



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: June 21, 2023

To: Local Educational Agency Leads

Route To: ESEA Directors, Directors of Special Education, School Business Administrators, Staff Involved with ESSER Funds

From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Teaching and Learning Services

Deadline: June 28, 2023

Public Comment on an Amendment to Section D of the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) State Plan

As a part of the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) commitment to providing regular ARP ESSER updates to local educational agencies (LEAs), today the NJDOE is inviting public comment on an amendment to Section D.1 of the ARP ESSER State Plan.

Background

The ARP Act provides an additional \$122 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) to States and school districts to help safely reopen, sustain the safe operation of schools, and to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nation's students. The New Jersey [ARP ESSER plan was approved](#) by the United States Department of Education (USDE) in August 2021.

In an effort to meet the needs of the State, the NJDOE is amending a smaller portion of its plan in Section D.1 that focuses on how the State is using evidence-based interventions to address the academic impact of lost instructional time. The plan will continue to support the formula grant to LEAs – Accelerated Learning Coaching and Educator Support Grant, and reallocate previously earmarked funds for assessments (Start Strong and Kindergarten Readiness) toward initiatives for bolstering foundational literacy skills in early learners.

Public Comment Process

The ARP ESSER Amendment is available for review on the [NJDOE ARP ESSER webpage](#). The NJDOE invites all members of the public to review the proposal and submit comments to ESSER@doe.nj.gov by **June 28, 2023, at 5 p.m.**

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group