



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: February 28, 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 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 Amendment Process Video](#): This video was created by the Office of Grants Management and explains the step-by-step process of creating an amendment in the electronic web-enable grant system.
- **ARP ESSER “Spend” Sessions:**
 - Maximizing Federal Funds 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](#). Each March session will highlight a different LEA’s plans for sustainability and its decision-making process: [March 12, 2024](#) and [March 28, 2024](#). Forthcoming April sessions will introduce new funding tables focusing on inclusive practices and arts education.
 - In collaboration with the NJDOE, on [March 8, 2024](#), the New Jersey School-Age Child Care Coalition (NJSACC), an afterschool and out-of-school time (OST) professional network will present on its ESSER Toolkit "[A Guide for New Jersey's School and District Leaders](#)." Join this session to learn to use federal funds to partner with quality afterschool, OST, and summer programs to address the impact on students from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **ARP ESSER Round Table Series:** Join the next session on [March 20, 2024](#), “Making the Most of Your ARP ESSER Dollars: Ensuring Fiscal Responsibility.” This session is part of the series that features LEA leaders who share best practices and lessons learned.
- [Review Amend Spend Webpage](#): The website is a guide to help LEAs spend ARP ESSER dollars in ways to best support students.

Contact Information

For general ESSER information and resources, please see the [ESSER webpage](#), 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