

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds

ARP ESSER III, which are federal COVID-19 stimulus relief funds, provides a total of nearly \$122 billion to states and school districts to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students. In addition to ARP ESSER III, the ARP Act includes \$3 billion for special education, \$2.75 billion to support non-public schools, and additional funding for homeless children and youth. The U.S. Department of Education has made \$3.8 billion in ARP ESSER III funds available to the Georgia Department of Education. On March 25, the State Board of Education approved State School Superintendent Richard Woods' recommendation to begin the allocation of the funds to school districts.

According to a U.S. Department of Education fact sheet about the use of ARP ESSER III funds, school districts are required to set aside at least 20 percent of the funds to "*address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions and ensure that those interventions respond to students' social, emotional, and academic needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups (each major racial and ethnic group, children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care).*" Remaining legal education agency funds are flexible and may be used to support other programs within the district for at-risk student populations, distance or remote learning, school meals, mental and physical health, supplemental learning and addressing learning loss, facilities and equipment, continuity of core staff and services, and more.

The ARP ESSER III funds are allocated based on a district's proportionate share of Title I funding. For example, if a school district received two percent of Georgia's overall share of Title I funding in Fiscal Year 2021, they will receive two percent of the ARP allocation. This funding formula is required by federal law.

Jefferson County Schools – Application and Use of Funds

The Jefferson County School System has announced the plan to utilize ARP federal funds to overcome "Learning Loss" that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2022-2023 inperson learning plan is also included in the ARP LEA Application and will be guided by

recommendations of the CDC, Georgia DPH, and Governor's Office. At this time, masks are optional on school campus but are mandatory on school buses.

The system's ARP Plan 2021-2023 Survey will remain open to receive stakeholder feedback on our plan. At least every six months, our system's ARP ESSER/CARES III plan will be reevaluated, and public input will continue to be sought from our stakeholders.

Access the plan by clicking on the link below:

- [Jefferson County School System American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Act ESSER III – LEA Application—6/30/2021](#)
- [Jefferson County School System ARP Act ESSER III – LEA Budget—6/30/2021](#)

- [Jefferson County School System American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Act ESSER III – LEA Application – 4/15/2022](#)
- [Jefferson County School System ARP Act ESSER III – LEA Budget –4/15/2022](#)
- [Jefferson County School System American Rescue Plan \(ARP Act ESSER III - LEA Application - 11/30/2022](#)
- [Jefferson County School System ARP Act ESSER III - LEA Budget - 11/30/2022](#)

If you would like to provide feedback on our system's plan, please click on the survey link below: [Jefferson County School System ARP Act ESSER III Survey](#)