



COLORADO
Department of Education

ESSER & Federal Funds:

**Maximizing the Opportunities to Support Students,
Teachers & Schools Recovering from the Pandemic**

Stakeholder Meetings
July 2021

The purpose of today's meeting is for CDE to hear from you about your experience during the pandemic's interruption of schools and how federal funds can best be deployed to support students, teachers and schools.

Meeting Agenda

Overview of Federal Funds

Q&A about federal fund purpose, intended uses

Group Discussions

Experiences, ideas, innovations & strategies

Group Share-Outs

Key themes, ideas & takeaways

Reflections from CDE + Q&A

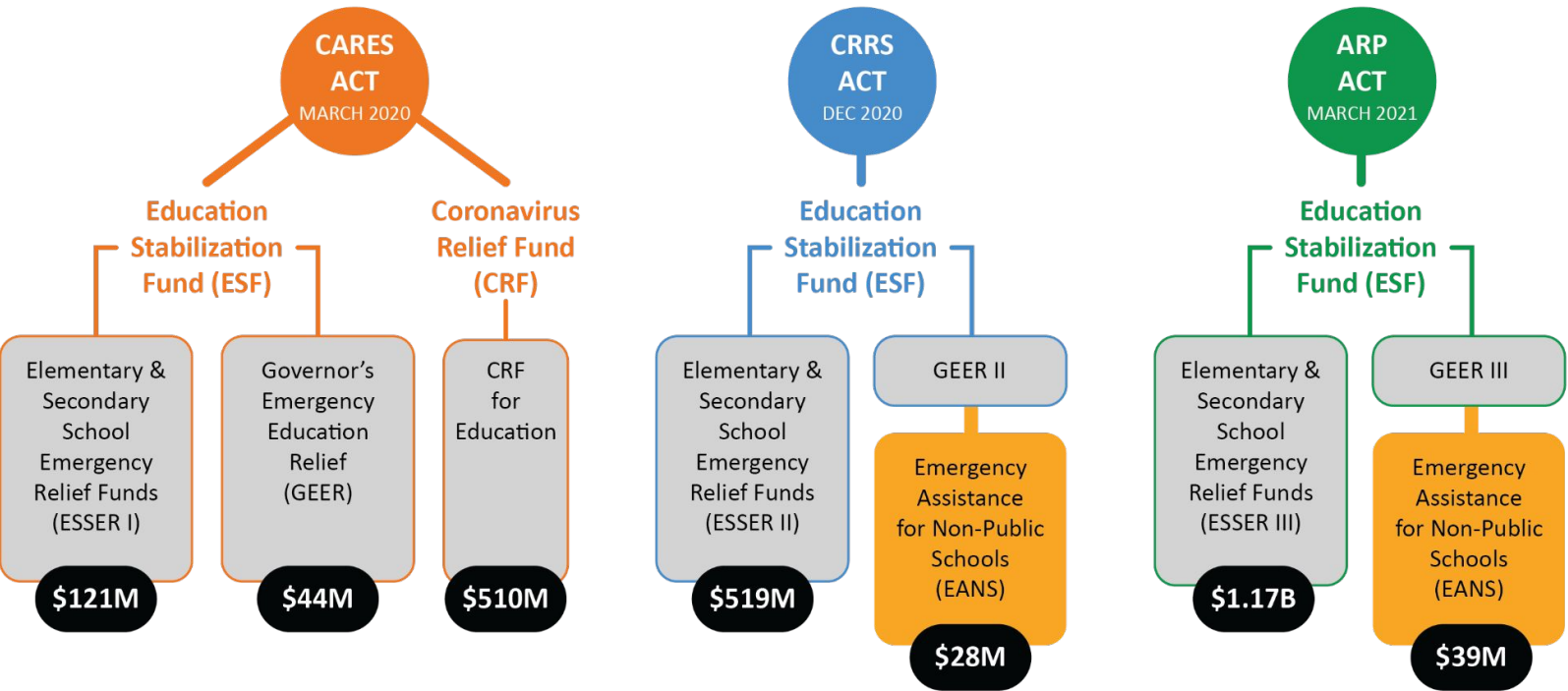


COLORADO
Department of Education

Overview of Federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Funding for Education

Stakeholder Meetings
July 2021

Overview of Federal COVID Relief for K-12 Education



Intent of ESSER Funds

The overall purpose of all ESSER Funds is to address the educational impact of COVID-19. The priority for each funding source include:

ESSER I

Crisis Response

To provide schools, staff and students with the **technology and infrastructure to accommodate remote learning environments** caused by COVID-19.

ESSER II

Resuming/Sustaining In-Person Learning

To provide schools, staff and students with the **resources and equipment to safely return to and/or maintain in-person learning environments** for students.

ESSER III

Recovery

To support schools, educators and students with resources and programming that **address learning loss** caused by COVID-19 and remote learning environments.

Total ESSER Funding



	ESSER I	ESSER II	ESSER III
Total State Allocation	\$120,993,782	\$519,324,311	\$1,166,328,632
Allocation to Districts	90% of total funding through Title I formula \$108,894,404 \$120.81 per pupil	90% of total funding through Title I formula \$467,391,880 \$518.70 per pupil	90% of total funding through Title I formula \$1,049,695,769 \$1,164.93 per pupil
State Set Aside	9.5% of total funding \$11,494,409	9.5% of total funding \$49,335,810	9.5% of total funding \$110,801,220
State Administrative Funds	0.5% of total funding \$604,969	0.5% of total funding \$2,596,622	0.5% of total funding \$5,831,643
Funding Period	Through September 30,2022	Through September 30,2023	Through September 30,2024

Allowable Uses of ESSER Funding

ESSER I

Addressing the impact of COVID-19 on schools, such as:

- Coordination with public health departments
- Purchasing educational technology
- Planning for long term closures
- Training and supplies for sanitation
- Mental health support
- Summer school and afterschool programs
- Funds for principals to address local needs
- Other activities to continue school operations and employment of existing staff

ESSER II

Same as ESSER I with emphasis on:

- Addressing learning loss
- School facility repairs and improvements
- Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of schools

ESSER III

Same as ESSER I with a requirement to direct at least 20% of funding to address the learning impacts of COVID-19 through interventions

All ESSER funds may be used for activities allowable under ESEA, IDEA, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Perkins CTE Act, or the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, **in response to COVID-19.**



Initial ESSER Fund Usage by District

Purchasing educational technology for students and staff, including both software and hardware

Remote learning supports including electronic media curriculum

Preparedness and response activities and supplies, including PPE and sanitation

Repairing/improving school facilities to reduce health hazards including air-filtration and ventilation

Mental health supports for students including counselors

Instructional support to counter learning loss, including curriculum purchases and intervention, e.g. tutoring and intervention staff

Summer learning and supplemental after-school programs

Augmenting staff salaries including extra duty pay or stipends for supplemental instructional time

Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation and continuity of services including hazard pay for teaching in-person and salaries to maintain staff

ESSER I State Set Aside Funds



ESSER I: \$11.5 Million

Funding Gap Support (~\$3.2 M)

- Funding to districts that received little or no funding in 90% distribution
- Support for special education
- Funding to BOCES schools and facility schools
- Support to districts for Native American students and Tribes

Provide Broadband (~\$1.3 M)

- Funding for connectivity for districts, BOCES and Tribes

Statewide Capacity Building (~\$5 M)

- Funding for workforce recruitment, including additional teachers and substitutes
- Additional year of funding for online courses that districts can use to supplement learning

Expand Learning Opportunities (~\$2 M)

- Support for 21st Century Community Learning Centers



ESSER II: \$49.3 Million

Funding Gap Support (~\$16.8 M)

- Funding to districts that received little or no funding in 90% distribution
- Funding to Administrative Units for special education
- Funding to BOCES
- Support to districts for Native American students and Tribes

Expand Learning Opportunities (~\$10.5 M)

- Support for 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Statewide Capacity Building (~\$650K)

- Funding for workforce recruitment, including additional teachers and substitutes, planning for next year

Unallocated (~\$21.4 M)



ESSER III: \$110.8 Million

Evidenced-Based
Interventions for
Learning Loss
(~\$58.3 M)

Summer
Programming
(~\$11.7 M)

After School
Programming
(~\$11.7 M)

Other Allowable
Activities
(~\$29.2 M)

- Includes extended day, extended school year, summer learning, summer enrichment, comprehensive after school programs, etc.



The federal stimulus funds provide Colorado a remarkable, once in a generation opportunity for investing in education.

- We want to ensure we stop, think big and creatively, gather input, and use this funding to truly make a difference for our students in Colorado.
- Our top priority is to close the opportunity and achievement gaps that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

The Colorado Department of Education and the State Board of Education wants to gather input from stakeholders to ensure the most impactful use of federal funds.

Stakeholder Engagement



During today's meeting, we are seeking your input the educational impact of COVID-19, and how we can use the ESSER state set aside funding to address that impact and catalyze our education system.

This equates to approximately \$132 million:

\$58.3 M
for evidenced based
interventions to address
learning loss

\$11.7 M
for summer
programming

\$11.7 M
for after school
programming

\$50.5 M
for other allowable
activities in response
to COVID-19

Small Group Discussions



As we head into group discussions, keep in mind that these are one-time funds.



Small Group Discussions: Practices & Innovations



Thinking specifically about the period affected by the pandemic, what practices or innovations emerged in your classroom/school/district that you'd like to see built upon as we move forward?

What resources, training or supports would be needed to effectively continue and scale the practices or innovations described above?

Small Group Discussions: Supporting Students



How might CDE use set aside funds to specifically address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on certain groups of students?



How do you believe individual educators have been affected by the shifts and their experience during the pandemic?

What do you believe is most needed to support educators and school leaders as a result of their experiences during the pandemic?

Small Group Discussions



Are there any other thoughts you'd like to share with us?



Group Discussion



What were the big ideas or themes from your discussions?

What were the “a-ha” moments or ideas & stories that stood out to you?

Next Steps

Continued Input

Esser Funds Survey

(English): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESSERfundsurvey>

(Spanish): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESSERfondo>