



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: January 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 American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief

As part of ongoing efforts to support Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) in expending all Federal American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funding in early 2024, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is highlighting available resources, including January “Review. Amend. Spend.” events.

In addition to the resources below, a forthcoming NJDOE memorandum will announce the United States Department of Education’s (USED’s) approval of amendments to New Jersey’s ARP ESSER State Plan. These amendments expand allowable uses originally listed in the 2021 ARP ESSER State Plan. The NJDOE anticipates that with the expansion of allowable uses for the ARP ESSER subgrants, and the evolving needs of students and communities, LEAs should consider amendments to ARP ESSER spending plans. Amendments to the ARP ESSER State Plan will be explained in all training sessions listed below and are explained on the [Review Amend Spend Webpage](#).

### Background: What is ARP ESSER?

The ARP ESSER Fund, also referred to as 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 COVID19 on educators, students, and families. The [Federal Funding Education Dashboard](#) shows the amount of funding that must be expended in the first half of 2024.



**REVIEW. AMEND. SPEND.**  
3 Steps to Support Students with ARP  
ESSER Funding

### Resources to Support LEAs Spending of ESSER Funds

The ARP ESSER funding provided opportunities for LEAs to spend funds on what LEAs determined to be the greatest need. However, since LEAs submitted their first ARP ESSER plan in 2021, student and LEA needs may have changed. Therefore, the NJDOE has created resources for LEAs and school staff who are involved in the reporting, filing, and spending of ESSER funding. See below for currently available resources:

- [ARP ESSER Quick Reference Guide](#): This resource is most useful to LEA staff new to ESSER funding and can be used to guide LEAs on the ways to spend funds that will best support students. This two-page reference guide includes a brief background, timelines, useful links, a list of requirements and allowable uses for the ARP ESSER funds.
- [Review Amend Spend Webpage](#): The website is a step-by-step guide to assist LEAs in the expenditure of ARP ESSER dollars.
- **ARP ESSER "Review" Training Module and Office Hours**: The NJDOE Office of Fiscal and Data Services will be hosting a “Review” training session with office hours following immediately after on [January 4, 2024](#). This training module will provide an overview of available data LEAs should review when deciding whether to amend their ARP ESSER spending plan.

- **ARP ESSER “Amend” Training Module and Office Hours:** The NJDOE Office of Grants Management will be hosting an “Amend” training session with office hours following immediately after on [January 9, 2024](#). This training is an opportunity for LEAs to receive real-time assistance with the ARP ESSER Amendment process.
- **ARP ESSER “Spend” Training Module and Office Hours:** Join this training session on [January 18, 2024](#) for information on how ARP ESSER funds can be combined with other sustainable federal funding streams. More information can be found online: [NJDOE Maximizing Federal Funds website](#).
- **ARP ESSER Round Table Series:** Coming up next on [January 24, 2024](#), “Making the Most of Your ARP ESSER Dollars: Supporting Learning Acceleration.”

**Contact information**

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

c: Members, State Board of Education  
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