# ESSER III Narrative Question Guidance

**The Question**

How the LEA will ***ensure that the interventions it implements***, including but not limited to the interventions under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act to ***address the academic impact of lost instructional time***, ***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 and youth in foster care, and migratory students?

**Purpose**

The narrative question is designed to assess whether the LEA has a process for identifying the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, especially student groups that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic; addressing those needs through ESSER-funded interventions; and measuring the impact of those interventions to ensure that identified needs have been addressed. Responses will be used in the CDE monitoring process to assess the LEA’s Use of Funds and in responding to Federal reporting requirements for data on how LEAs assess needs and select interventions in response to needs.

**Guiding Questions**

Responses should explain the following as well as ***how*** the LEA has determined the answers to these questions:

1. In what ways have students been impacted by lost instructional time (the pandemic)? What data sources did you use to identify these needs?
2. Have any student groups been disproportionately impacted? If so, which ones?
3. How were the evidence-based interventions selected to respond to identified academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs and any identified disproportionate impact?
4. How will you know if the interventions addressed students’ academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs?

**Response Template**

* LEA has analyzed **[insert your LEA data].** Based on data results, LEA has determined that all students experienced **[insert identified student needs].**
* Data has been disaggregated for the groups listed in this question. Data shows **[insert student needs]** for **[insert identified student groups]** compared to the general student population.
* In selecting our evidence-based interventions, we focused on research-based approaches to address **[insert high level priorities based on students’ needs]** in order to respond to the identified student academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. These interventions are detailed in the budget.
* LEA will be **[insert methods for measuring impact of interventions]** in order to measure the impact of our interventions on students’ academic, social, and behavioral needs.

**Example Response**

Exemplary Education Agency (EEA) has analyzed interim reading and math scores, attendance data, and parent, staff, and student surveys.  Based on data results, EEA has determined that all students experienced a drop in reading scores and an increased need for mental health services. Data has been disaggregated for the groups listed in this question. Data shows a greater academic decline for students of color, English learners, and students with disabilities compared to the general student population. In selecting our evidence-based interventions, we focused on addressing the increased need for literacy instruction and need for access to mental health services. These interventions are detailed in the budget. EEA schools will be conducting quarterly progress monitoring through the district reading assessment and annually analyzing beginning- and end-of-year parent, student, and staff mental health surveys in order to ensure that interventions are addressing the identified students’ academic, social, and behavioral needs.

**Check List for Approval**

* Summarizes methods for determining needs (i.e., names the data source(s) used to assess needs)
* States that the LEA has assessed and considered academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs
* Summarizes identified student needs (no need to include data results in narrative response)
* States that the LEA has analyzed and considered disaggregated data for **all** student groups in the LEA
* Identifies which student populations have been most impacted by the pandemic (not required to list all student groups within the LEA; just the ones that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic)
* Summarizes priorities related to identified needs that are aligned to the budget.
* Summarizes the methods that LEA will use to measure the impact of interventions (will likely include the same or similar data sources used to identify needs)