Navigating ESSER Funds

JUNE 22, 2021
The Panelists

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Agenda

• American Rescue Plan Act Funding for Education
• ESSER III Funding
  • Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan
  • ESSER III Expenditure Plan
  • ESSER III State Plan
• ESSER III Timeline
• Stimulus Fund Reporting
• Allowable Uses of Funds – ESSERs I, II, and III
  • Capital Expenditures
American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP Act)

- Enacted on March 11, 2021.
  - California allocation = $15,068,884,546 (90% to LEAs through Title I, Part A formula $13,561,996,091).
  - LEAs must use 20% of funds it reserves for learning loss.
- ARP Act also contains a new round of funding for Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS II).
  - This is in lieu of Equitable Services.
  - California allocation = $181,312,003.
ARP Act (2)

• Additional funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
  • Part B Grants to States, California has been allocated $256,352,472.
  • Part B Preschool Grants, California has been allocated $21,351,909.
  • Part C Grants for Infants and Families, California has been allocated $24,462,156.

• ESSER III Homeless Children and Youth Wraparound Services (CA allocation = $98,709,231).

• Additional funding for E-Rate program.
ESSER III 10% SEA Reserve

• The ESSER III Fund includes three State-level reservations for activities and interventions that respond to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups.

• 5 percent for the implementation of evidence-based interventions aimed specifically at addressing learning loss, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs.

• 1 percent for evidence-based summer enrichment programs.

• 1 percent for evidence-based comprehensive afterschool programs.

• ½ of 1 percent for administrative costs.

• Going through Budget Process.
ESSER III Funding for LEAs

• Use of funds timeline: March 13, 2020 – September 30, 2024.
• ESSER III Assurances are currently available on the CDE’s ARP Act: https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/cr/arpact.asp.
• LEAs must submit Assurances by June 25, 2021, in order to be eligible for the first apportionment. LEAs will still receive their full allocation if they complete the Assurances after June 25th, 2021.
• The ARP Act requires LEAs that receive ESSER III funds to complete a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) issued additional requirements for this plan.
• Additionally, LEAs must complete an Expenditure Plan.
• ED requirements for both plans can be found at: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/04/22/2021-08359/american-rescue-plan-act-elementary-and-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund.
Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (1)

- The ESSER III Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan describes an LEA’s plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. Must also describe how the LEA will maintain health and safety of students and staff.

- Template can be found in the ESSER III section of CDE’s webpage or in the following link: https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/cr/documents/returnplantemplate.pdf.

- The template must be filled-out completely for LEAs who do not currently have a plan.

- Plans require stakeholder input and public comment.

- LEAs must submit template and post plan within 30 days of completing Assurances.
Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (2)

• Plans must be reviewed, and as appropriate, be revised, as least once every 6 months for the duration of ESSER III. Must take into consideration any updated CDC guidance, and include stakeholder input and public comment.

• Previously approved plans: LEAs who have developed a plan prior to March 11, 2021, that meets the statutory requirements in the ARP Act may continue to use that plan but must revise and post a revised plan within six months of completing ESSER III Assurances. The revised plan must address the recommendations established by the CDC. LEAs must still complete the relevant sections of the template and submit it to the CDE within 30 days.

• More information at: [https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/cr/arpact.asp](https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/cr/arpact.asp).

• To submit a plan and for questions regarding the plan, please e-mail EmergencyServices@cde.ca.gov.
ESSER III Expenditure Plan (1)

• LEAs that receive ESSER III funds must submit an expenditure plan to the CDE by September 30th, 2021, that must describe:

• The extent to which and how the funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning.

• How the LEA will use the minimum of 20% of funds it reserves for learning loss to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs.
ESSER III Expenditure Plan (2)

• How the LEA will spend its remaining ESSER III funds consistent with the allowable uses.

• How the LEA will ensure that the interventions it implements, including but not limited to the interventions to address learning loss, will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID–19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.

• LEAs must engage in meaningful consultation with specified stakeholders and receive public comment on their plan.
ESSER III Expenditure Plan (3)

- The CDE will be releasing a uniform template for the LEA Expenditure Plan in the very near future. Once the plan is available it will be announced through the EDReliefFunds listserv. If you are not already subscribed, please join the CDE's Federal Relief Funds listserv by sending a blank email message to join-edrelieffunds@mlist.cde.ca.gov.

- The CDE hosted a webinar on Monday, June 21, 2021 at 2 p.m. to solicit feedback related to the proposed LEA Expenditure Plan template and instructions to implement the ESSER III funds.

- The webinar slides will be uploaded to the CDE’s Tuesdays @ 2 Webinar Series page: https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/lc/tuesdaysat2.asp.
ESSER III State Plan (1)

• On April 21, 2021, ED released a template for the ESSER III State Plan that State Educational Agencies (SEAs) must completed.

• The State Plan must describe:
  • State’s Current Status and Needs.
  • Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining their Safe Operations.
  • Planning for the Use and Coordination of ARP ESSER Funds.
  • Maximizing State-Level Funds to Support Students.
  • Supporting LEAs in Planning for and Meeting Students’ Needs.
  • Supporting the Educator Workforce.
  • Monitoring and Measuring Progress.

• The plan requires the SEA to seek stakeholder input and public comment.
ESSER III State Plan (2)

• For the portion of the State Plan that is determined by the State Budget, public comment is provided by the budget process.

• The CDE will be receiving public comment at the California Practitioners Advisory Group meeting on June 29, 2021. Public comment may be submitted by e-mailing CPAG@cde.ca.gov in advance of the meeting.

• Additionally, the CDE will be receiving public comment when presenting the completed State Plan for approval at the State Board of Education meeting on July 14-15. Public comment may be submitted by e-mailing SBE@cde.ca.gov in advance of the meeting.

• The CDE plans to incorporate public comment and submit the State Plan to ED by August 2, 2021.
# ESSER III Time Line (1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 21, 2021</td>
<td>U.S Department of Education (ED) releases the ARP ESSER State Plan template.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14, 2021</td>
<td>Board President Darling- Hammond and State Superintendent Thurmond request extension to the ARP ESSER State Plan to August 2, 2021 due to California State Board of Education (SBE) approval requirements.</td>
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| May 24, 2021       | ED requires states to allocate ARP ESSER funds to local educational agencies (LEAs) in an expedited and timely manner.  
                        CDE posts preliminary ARP ESSER (also known as ESSER III) allocations and Resource Codes on its website. |
| April 21- July 15, 2021 | Gather Stakeholder input in a variety of forums including:  
                        Public Comment re: Budget (January-June)  
                        Public Comment at California Practitioners Advisory Group (CPAG) meeting (June 29)  
                        Public Comment at State Board of Education (SBE) meeting (July 2-15) |
# ESSER III Time Line (2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 7, 2021</td>
<td>CDE posts assurances portal; portal includes a reminder that submitting assurances triggers the start of a 30-day clock to complete a Safe Return Plan.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CDE posts a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan template and indicates requirements to either use an existing plan (if applicable) or to complete the template.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CDE to provide notification of the above through various listservs, stakeholder groups, etc.</td>
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<td>June 21-29, 2021</td>
<td>Stakeholder outreach regarding CPAG meeting.</td>
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<td>June 25, 2021</td>
<td>Deadline for LEAs to submit assurances in order to receive funds as part of the first apportionment.</td>
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<td>Assurances portal to remain open for LEAs to complete.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 29, 2021</td>
<td>CPAG Meeting</td>
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<td>July 14-15, 2021</td>
<td>SBE meeting to review California’s ARP ESSER State Plan.</td>
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<td>July 25, 2021</td>
<td>Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan due for LEAs. Many LEAs submitted a COVID-19 Safety Plan prior to March 11 which meets this requirement. The CDE created a template for the LEAs who are submitting for the first time.</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<td>June 15, 2021</td>
<td>State Constitutional deadline for the Legislature to pass 2021-22 budget</td>
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<td>June 18, 2021</td>
<td>June SBE Information Memo posts</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 21, 2021</td>
<td>CDE hosting a Webinar to solicit feedback related to the proposed LEA plan template and instructions to implement the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER) funds.</td>
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<td>August 2, 2021</td>
<td>ARP ESSER State Plan Due (date as requested on May 14, 2021)</td>
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<td>Mid-August, 2021</td>
<td>First apportionment of funding to LEAs</td>
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<td>(Estimate)</td>
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<td>September 30, 2021</td>
<td>LEAARP ESSER Expenditure Plans due</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 30, 2022</td>
<td>Date by which all ARP ESSER mandatory subgrant and state-level funds must be awarded.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 30, 2024</td>
<td>ARP ESSER funds expire</td>
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Stimulus Fund Reporting (1)

• The next Stimulus Funding Reporting Cycle will be open from July 1 – July 7. Reporting portal and help can be found at: https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/cr/.

• Final General Fund (7420) report and second to last CRF (3220) report.

• Includes an update to the ESSER I report format to better align with statute and ESSER II and III reporting.
  • Added one additional allowable use – Any activity authorized by ESEA, IDEA, Adult Ed and Family Literacy Act, Perkins, or McKinney-Vento.
  • Combined two categories that captured the same use – “Discretionary spending to address the needs of individual schools” and “Resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools.” Totals for previous reports moved to “Resources necessary...”

• Minor text changes/ordering changes.
Stimulus Fund Reporting (2)

• LEAs will have to report on ESSER II and III.

• For ESSER III, LEAs will be required to report for two different resource codes.
  • Resource Code 3213 - 80% of funds LEAs may use under ESSER III Allowable Uses.
  • Resource Code 3214 – 20% for Learning Loss.

• ESSER II, ESSER III 3213, and ESSER III 3214 use the same reporting format as ESSER I (provide quarterly expenditures and approximate breakdown of total expenditures by allowable use as a percentage of total expenditures).

• Additional ESSER III 3214 categories to be added for the next reporting cycle.
Allowable Uses – ESSER I (1)

CARES Act Sec. 18003 (d)

1. Any activity authorized by ESEA of 1965, IDEA, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Perkins Act, or the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

2. Coordination of preparedness and response efforts with other agencies.

3. Resources necessary to address the needs of individual schools.

4. Activities to address unique needs of specific populations (e.g., low-income, EL, foster youth).

5. Procedures and systems to improve preparedness and response.

6. Training and PD on sanitation and minimizing spread of infectious diseases.
Allowable Uses – ESSER I (2)

7. Purchasing cleaning supplies.
8. Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures, providing meals, continuing educational services consistent with federal requirements.
10. Providing mental health services and supports.
11. Summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs.
12. Other activities necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in LEAs and continuing to employ existing staff of LEAs.
Allowable Uses – ESSER II

CRRSA Act Sec. 313 (d)

Same as ESSER I PLUS:

• Addressing learning loss among students, including by:
  • Administering and using high quality assessments.
  • Implementing evidenced based practices.
  • Providing information and assistance to parents about supporting students.
  • Tracking student attendance and improving engagement

• School facility repairs/improves to reduce virus transmission.

• Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrades for indoor air quality.
Allowable Uses – ESSER III (1)

ARP Act Sec. 2001 (e)(2)

For *up to 80%* of funds, generally the same as ESSER II with some differences:

- **Removed:**
  - Any activity authorized by McKinney-Vento.
  - Resources necessary to address the needs of individual schools.

- **Added:**
  - Developing strategies and implementing public health protocols including, to the greatest extent practicable, policies in line with guidance from the CDC for reopening and maintaining the health and safety of students and staff.
Allowable Uses – ESSER III (2)

ARP Act Sec. 2001 (e)(1)

For a minimum of 20% of funds, must be used on evidenced-based interventions, such as:

• Summer learning or enrichment.
• Extended day.
• Comprehensive afterschool programs.
• Extended school year programs.

Must respond to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on specified student groups.
Allowable Uses – ESSER III (3)

ED Guidance further defines “evidenced-based.” Please consult the following:

• FAQ A-10:  
  https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/05/ESSER.GEER_FAQs_5.26.21_745AM_FINALb0cd6833f6f46e03ba2d97d30aff953260028045f9ef3b18ea602db4b32b1d99.pdf

• ED’s What Works Clearinghouse: https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/
Capital Expenditures

• CDE now allowing Capital Expenditure preapprovals for ESSER III projects. LEAs are asked to take Expenditure Plans into account when doing so.

• When submitting a Capital Expenditure Pre-Approval Form to CDE, LEAs must demonstrate purchase is necessary, reasonable, and allocable.

• LEAs must also ensure that they have looked at less expensive options (e.g. leasing, contracted services, or other alternatives that are more reasonable).

• All applicable state and federal regulations in relation to construction must be followed when doing any construction.

• The Capital Expenditures Pre-Approval Application and Information can be found at: https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/cr/.
  • FAQs: https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/cr/capexpfaqs.asp.
Additional Stimulus Fund Information

• COVID-19 Relief Funding Summary Sheet: provides an overview of California COVID-19 funds. ([https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/cr/relieffunds.asp](https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/cr/relieffunds.asp))

• Chart provides: Funding source, timeline, eligible use of funds, allocation amounts, and status of the funds.

• For more information on all sources of stimulus funding please visit the CDE’s Federal Stimulus Funding webpage at: [https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/cr/](https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/cr/).

• You may also e-mail [EDReliefFunds@cde.ca.gov](mailto:EDReliefFunds@cde.ca.gov).
Questions?

Raise your hand by pressing the icon feature to speak.

Type your question in the Q&A box.
Thank You!

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*This session qualifies for one (1) continuing education unit so long as you attend the live webinar in its entirety. To receive your CEU, please contact Michelle Neto at mneto@casbo.org one week after the webinar concludes.