

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II (ESSER II) Grant Summary

Grant Overview: The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II Fund (ESSER II Fund), authorized by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), awards grants to LEAs to address the impact that Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the state.

The CRRSA Act requires ESSER II funds to be allocated based upon 2020-2021 Title I-A allocations. PDE calculates preliminary Title I-A allocations each spring, with final allocations published in February of each year when charter school enrollment data for the previous school year is finalized.

Therefore, allocations published on January 15 are preliminary estimates. School districts and charter schools are advised to budget knowing these allocations are likely to change.

ESSER II 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 (from ESSER I)

1. Any activity authorized by the ESEA of 1965.
 - a. Title I, Part A (Improving Basic Programs Operated by LEAs; Section 1003 school improvement)
 - b. Title I, Part C (Education of Migratory Children)
 - c. Title I, Part D (Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At Risk)
 - d. Title II, Part A (Supporting Effective Instruction)
 - e. Title III, Part A (English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement)
 - f. Title IV, Part A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants)
 - g. Title IV, Part B (21st Century Community Learning Centers)
 - h. Title V, Part B (Rural and Low-Income School Program)
 - i. Subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act
 - j. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA")
 - k. The Adult Education and Family Literacy Act
 - l. The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 ("the Perkins Act")
2. 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 COVID-19.
3. Providing principals and others school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools. See help text for example.
4. 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.
5. Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies. See help text for example.
 6. Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases. (For helpful tips on cleaning and sanitizing your LEA, please visit CDC's website, links are provided in the question text above.) **Purchases of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are allowable.
 7. Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including buildings operated by such agency.
 8. Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures, including how to provide meals to eligible students, how to provide technology for online learning to all students, how to provide guidance for carrying out requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) and how to ensure other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements.
 9. 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 students with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.
 10. Providing mental health services and supports.
 11. 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, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.
 12. 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.

Additional eligible uses for ESSER II include:

1. 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 –
 - a. 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;
 - b. Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students;

- c. Providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment; and
 - d. Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education.
2. Making 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.
3. Inspecting, testing, repairing, and other 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.

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

Amount of Award: To be finalized in February 2021

Due Date/Notification of Award: Application has no due date; notification should follow quickly after submission.

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 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II (ESSER II) Grant for eligible expenses as listed in the grant guidance.