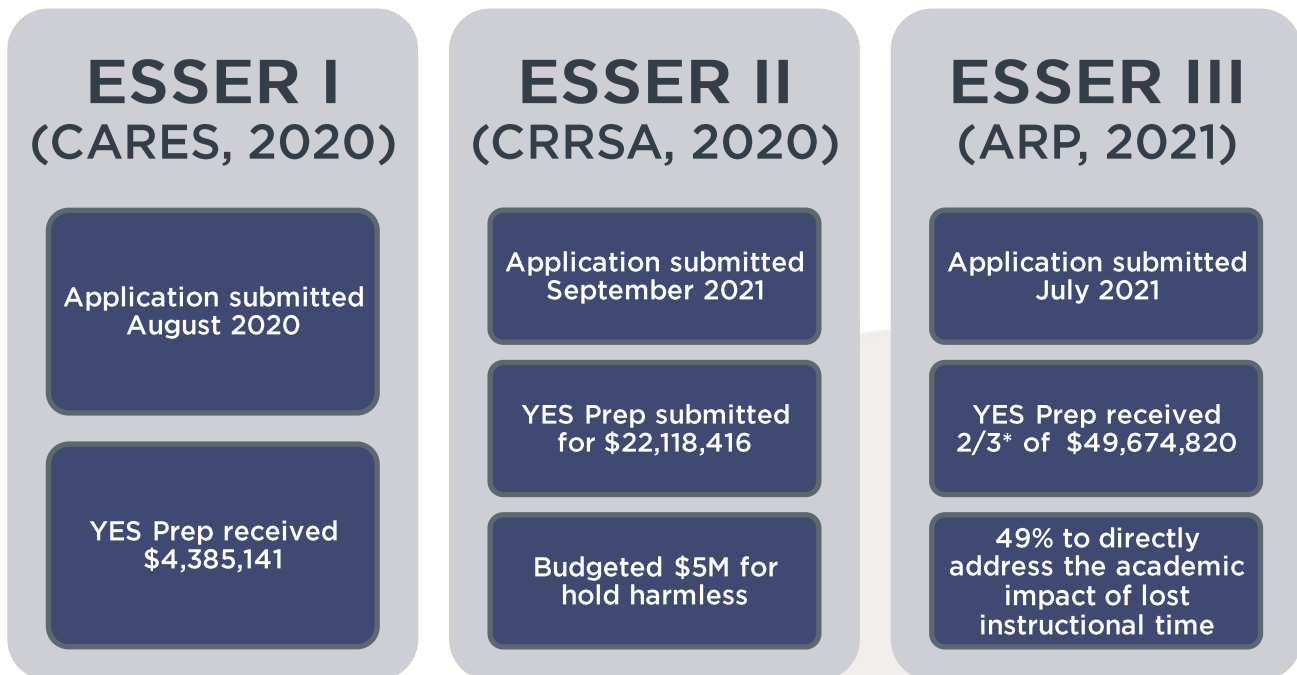


## YES Prep Public Schools | ESSER: Use of Funds Plan

It has been a challenging 18 months navigating COVID-19, an unprecedented crisis that affects our YES Prep community, our city, country, and the globe. COVID-19 imposed necessary adjustments to our day-a-day lives to keep us safe. As is well known, the pandemic had devastating effects to our economy and loss of life, disproportionately affecting those communities with limited financial resources and access to technology. In education, experts estimate that students in the U.S. have lost at least a year of learning and the losses are greater for poor and marginalized students. YES Prep Public School's commitment to providing high-quality public education remains vital and is even more critical as we work together to overcome academic gaps caused by the pandemic.

The Federal Government passed a series of federal stimulus bills with a portion of each bill set aside to address the impact of COVID-19 on schools. YES Prep Public Schools applied for each of the offered Elementary and Secondary Emergency Education Relief (ESSER) Funds available through these stimulus bills. Timelines, submissions, and receipts of these funds are broken out below.



*\*TEA released 2/3 of ESSER III funding when Notice of Grant Award was provided; the remaining 1/3 will be released at a later date.*

## YES Prep Public School's ESSER Allocations by Category

	ESSER I	ESSER II	ESSER III
<b>Timeline</b>	Spend by Sep. 2022	Spend by Sep. 2023	Spend by Sep. 2024
<b>Allotment</b>	\$4,385,141	\$22,118,416	\$33,116,547
<b>Indirect cost</b>	\$552,133	\$2,953,473	\$4,422,053
<b>Hold Harmless</b>		\$5,000,000	
<b>Net Allotment</b>	\$3,833,008	\$14,164,943	\$28,694,494
<b>Allocation Categories</b>	<b>ESSER I</b>	<b>ESSER II</b>	<b>ESSER III</b>
<b>Academic Instruction, Interventions, &amp; Parent Partnership</b>		16.33%	87.26%
<b>Social Emotional Learning &amp; Mental Health</b>	100%	0.93%	
<b>Safely Return to Face-to-Face Instruction</b>		37.48%	
<b>Technology</b>		29.62%	9.26%
<b>Other Uses</b>		15.64%	3.48%

Allocations outlined in the table above may shift in FY23 and FY24. ESSER budgets will be amended based on consultation with stakeholders, needs assessments, and student data. Any future changes will be updated in this document and published on YES Prep's external website.

## Responding to COVID-19: Use of ESSER Funding at YES Prep

### Academic Instruction, Intervention, & Parent Partnership

YES Prep has reimagined prekindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade education and is committed to accelerating learning for all our students. To address the academic impact of lost instructional time due to COVID-19, we will use ESSER to implement a robust Unified Intervention Strategy focused on a scaffolded, evidence-based core curriculum, a unified tutorial program offered after school and on Saturdays to target skill and knowledge gaps, at-home libraries for our prekindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, a Parent Portal to meaningfully engage our parents as learning partners and extending programming into the summer for both enrichment and intervention needs. We are taking particular care to ensure instructional curriculum, resources, and instructional technology purchased using ESSER include targeted support for our students in special populations to directly meet their academic and social-emotional needs.

### Social Emotional Learning & Mental Health

YES Prep has seen firsthand the impact of trauma associated with COVID-19 on our students and community. The entirety of our ESSER I budget secured 30 Student Support Counselors to provide mental health services to our students and to address the needs of our families. These roles have been included in our general budget past ESSER to ensure these critical services remain in place for our YES Prep community.

### Safely Return to Face-to-Face Instruction

The safety of our students and staff is always a top priority. We will dedicate most of this allocation to cleaning supplies as well as cleaning services for our buildings. A portion of it will be invested in minor safety improvements to our buildings such as classroom-to-office communications. In years 2 and 3 of ESSER III, YES Prep will seek approval from TEA to replace and upgrade HVAC systems at certain campuses to enhance ventilation and filtration.

### Technology

Making technology available to our students and teachers is key to providing high quality education as they can access books, content, novels, and applications. ESSER will ensure a one-to-one student-to-device ratio for all students, prekindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Instructional technology like document cameras and projectors will be upgraded and installed throughout the district.

### Other

Most funds in this category are allocated to cover the cost of keeping our buildings open during the summer while we extend learning time for our students. We are also allocating funds for additional personnel and systems to sustain the layers of support we are putting in place to address the loss of instructional time.

## **Partners in Planning**

Our students, their families, the communities we serve, and YES Prep employees at all levels are integral to our core business of educating students.

In May 2021, YES Prep published a public survey to seek input from Board members, staff, students, parents, community members, and at-large stakeholders. The survey was open for three weeks and requests for participation in the survey were published on our website, via our social media pages, and through multiple internal communication structures. In July 2021, YES Prep sought another layer of input with a specified focus on health and safety and further strategies to address the academic impact of COVID-19 with an intent to address the specific

needs of our most vulnerable student populations. This input was gathered internally through an additional survey and team meetings over the span of three weeks.

The following table summarizes ESSER spending recommendations shared by our students, families, and staff. Items listed are examples of what was captured in the comments of the surveys. **Categories in this table represent recommendations, but do not represent final spending decisions as some items are not allowable under ESSER guidelines.**

Recommendations Made by Stakeholders	Percent of Total Recommendations
Additional Staff	17%
Bonuses, Stipends, Incentives	15%
Technology Hardware Purchases	11%
Community Programming	10%
Other	10%
Curriculum	9%
Facilities	6%
Software	5%
Salary	5%
Professional Development	5%
Extracurriculars/Athletics	5%
Mental Health Supports	2%

## Safely Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services

YES Prep is committed to the safety of all students, families, and staff. In close alignment to CDC recommendations and within the scope of policies allowed within the state of Texas, YES Prep planned and implemented the following COVID health and safety protocols. These policies are reviewed, revised, and published quarterly.

[YES Prep Public Schools Safe Return to Instruction Plan](#)

*Additional YES Prep Health & Safety Resources to Address Prevention of COVID-19*

<a href="#">YES Prep's COVID-19 Health &amp; Safety Site</a>	
COVID Health & Safety Protocols: Quarter 1: <a href="#">English</a> & <a href="#">Spanish</a>	Family Health Check: <a href="#">English</a> & <a href="#">Spanish</a>