



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: July 6, 2022
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

NJDOE Releases Free Resource for Maximizing Federal Funding

Today, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), in partnership with the [Region 4 Comprehensive Center](#), is sharing a free resource called "[Maximizing Federal Funds](#)." This new resource was designed as an extension to the 2017 NJDOE resource entitled "[Unlocking Your Federal Funds](#)" which provided information on federal funding flexibilities under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA).

The purpose of this resource is to help school district leaders, Local Education Agencies (LEAs), grant administrators, educators, and other stakeholders understand how different federal funds may be used in the short- and long-term to meet specific student and staff needs. School communities are working tirelessly to meet the needs of their students, especially in light of the disruption to education throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This guidance is meant to further encourage conversations in school communities so LEAs can more strategically connect federal funding received through COVID-19 Relief Aid to Support Education (collectively known as Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief or ESSER funding) to other federal funding streams (e.g. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Title I, Title IIA).

LEAs can best use this guidance if they first conduct a robust school and LEA [needs assessment](#) with meaningful [stakeholder engagement](#) to identify student and staff needs, particularly the needs of the most vulnerable and those most impacted by COVID-19. Once an LEA's needs and priorities are identified, this resource can offer ideas and inspiration about how to use ESSER money in conjunction with existing federal and state funding streams to best support students' social, academic, and mental health needs. This process occurs throughout the year and may inform LEA federal spending plans, or amendments to those plans and all local budgets.

New webinars and additional technical assistance sessions will occur throughout the 2022-2023 school year, with the first webinar scheduled for August 4, 2022 at 10 a.m. Register on the [NJDOE Calendar of Events](#). Additional learning opportunities for practitioners to share best practices will also be forthcoming throughout the year.

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