



Sora

The student reading app

What you need to know about Education Stabilization Funds

A collection of helpful resources and URLs about ESF, ESSER I, II, III, CARES, CRRSA and ARP.

Why are we here?

K-12 schools have access to federal funds in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. These funds can be used to support many kinds of projects. This document is a primer to help you get a better idea of what ESF is, how it can benefit you in your district and next steps you can take to ensure you and your colleagues are prepared to self-advocate for resources to improve your students' reading and learning.

"During this coronavirus pandemic it is important that states, communities, educators, and families are equipped with resources and flexibilities that empower students to continue pursuing their education goals."

U.S. Department of Education

What is ESF?

The **E**ducation **S**tabilization **F**und was created from three federal laws:

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES)
- Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA)
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARP/ARPA)

Funds from these laws have been allotted for all education:

- Includes targeted programs for [many programs](#), including Bureau of Indian Education, Non-Public Schools, rural areas and workforce readiness
- K-12 schools have been allotted the largest share of the funds

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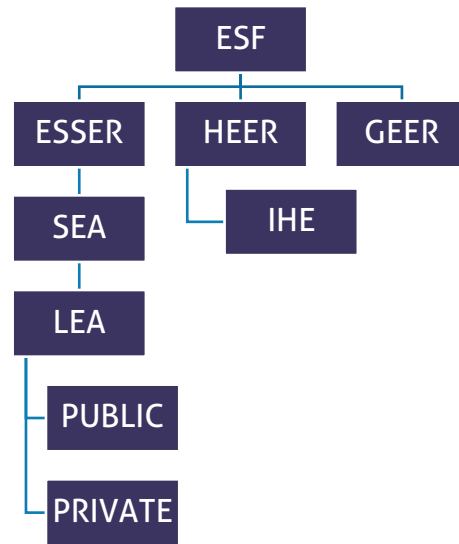
Important acronyms to know

ESF components:

- ESSER - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund
- GEER - Governor's Emergency Education Relief
- HEER - Higher Education Emergency Relief

Agencies where funds awarded:

- SEA - State educational agencies
- LEA - Local educational agencies (school districts)
- IHE – Institutions of higher education



A breakdown of ESSER spending:

Legislation	Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES)	Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA)	American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA or ARP)
Name of K-12 Fund	ESSER I	ESSER II	ESSER III
Date Passed	March 2020	December 2020	March 2021
Deadline to Obligate Funds	Sep 30, 2022	Sep 30, 2023	Sep 30, 2024
K12 Funds Allocation	\$13.2 billion	\$54 billion	\$126 billion
Total K12 Relief			\$193 billion

Who gets what?

[How much](#) each state (SEA) gets for ESSER is determined at the federal level. The state then assigns eligible fund amounts for each district (LEA) and can reserve up to 10% to address emergency needs.

Districts **must apply** in order to receive allocated funds from the state, and each state has its own [application process](#).

For more on state-by-state ESSER allotments and timing, check out [this chart](#).

ESSER allowable uses

There are many [allowable uses](#) for ESSER, ESSER II and ARP ESSER/ESSER III funds. A few that might be of particular importance to educators include:

- **Purchasing educational technology** (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students served by the LEA that aids in regular and substantive educational interactions between students and their classroom teachers, including assistance technology or adaptive equipment.
- **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.
- **Addressing learning loss among students**, including administering high-quality assessments using differentiated instruction, implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students and tracking student performance and engagement in distance-learning environments.

What do we know so far about how ESSER implementation and use?

According to state agencies, the funds work similarly to Title I money and state librarians will focus on Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funding.

Educators say that the process is top down, and that teachers and school librarians do not dictate projects but can influence them.

Real-world examples of ESSER in action

Check out a few real-world examples of districts that have successfully leveraged ESSER funding to benefit their students' reading and learning:

- [The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and the Massachusetts Library System Support School eContent](#)
- [Every Delaware Public School Student Now Has Digital Access To Books](#)

How can we help our colleagues & students?

Follow/track the funds:

- Understand trends
- Follow news
- Attend webinars
- Learn from other districts

Identify best opportunities:

- Projects that appeal to LEA, State Libraries and ESCs
- Work at scale, work strategically
- Leverage relationships

Help fund specific projects:

- Understand how the district will accept input
- Use internet resources and vendors to craft proposals

Important URLs & resources to help you get started with ESF

Government data

Education Stabilization Fund, Overview. (2021, January 27). Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/>
Official government overview of all programs related to ESF.

US Dept. of Education, Funds Awarded Under CARES and CRRSA. (2020). Education Stabilization Fund. Ed.Gov. <https://covid-relief-data.ed.gov/>
Interactive funds tracker map that shows how much allocated/spent.

Whiteboard Advisors, & David DeSchryver. (2021, April 1). **ESSER II + ESSER III Stimulus Estimates [State by State allotments, per pupil, for ESSER I, II, and III].**
<https://public.tableau.com/views/HR133ESSERStimulusAllocations/ESSERIIIII>
Per pupil allocations by state for all legislative funding initiatives, includes LEA/district allocations.

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE). (2020). **Frequently Asked Questions about the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund) [E-book].**
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Fact sheet.

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund **SEA Guidance to LEAs.** (n.d.). NCSL. Retrieved May 10, 2021, from <https://www.ncsl.org/ncsl-in-dc/standing-committees/education/cares-act-elementary-and-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund-tracker.aspx>
Each state's official links for LEA/district leaders to apply for ESF funds.

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<https://www.future-ed.org/what-congressional-covid-funding-means-for-k-12-schools/>

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Weiss, E. (2021, March 12). **Biden signs 1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan into law.** District Administration.
<https://districtadministration.com/house-passes-american-rescue-plan-act-biden-expected-to-sign-friday/>

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edWeb. (n.d.). edWeb.net - edWebinars. **EdWeb Webinars Archive.** Retrieved May 10, 2021, from <https://www.edweb.net/ewWebinarsBrowse>

Gentz, S. G. (2021, January 13). **How to Access Stimulus Funds in Your District [Slides]**. Gaggle.
[https://f.hubspotusercontent40.net/hubfs/6210449/How%20to%20Access%20Stimulus%20Funds%20in%20Your%20District%20\(1\).pdf](https://f.hubspotusercontent40.net/hubfs/6210449/How%20to%20Access%20Stimulus%20Funds%20in%20Your%20District%20(1).pdf)

Booklist (2021, October 29). **How one school leveled up their library with federal funding**. <https://ala-events.zoom.us/rec/share/fEM7uzV7szv4Hf1fg9yIDbugvWCttpGWVqBTCa-PAx33GymzlOGKXRY9N7rVSGIN.zUyIJvcFtOXW77nt?startTime=1635530405000>

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