



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: February 19, 2021
Updated May 12, 2021

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

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

From: **Kathy Ehling, Acting Assistant Commissioner**
Division of Student Services

Kevin Dehmer, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Finance

Deadline: May 14, 2021
Update: Extended to June 1, 2021

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II

This May 12, 2021 broadcast memo updates the memo originally issued on February 19, 2021 to announce that the New Jersey Department of Education has extended the deadline for LEAs to submit ESSER II grant applications from May 14, 2021, to June 1, 2021.

The federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act was enacted on December 27, 2020. The Act 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 with the initial ESSER Fund established under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in March of 2020, the core purpose of the ESSER II Fund is to provide direct money to LEAs to address the areas most impacted by the disruption and closure of schools caused by COVID-19.

ESSER II Fund awards to LEAs are allocated in the same proportion as those funds received under Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), in school year 2020-2021. ESSER II allocations are available on the CRRSA Act webpage. The CRRSA Act includes a separate program of Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS); consequently, LEAs are not required to provide equitable services under ESSER II.

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has determined to use ESSER II State set-aside funds to provide assistance to non-Title I LEAs, County Special Services School Districts, Education Services Commissions, Jointure Commissions, Division of Children and Families, Department of Corrections, Juvenile Justice Commission, and the Juvenile Detention Centers. These allocations are also available on the CRRSA Act webpage.

In addition, the NJDOE has designated \$75 million from the State set-aside to establish the Learning Acceleration Grant. Seventy-five percent of those funds will be used to support research-based academic enrichment activities such as summer learning academies, school year learning acceleration academies, and 1:1 tutoring. The remaining twenty-five percent of the Learning Acceleration Grant funds will be used for activities that support the broader learning ecosystem, such as evidence-based strategies to cultivate a growth mindset in students, professional learning for educators in the use of formative assessments and the use of extended instructional time to effectively scaffold students' learning, as well integrate parents and educators into a multi-tiered system of

supports. Allocations for these funds were determined in the same manner as the ESSER II allocations by the federal government. Both Title I, Part A and non-Title I LEAs will receive an allocation at a minimum of \$25,000.

Lastly, the NJDOE has designated \$30 million from the State set-aside for the provision of mental health services and supports. These funds will support schools in building or enhancing a continuum of school-based mental health services for students, in coordination with existing county and local services, and supports for educators. Allocations for these funds were based upon total LEA enrollment with a minimum allocation of \$45,000 per LEA. The allocations are also available on the CRRSA Act webpage.

ESSER II grant applications will be available through the [Electronic Web Enabled Grant \(EWEG\)](#) system beginning March 15, 2021. The deadline to submit an application is May 14, 2021 (**Update: Extended to June 1, 2021**). Additional information and guidance on ESSER II, including an ESSER II Fact Sheet, can be found on the CRRSA Act webpage. If you or your staff have questions regarding the ESSER II grant application process, please contact Titleone@doe.nj.gov. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

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