



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 15, 2021

To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads

Route To: ESEA Directors, Directors of Special Education, School Business Administrators

From: Kevin Dehmer, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Finance

Lisa J. Gleason, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Academics and Performance

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Deadlines: April 16, 2021 (Data Collection)
May 14, 2021 (Grant Application)

Release of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II Application and Opening of Data Collection Process

The federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) includes funding sources for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and provides funds for the State to administer, as needed, to address issues related to COVID-19. Specifically, section 313 of the CRRSA Act provides for supplemental appropriations for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II). As outlined in the February 19, 2021 [broadcast memo](#), the core purpose of the ESSER II Fund is to provide direct monies to LEAs to address the areas most impacted by the disruption and closure of schools caused by COVID-19, and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has designated \$75 million from its State set-aside to establish the Learning Acceleration Grant and \$30 million to establish the Mental Health Grant.

Consolidated CRRSA ESSER II Grant Applications will be available in the NJDOE's Electronic Web Enabled Grant ([EWEG](#)) system on March 15, 2021. This includes Local Education Agencies' (LEAs') ESSER II allocations, as well as the Learning Acceleration Grant and the Mental Health Grant applications.

The deadline to apply is **May 14, 2021**. Additional information and guidance on these grants, including LEAs' allocations and an ESSER II Fact Sheet, can be found on the [CRRSA Act](#) webpage.

Data Collection Process

As announced in the February 25, 2021 [broadcast memo](#), to ensure that New Jersey students are making meaningful growth toward grade-level standards, the NJDOE will collect data from locally administered assessments that provide a snapshot of student learning during this school year.

The purpose of this collection is to obtain mid-year local assessment data that can be used to determine whether New Jersey students are on track to meet their grade level New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) for this year. While yearly midpoints vary across the state, for the purposes of this collection, the interim assessment data must come from assessments administered between November 16, 2020 and February 19, 2021. The collection will indicate whether students are below, on, or above grade level, with "grade level" referencing the district's expectations of student mastery of the NJSLS at a designated point in time. The data will be used to inform a statewide snapshot of state-level data regarding student performance aligned with the NJSLS and will be reported by grade level, content area, and by student populations.

Each district will rely on local English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science interim assessment data to report student progress through a NJDOE-provided Spring Assessment Data template (see below for link). Specifically, districts will report progress on:

- ELA: K-10
- Math: K-8; Algebra I, II and Geometry
- Science: K-11; Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Earth and Space Science

The application for ESSER II allocations, Learning Acceleration grants, and Mental Health grants will include an assurance that districts will submit this data collection **by April 16, 2021**. Upon completing that assurance and submitting a substantially approvable application, districts may begin spending against those allocations in accordance with each grants' corresponding rules. The data will be collected via a separate portal in the NJDOE Homeroom online portal. The NJDOE has added compliance with that data collection assurance as an indicator in its ESSER II Collaborative Monitoring Risk Assessment tool; failure to submit the complete data within the required timeframe may result in further intervention by the NJDOE.

The Spring Assessment Data Collection recorded Technical Assistance Webinar, and submission template can all be found in the Spring Assessment Data Collection application located in [NJDOE Homeroom](#). An FAQ document will be forthcoming.

Contact information

Please contact TitleOne@doe.nj.gov with questions regarding the ESSER II grant application process.

Please contact DOERoadForward@doe.nj.gov with questions regarding the data collection process.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
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NJ LEE Group