

Building for the Future: Vermont's Plan for Education Recovery and Beyond

ARP ESSER State Plan Overview

The complete draft of [Building for the Future: Vermont's Plan for Education Recovery and Beyond](#) is now available for public comment.

If you would like to submit a comment, please email AOE.EdInfo@vermont.gov.

For a concise outline of the plan's contents, see [ARP ESSER State Education Plan Summary and Overview](#).

Common Acroymns

- Elementary and Secondary Schools Education Relief (ESSER)
- American Rescue Plan (ARP)
- State Education Agency (SEA), the Agency of Education
- Local Education Agency (LEA), Vermont's Supervisory Unions and Supervisory Districts

Background: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) I, II and ARP ESSER

ESSER Family Tree

- Funded through US Department of Education: CARES, CRRSA, ARP
- Allocation to LEAs based on Title I formulas (not part of Title I program)
- NOT a competitive grant
- Broad range of [allowable costs](#) are 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

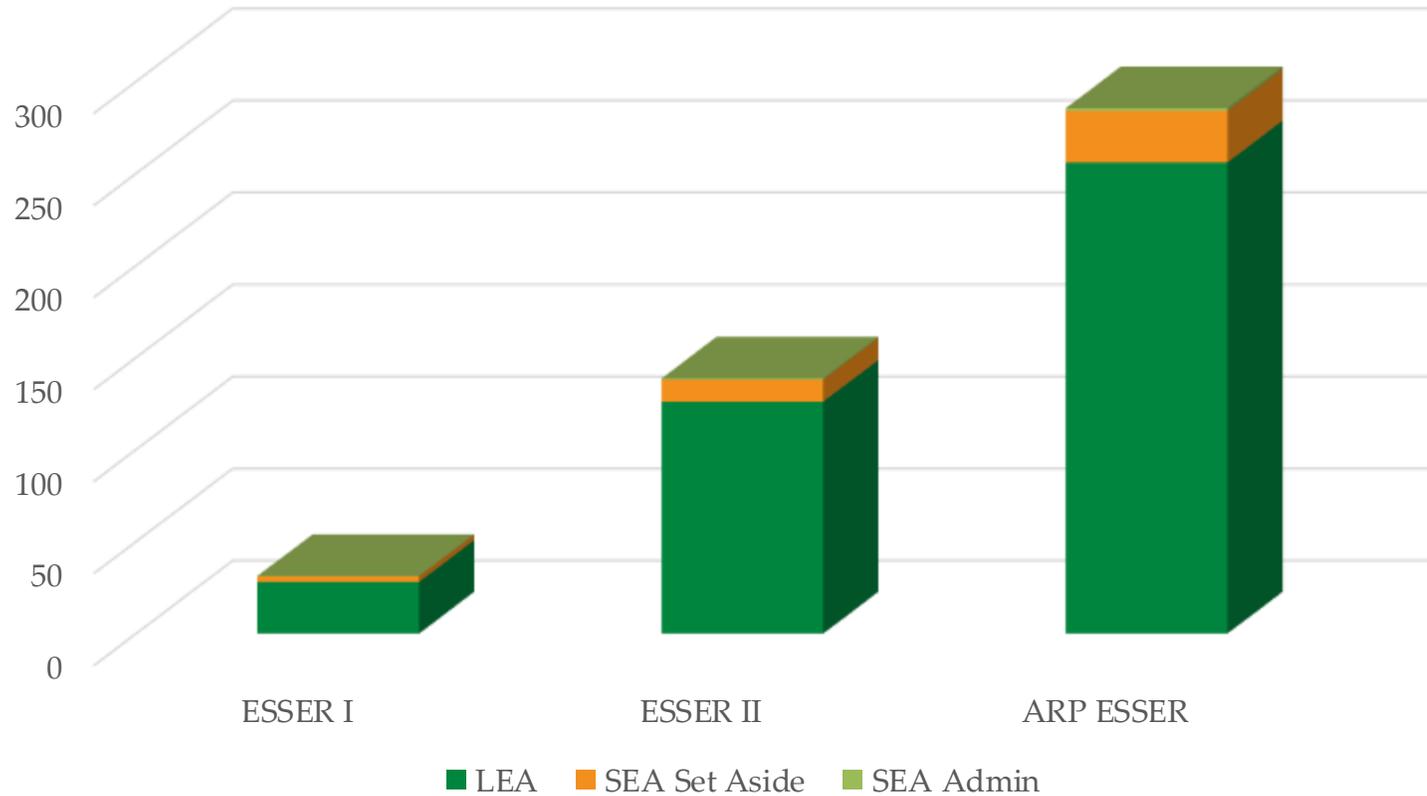
ESSER II

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

ARP ESSER (ESSER III)

- Part of ARP 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 9/30/24

ESSER I, II and ARP ESSER



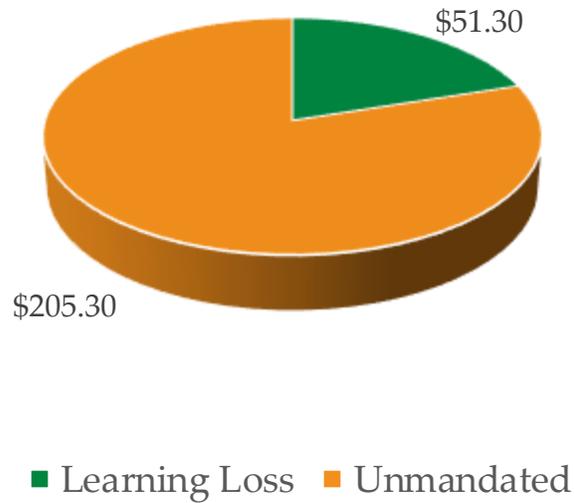
	LEA	SEA Set Aside	SEA Admin
ESSER I	\$28,033,524	\$3,114,836	\$155,741
ESSER II	\$114,276,027	\$12,062,469	\$634,867
ARP ESSER	\$256,647,724	\$28,516,414	\$1,425,821
Totals	\$398,957,151	\$43,693,719	\$2,216,429

ARP ESSER

- Total for Vermont: \$285,164,138
 - LEAs- \$ 256,647,724
 - SEA set aside- \$28,516,484 (of which a maximum of \$1,426,000 may be used for administration)
- Same allocation formula and similar uses to ESSER I and II.
- No Equitable Services for independent schools
- Period of performance from 3/13/20-9/30/24

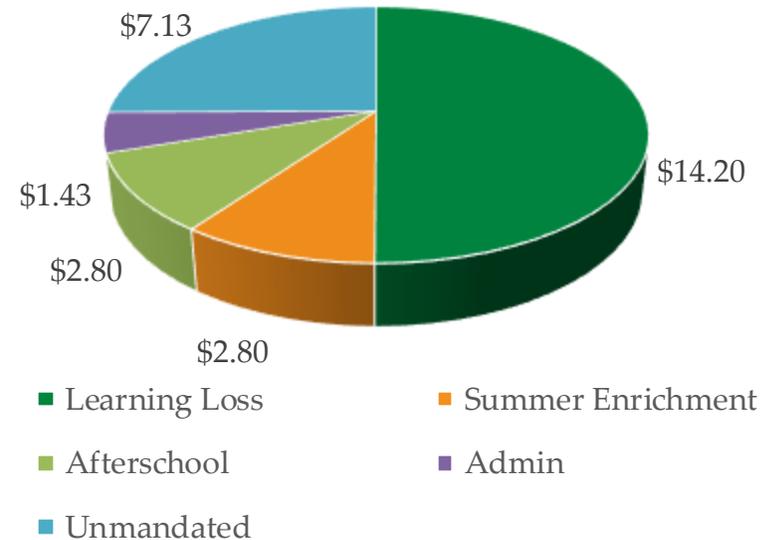
ARP ESSER Spending Mandates

LEA Spending Mandates



	LEAs
Learning Loss	\$51,329,544
Unmandated	\$205,,318,179

SEA Set Aside Spending Mandates



	ESSER III SEA Set Aside
Learning Loss	\$14,258,000
Summer Enrichment	\$2,852,000
Afterschool	\$2,852,000
Admin	\$1,426,000
Unmandated	\$7,129,000

ESSER AOE Set-aside Prioritization

Guiding Principles for LEAs and AOE

- These are one-time funds and should be used in a strategic manner.
- The funds should be focused on education recovery and student needs.
- The recovery work in education will take time – these funds extend out into 2024 accordingly.
- AOE desires to maintain maximum flexibility to respond to needs that are being identified as part of the recovery planning process.
- AOE will look for opportunities to support regional, multi-district or system-wide approaches and programs.

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.

Education Recovery and ARP ESSER State Plan

Timeline and Key Dates for Vermont's Education Recovery Planning and ARP ESSER

- **January 8, 2021** - initial draft of education recovery plan presented to Secretary's Advisory Group for stakeholder feedback
- **January 22, 2021** - education recovery planning focus areas presented to Secretary's Advisory Group for stakeholder feedback
- **February 1, 2021** - initial draft of education recovery plan presented to Act 173 Advisory Group (special education advisory group comprised of a variety of stakeholder groups)
- **February 8-12, 2021** - education recovery plan presented to legislature forming the basis for soliciting public testimony

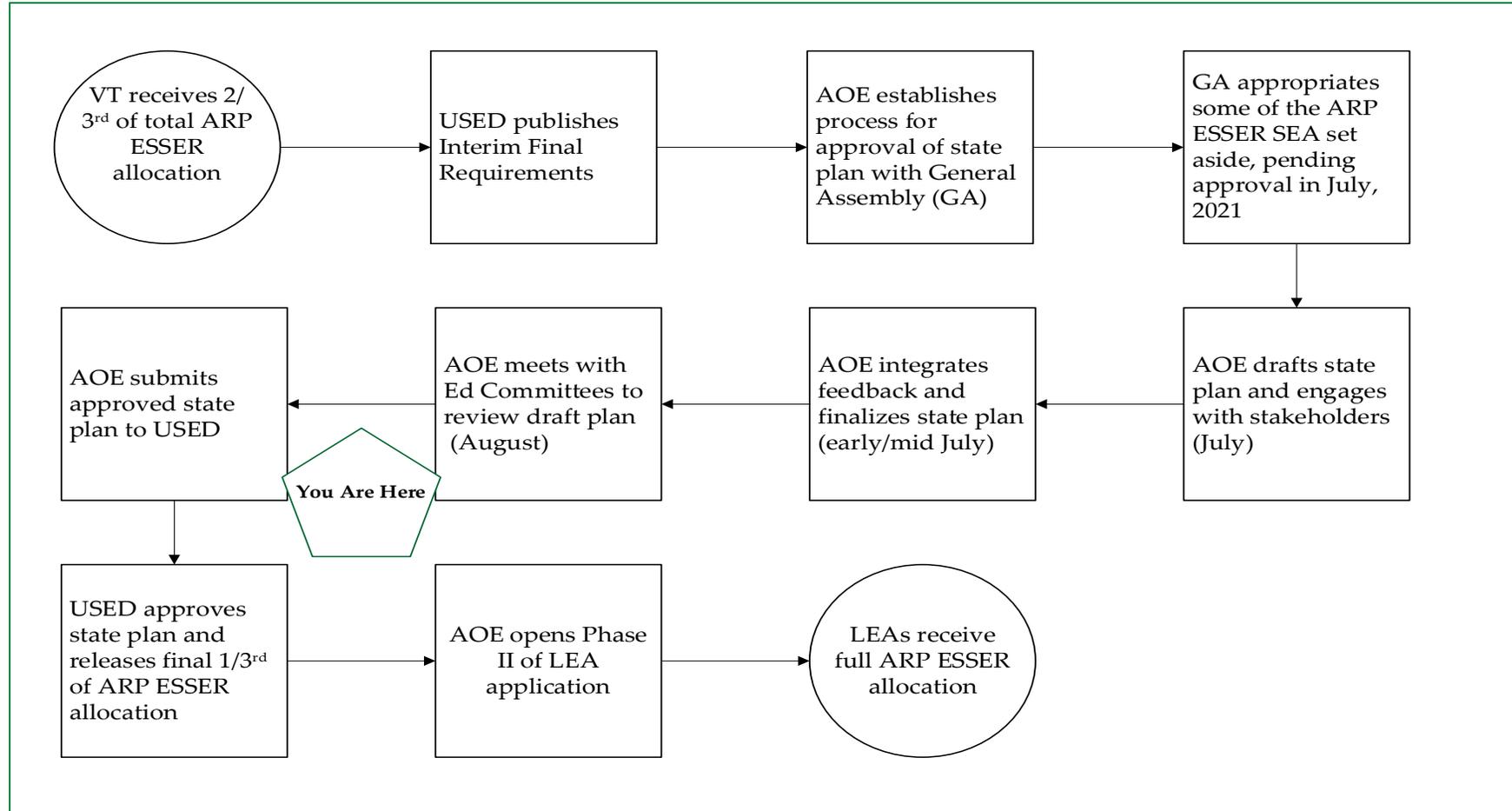
Timeline and Key Dates for Vermont's Education Recovery Planning and ARP ESSER (continued)

- **March 11, 2021** – American Rescue Plan Act enacted by Congress, including ARP ESSER
- **April 22, 2021** – US Department of Education releases [Interim Final Requirements](#) for SEAs and LEAs, including State Plan and requirement for meaningful engagement with stakeholder groups
- **May 23, 2021** – LEAs receive preliminary award for initial two thirds of ARP ESSER allocation
- **July 16, 2021** – AOE released draft version of State Plan

Timeline and Key Dates for Vermont's Education Recovery Planning and ARP ESSER (continued)

- **TBD (late July or early August, 2021)** – AOE to meet with Senate and House Education Committees and Joint Fiscal Committee to discuss State Plan
- **August 2021** – AOE will submit State Plan to US Department of Education for review and approval
- **TBD** – AOE receives approval of State Plan from US Department of Education and remaining one third of ARP ESSER allocation is released to Vermont
- **TBD** – AOE opens ARP ESSER Phase II application for LEAs
- **Summer and Fall, 2021** – LEAs develop ARP ESSER LEA plans and engage with stakeholder groups

ARP ESSER State Plan Process



Sections of State Plan

- A. Describing the State's Current Status and Needs
- B. Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining their Safe Operations
- C. Planning for the Use and Coordination of ARP ESSER Funds**
- D. Maximizing State-Level Funds to Support Students**
- E. Supporting LEAs in Planning for Students' Needs
- F. Supporting the Educator Workforce
- G. Monitoring and Measuring Progress

C. Planning for Use and Coordination of ARP ESSER Funds

SEA Consultation

- [Section C State Plan Template Questions \(page 8\)](#)
- Education Recovery initiative was developed through significant stakeholder input beginning in January 2021
- Timeline of stakeholder engagement for Education recovery and ARP ESSER State Plan can be found on slides 11-13

Required stakeholders

“including, but not limited to...”

1. Students
2. Families
3. Tribes (if applicable)
4. Civil rights organizations (including disability rights)
5. School and district administrators (including SPED directors)
6. Superintendents
7. Teachers, principals, school leaders, other education leaders, school staff and their unions
8. Stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, Els, homelessness, foster care, migratory students, incarcerated students and other underserved students

... “An SEA must also provide the public with the opportunity to provide input... and take such input into account” (IFR, 21197 and USED webinar on 4/27/21) and post on website by June 21, 2021

Coordinating Federal Funds

- Emergency Response:
 - ESSER I and II funds used to create an improved communication infrastructure, provide new platforms to facilitate remote learning and respond to emergency needs in the field
 - GEER I funds used to support the state's Career and Technical Education (CTE) centers to build out remote learning opportunities and safely return to in-person learning and the hands-on opportunities central to CTE curriculum.

Summary Table of ESSER I, II and GEER I Funds used for Emergency Response

Fund	Project Name	Short Description	Cost
ESSER I	Salesforce CRM	Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tool to respond to queries from the public and the field related to COVID-19 response.	\$251,584
ESSER I	Salesforce (Knowledge Base) and Helpdesk Expansion	The addition of a public knowledge base component to the existing helpdesk tool to provide knowledge articles to users.	\$294,025
ESSER I	Salesforce (Symptom Tracker)	Framework for COVID-19 related symptom checking and tracking for schools	\$407,412
ESSER II	Burlington High School Macy's Retrofit	Costs associated with the retrofitting of the former Macy's retail space to accommodate in-person learning for Burlington High School (BHS) students.	\$3,500,000
GEER	Grants for CTE Centers	Grant program for the state's Career and Technical Education (CTE) centers	\$4,268,801

Coordinating Funds

- Future Supports for Education Recovery
 - Use of ESSER I and II focused on:
 - Socioemotional, Mental Health and Wellness
 - Student Engagement (Summer Programming)
 - Academic Success
 - Safe Operations
 - Use of GEER II funds to be determined by Governor

Summary Table of ESSER I, II and GEER II Funds used for Education Recovery

Fund	Project Name	Short Description	Cost
ESSER I	Edmodo	Professional Network and K-5 Learning Management System	\$322,432
ESSER I	PBS Learning Kits	Learning kits created by Vermont PBS, in partnership with AOE staff, and distributed in summer 2021 to young learners attending 21C programs.	\$50,000
ESSER I	Social emotional and Mental Health	Development and support of a website containing curated materials on best practice for educators to ensure students' social emotional, and mental health/well-being	\$378,000
ESSER II	Construction Consultant	Consultant to support LEAs in facilities and construction projects	\$ 127,500 (through 9/30/23)
ESSER II	Summer Learning 2021	Subgrant to Vermont Afterschool	\$ 4,095,838
ESSER II	Summer Learning and Afterschool 2021-2023	To be determined	\$4,339,131
GEER II	To be determined	To be determined	\$1,930,818

D. Maximizing State-Level Funds to Support Students

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- [Section D State Plan Template Questions \(page 10\)](#)
- The Agency may reserve up to \$28,516,484 for priorities and strategies to address the impact of COVID-19
- Through legislative action \$17,933,000 of this total state-level set aside has been appropriated
- States must address the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on underserved students through the mandated State Set-asides.

Underserved Student Groups

- All spending priorities need to address all of these specific groups:
 - Students from low-income families
 - Students from each racial/ethnic group
 - Gender
 - English language learners
 - Children with disabilities
 - Students experiencing homelessness
 - Children/youth in foster care
 - Migratory students
 - Other groups disproportionately impacted by COVID-19

Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time

- Mandated set aside: \$14,258,200
- The AOE has not yet selected specific evidence-based interventions to address the academic impact of lost instructional time.
- Focus on improving literacy outcomes. \$3,534,000 has been appropriated through [Vermont Act 28 Sec. 4\(a and b\)](#)

Evidence-Based Summer Learning and Enrichment Programs

- Mandated set aside: \$2,851,640
- \$4,095,838 in ESSER II state level set aside for Summer Matters program in partnership with Vermont After School for 2021
- Analysis of data from 2021 will inform approach to Summer 2022 and 2023 programming which AOE intends to fund using ESSER II and ARP ESSER state-level set aside

Evidence-Based Comprehensive Afterschool Programs

- Mandated set aside: \$2,851,640.
- AOE has not yet identified specific evidence-based after school programs
- Plan to leverage existing evidence-based programs such as 21C

Emergency Needs/Other

- [Act 72](#) appropriated \$4,000,000 for a school facilities improvement program
- [Act 74](#)
 - \$3,000,000 for regional capacity grants to address students' social, emotional, and mental health needs
 - \$1,000,000 Educator Workforce development (discussed in more detail in Section F)
 - \$3,000,000 for remote learning supports
- [Act 67](#) \$3,399,000 appropriated for integrated service delivery models through the creation of Community Schools

Vermont Legislative Appropriations Summary

Act Number	Fund	Amount	Title or Short Description
Act 28	ARP ESSER	\$3,534,000	Prek-12 Literacy
Act 67	ARP ESSER	\$3,399,000	Community Schools Grants
Act 72	ARP ESSER	\$4,000,000	School Facilities Improvement
Act 74	ARP ESSER	\$3,000,000	Mental Health Regional Capacity Grants
Act 74	ARP ESSER	\$3,000,000	Remote Learning Supports
Act 74	ARP ESSER	1,000,000	Funds to address emerging State-level needs
Act 74	ARP ESSER	\$1,000,000	Educator Workforce Development
Act 74	ESSER II	\$4,000,000	Summer and Afterschool Programs
Budget Adjustment Act	ESSER II	\$3,500,000	Burlington High School Macy's Retrofit
Act 72	ESSER II	\$127,500	Construction/Facilities Consultant
Act 74	ESSER II	\$4,434,969	Summer Programming (Summer Matters Grant)
Act 74	ESSER I	953,021	Software Tools for COVID-19 Response
Act 74	ESSER I	2,006,074	Learning Management Assistance and Tools for Remote Learning
Total Obligation of ESSER State Set Aside		\$33,954,564	