



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 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: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Education Services  
Deadline: November 24, 2021

## American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Funds Additional Allocations

As [announced](#) on August 12, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education has approved the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE)'s ARP ESSER State Plan. The [approved plan](#) reflects New Jersey's commitment to supporting students, educators, and schools as they safely return to in-person learning while addressing the academic, social, emotional, and mental health impacts of COVID-19. As part of the NJDOE's ongoing commitment to providing regular updates on the ARP ESSER funds to local educational agencies (LEAs), today the NJDOE is pleased to share the below additional ARP ESSER subgrant allocations.

### Background

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act provides an additional \$122 billion in ESSER funds with the overarching purpose of providing states and LEAs with emergency relief funds to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including its impact on the social, emotional, mental health and academic needs of students. New Jersey received a total of \$2,766,529,533 in ARP ESSER Funds. The NJDOE created an [ESSER Fact Sheet](#) to provide guidance on the allowable uses and the differences between the three ESSER funds: CARES or ESSER I, CRSSA or ESSER II and ARP ESSER.

The ARP Act requires each state to subgrant at least 90 percent of its total ARP ESSER allocation to LEAs on the basis of each LEA's respective share of funds received under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) in the 2020-2021 school year. As announced on May 24, 2021, eligible LEAs already have access to two-thirds (2/3) of those ARP ESSER Fund awards through the [Electronic Web Enabled Grant \(EWEG\)](#) system. Today the NJDOE is pleased to provide details on the following additional ARP ESSER subgrants:

1. The remaining one-third (1/3) of ARP ESSER Fund awards;
2. ARP ESSER grants for non-Title I LEAs and other educational entities that did not receive funds under Title I, Part A of the ESEA in the 2020-2021 school year (e.g. State Agencies and public receiving schools);
3. Accelerated Learning Coaching and Educator Support Grant;
4. Evidence-Based Summer Learning and Enrichment Activities Grant;
5. Evidence-Based Comprehensive Beyond the School Day Activities Grant; and
6. New Jersey Tiered System of Supports (NJTSS) Mental Health Support Staffing Grant.

### Allocations

All ARP ESSER allocations are now available to view on the NJDOE's [ARP ESSER webpage](#). On or around September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021, a consolidated application for these additional ARP ESSER grants will be available through EWEG in the same application as the ARP ESSER Fund that launched on May 24, 2021. As announced in May, the **deadline to submit an application is November 24, 2021.**

To assist LEAs with planning and submitting their ARP ESSER applications, the NJDOE intends to provide the following regular updates:

1. **This broadcast memo:** Additional ARP ESSER subgrant allocation amounts and program descriptions;
2. **September 22, 2021:** Additional information on the questions that will be included in the ARP ESSER consolidated application; and
3. **September 29, 2021:** Launch of the ARP ESSER consolidated application in EWEG.

#### **Program Descriptions**

- **Remaining one-third (1/3) of ARP ESSER Fund awards:** LEAs are now able to access the full amount of their ARP ESSER award. LEAs that have already submitted an application for the first installment of their ARP ESSER Fund award will need to submit an amendment for the additional funds.
- **Grants for otherwise unfunded entities:** The NJDOE allocated approximately \$14.1 million of the State's ARP ESSER funds to non-Title I districts and other educational entities, including State Agencies and public receiving schools, to aid their efforts to prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Accelerated Learning Coaching and Educator Support Grant:** New Jersey allocated another \$135.1 million in grants to LEAs to provide professional learning for educators and other school staff in skills and topics that will empower them to better meet the needs of their students.
- **Evidence-Based Summer Learning and Enrichment Activities Grant:** Building on the progress of the ESSER II Learning Acceleration grant, this grant, totaling about \$27.7 million, is designed to support research-based summer activities that reinforce the broader learning ecosystem of students, staff, and families.
- **Evidence-Based Comprehensive Beyond the School Day Activities Grant:** Building on the progress of the ESSER II Learning Acceleration Grant, the \$27.7 million for this grant is intended to provide resources for research-based academic enrichment activities during out-of-school time (e.g. before-school, after-school, weekends, and holiday breaks).
- **NJTSS Mental Health Support Staffing Grant:** Finally, New Jersey directed \$48 million to NJTSS Mental Health Support Staffing Grants to LEAs to aid in the development and implementation of Tier II (targeted, small group interventions) and Tier III (intensive interventions) services in accordance with a multi-tiered systems of support framework that addresses students' and educators' mental health and social emotional needs.

Additional information and guidance on ARP ESSER, including summaries of each subgrant described briefly above, can be found on the NJDOE's ARP ESSER webpage.

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