



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: April 3, 2024
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: School Business Administrators, ARP ESSER Project Directors, Grant Directors, Curriculum Directors
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Supports for Spending the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Funds

The Federal American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund, also referred to as ARP ESSER or ESSER III, is the last of the federal relief funds meant to assist with COVID-19 recovery. The goal of ARP ESSER is to support local educational agencies (LEAs) in preparing for and responding to the impact of COVID-19 on educators, students, and families. ARP ESSER funds must be obligated by September 2024 and completely spent by October 2024.



Resources to Support LEAs Spending of ESSER Funds

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) recognizes that because of the expansion of allowable uses (see January 2024 [broadcast](#) memorandum) and the evolving needs of students and communities, LEAs may need to amend ARP ESSER spending plans.

To support LEAs and school staff involved in reporting, filing, and spending ESSER funding, the NJDOE has created additional trainings and resources. Please see the information below for additional information.

- **ARP ESSER “Spend” Sessions:**
 - Maximizing Federal Funds Technical Assistance Sessions will provide information on how different Federal funds may be used to meet students’ specific, identified needs through guidance shared in the NJDOE’s [web resource](#).
 - **Announcing New Funding Tables:** Each April session will introduce a new priority area for the Maximizing Federal Funds webpage: **Supporting Arts Education and Arts Integration** on [April 16, 2024](#) and **Enhancing Inclusive Opportunities** on [April 23, 2024](#). Join these sessions to learn how to use federal funds to create and/or sustain successful programs and services beyond 2024.
 - **High-Impact Tutoring and High-Quality Summer Programs:** On [April 18, 2024](#), the session will focus on the NJDOE’s [2023 Summer Learning Program Development guidance and High-Impact Tutoring Initiative resources](#). Join this session to hear about ways to use remaining ARP ESSER funds this year and to learn to use federal funds to create and/or sustain successful programs beyond 2024. Federal funds can be used to support learning acceleration efforts and to help students who were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **[Review Amend Spend Webpage](#):** The website is a guide to help LEAs spend ARP ESSER dollars in ways to best support students.

Contact Information

See the [ESSER webpage](#) for general ESSER information and resources, and for questions please contact esser@doe.nj.gov.

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