

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funding Overview

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Major COVID-19 Federal Relief Bills

- **CARES** (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act)- March 27, 2020
 - Includes ESSER, GEER, CRF
- **CRRSA** (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act)- December 27, 2020
 - Includes ESSER II, GEER II and GEER EANS, extension of CRF, and Child Nutrition Emergency Assistance and P-EBT administration grants
- **ARPA** (American Rescue Plan Act)- March 11, 2021
 - Includes ESSER III, GEER EAN II, IDEA supplement

ESSER Family Tree

- Funded through US Department of Education: CARES, CRRSA, ARPA
- Allocation to LEAs based on Title I formulas (not part of Title I program)
- NOT a competitive grant
- Broad range of allowable costs as determined by federal statute → AOE cannot tell LEAs how to spend their funds, only offer guidance and oversight

ESSER I

- Part of CARES Act passed 3/27/20
- \$28 million to LEAs
- \$3.1 million to SEA
- Equitable Services to Independent Schools
- Broad range of uses
- Goes through 9/30/22

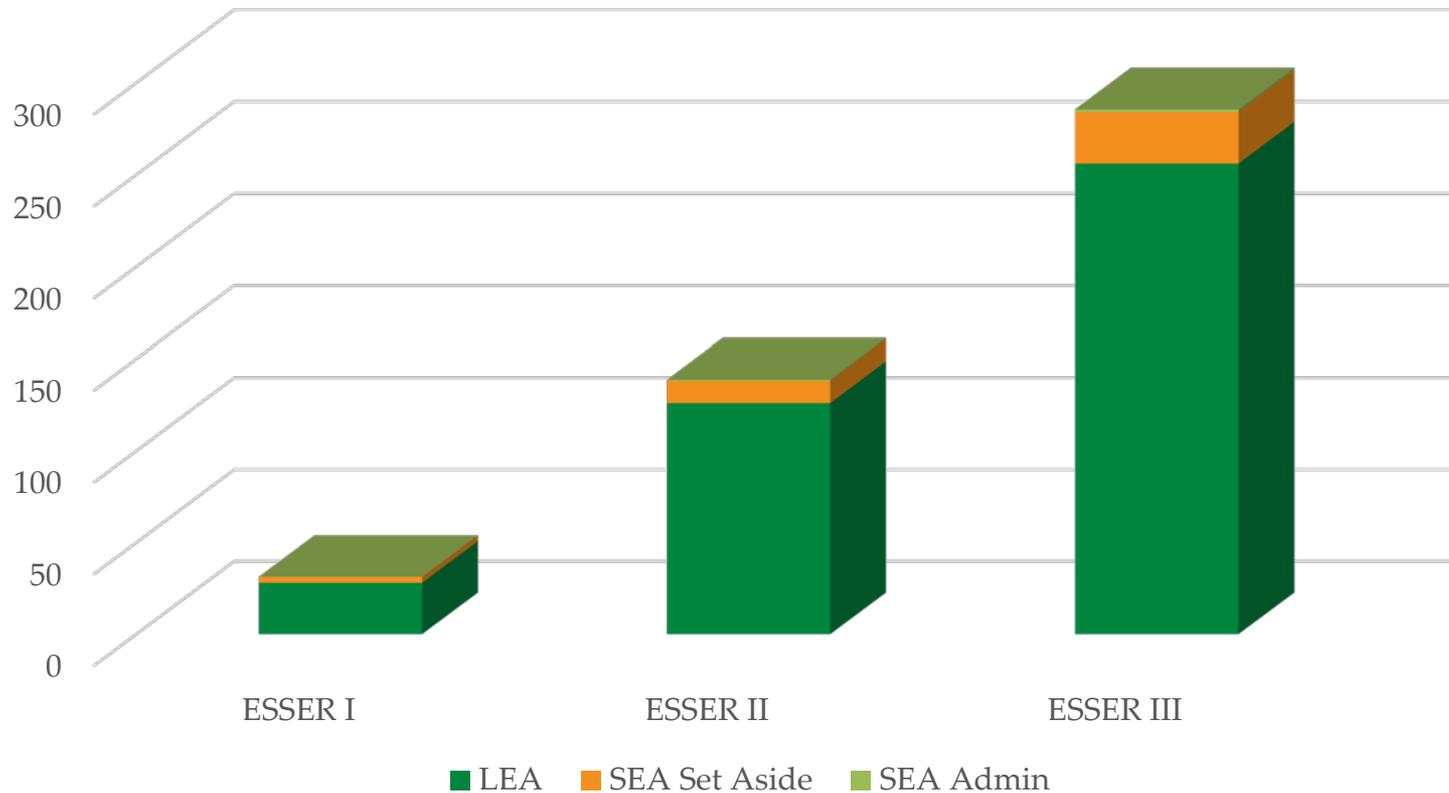
ESSER II

- Part of CRRSA passed 12/27/20
- \$114 million to LEAs
- \$12.6 million to SEA
- No Equitable Services
- Broad range of uses
- Application opens in late March 2021
- Funding Support for Recovery Plan
- Goes through 9/30/23

ESSER III

- Part of ARPA passed 3/11/21
- \$256 million to LEAs
- \$28 million to SEA
- No Equitable Services
- Broad range of uses
- Comes with specific mandates for use of funds
- Goes through 9/30/23

ESSER I, II and III



	LEA	SEA Set Aside	SEA Admin
ESSER I	\$28,033,524	\$3,114,836	\$155,741
ESSER II	\$126,973,363	\$12,062,469	\$634,867
ESSER III	\$256,164,000	\$28,516,000	\$1,426,000
Totals	\$411,170,887	\$43,693,305	\$2,216,608

ESSER I (CARES Act)

- Application released July 2020
- As of 3/16/21
 - 27 LEAs have approved grant awards
 - 22 in review process
 - Total of \$20,205,925 awarded
 - \$1,352,323 reimbursements made to LEAs
- LEAs have until March 20, 2021 to submit their applications to AOE → unawarded funds will be returned to federal government on April 29, 2021
- LEAs have until September 30, 2022 to obligate these funds and can make amendments to adapt to new or changing needs

ESSER I SEA Set Aside: Budgeted

- Total SEA set aside \$3,114,836 (max of \$155,741 available for administration of program)
- For statewide activities to support the field in their COVID response
- Available through September 30, 2022

Project Name	High-Level Description	Total Cost from FY20-FY22
Edmodo (build out)	Professional Network and K-5 LMS	\$334,000
Salesforce (CRM)	CRM tool to respond to queries from the public and the field related to COVID-19 response	148,000
Salesforce (Symptom Tracker)	Framework for COVID-19 related symptom checking and tracking for schools	\$407,350
Social/Emotional Learning platform	Development and support of a website containing curated materials on best practice for educators to ensure students' social, emotional, and mental health well-being.	\$400,000
Total Already Budgeted		\$1,155,350
Edmodo (Zoom)	Enhanced feature to allow Zoom in Edmodo sessions	\$24,000
Salesforce Helpdesk	Enhanced public-facing platform	\$200,000
Total in Development		\$225,000
Total Costs		Total budgeted as of 3/12/21: \$1,514,350
Funds still available		\$1,600,486

ESSER II (CRRSA)

- Application planned to be released in late March 2021
- ESSER II funds must be tracked separately from ESSER
- Period of Performance: pre-award costs back to March 13, 2020-September 30, **2023** (additional year past ESSER)
 - All funds must be obligated in an approved grant award by 1/5/2022
- No Equitable Services requirement
- Maintenance of Effort requirement “based on the **proportional share** of the State’s support for elementary and secondary education and higher education relative to the State’s overall spending averaged over FYs 2017, 2018, and 2019.”
- Same Allowable Costs as ESSER: specific emphasis on measuring and addressing learning loss
- Reporting- Required report at 6 months after award explaining how state is using funds to measure and address learning loss for student populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19

ESSER II SEA Set Aside: Budgeted

- Total SEA set aside \$12,062,469 (+ \$634,867 max admin)
- For statewide activities to support the field in their COVID response
- Available through September 30, 2023

Project name	High-Level Description	Total Cost
Burlington High School Macy's retrofit	Support the retrofitting of the old Macy's building to accommodate Burlington High School students who are unable to return to in-person schooling due to contamination of the Burlington High School site.	\$3,500,000
Total Costs		Total Budgeted as of 3/12/21 \$3,500,000

ESSER III (ARPA)

- Total estimate for Vermont: \$285,164,000
 - Estimate for LEAs- \$256,164,000
 - Estimate for SEA set aside- \$28,516,000 (of which a maximum of \$1,426,000 may be used for administration)
- Same allocation formula and uses as ESSER I and II.
- No Equitable Services (additional funding for GEER Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools (GEER EANS) program)
- Period of performance from 3/13/20-9/30/23

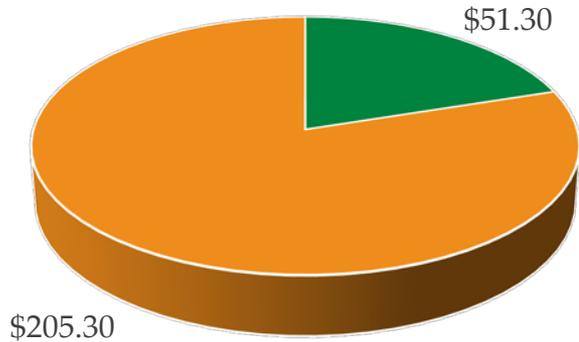
ESSER III: Spending Mandates

Specific restrictions on use of funds to address student learning loss

- LEAs (Total Allocation- estimate \$256,648,000 million)
 - 20% (or \$51,329,000) set aside by LEAs for “activities to address learning loss through evidence-based interventions such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year programs.”
- SEA Set Aside (Total Allocation- estimate \$28,516,000)
 - \$14.28 million set aside by LEAs to carry out through grants to contracts “activities to address learning loss through evidence-based interventions such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year programs.”
 - \$2.8 million to carry out, directly or through grants or contracts, the implementation of evidence-based summer enrichment activities.
 - \$2.8 million to carry out, directly or through grants or contracts, the implementation of evidence-based comprehensive afterschool programs.

ESSER III Spending Mandates

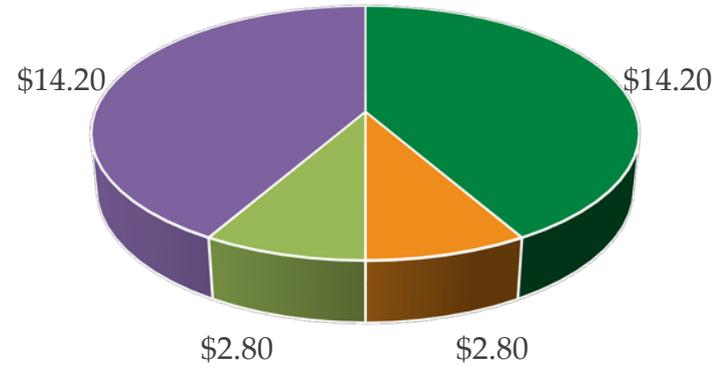
LEA Spending Mandates



■ Learning Loss ■ Unmandated

	LEAs
Learning Loss	\$51,330,000
Unmandated	\$205,318,000

SEA Set Aside Spending Mandates



■ Learning Loss
 ■ Summer Enrichment
 ■ Afterschool
 ■ Unmandated

	ESSER III SEA Set Aside
Learning Loss	\$14,258,000
Summer Enrichment	\$2,852,000
Afterschool	\$2,852,000
Unmandated	\$14,258,000

ESSER AOE Set Aside Prioritization

Guiding Principles

- These are one-time funds (totaling \$43,693,305) and should be used in a strategic manner.
- The funds should be focused on education recovery.
- The recovery work in education will take time – these funds extend out into 2023 accordingly.

Areas for Strategic Recovery Investment

- Improve school facilities, including indoor air quality and other health and safety issues.
- Support integrated service delivery models in all regions.
- Address learning loss through expanding capacity for remote learning.