

American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER) Grant Summary

Grant Overview: The American Rescue Plan – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER) funding is intended to address the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on underserved students (e.g., students from low-income families, students from historically disadvantaged racial or ethnic groups, students from disproportionately impacted gender groups, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, and migrant students). Funding will help schools invest in mitigation strategies consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools to the greatest extent practicable; address the many impacts of COVID-19 on students including from interrupted instruction; implement strategies to meet students’ social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs; offer crucial summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs; support early childhood education; invest in staff capacity; and avoid layoffs that would compound a pre-existing educator pipeline challenge.

All LEAs receiving ARP ESSER funds are obligated to follow an LEA Maintenance of Equity provision during fiscal years 2021–2022 and 2022–2023.

ARP ESSER funds may be used for eligible expenses from March 13, 2020, through September 30, 2024. ARP ESSER funds are not Title I funds and are not subject to Title rules. Non-public schools do not receive monies from the district’s award.

Allowable Uses of Funds

An LEA that receives funds under this section (1) shall reserve not less than 20 percent of such funds to address student learning loss and ensure that such interventions respond to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on the student subgroups; and (2) shall use the remaining funds for any of the following:

- (A) Any activity authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.
- (B) Any activity authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- (C) Any activity authorized by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.
- (D) Any activity authorized by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.
- (E) Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.
- (F) Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population.
- (G) Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.

- (H) Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
- (I) Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including buildings operated by such agency.
- (J) Planning for, coordinating, and implementing activities during long-term closures, including providing meals to eligible students, providing technology for online learning to all students, providing guidance for carrying out requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and ensuring other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all federal, state, and local requirements.
- (K) Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and children with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.
- (L) Providing mental health services and supports, including through the implementation of evidence-based full-service community schools.
- (M) Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.
- (N) Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency, including by -
- (i) administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately assess students' academic progress and assist educators in meeting students' academic needs, including through differentiating instruction;
 - (ii) implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students;
 - (iii) providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment; and
 - (iv) tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education.
- (O) 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.
- (P) 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.
- (Q) Developing strategies and implementing public health protocols including, to the greatest extent practicable, policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff.

(R) Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies and continuing to employ existing staff of the local educational agency.

The district is currently developing a list of eligible items to submit for ARP ESSER funding.

Amount of Award: \$12,269,208.00

Due Date/Notification of Award: The due date has been moved from March 24, 2022, to March 1, 2022, to provide PDE with more time to process outstanding grant applications.

Alternatives if not Awarded: N/A

WCSD Resources Required: None.

Administrative Recommendation: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to develop and submit an application to the American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER) for eligible expenses as listed in the grant guidance.