



## What is ARP ESSER?

The Federal American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (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 COVID-19 on educators, students, and families. ARP ESSER funds must be obligated by September 2024 and completely spent by October 2024.

## Timeline\*



**March 2021 -  
Funds distributed**

**September 30, 2024 -  
Funds must be obligated**  
(expend funding according to standards set by the grant)

**October 13, 2024-  
Funds must be liquidated**  
(paid out)

*\*These dates are tentative as per NJDOE and USED guidance.*

## What are important aspects to consider when spending ARP ESSER funds?

- ★ LEAs will be required to provide fiscal and performance reports to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) **documenting the amount of ARP ESSER funds spent** in each allowable use category. Fiscal information is collected through the Electronic Web-Enable Grant (EWEG) system and performance reports are collected through the ESSER Performance Application. Both systems are accessible through [NJDOE Homeroom](#).
- ★ ARP ESSER requires LEAs to reserve a **minimum** of 20% of their total ARP ESSER allocation to **address gaps in learning caused by the pandemic** through the implementation of evidence-based interventions.
- ★ LEAs will be required to document and report how they obligate and liquidate the 20% requirement to address learning loss.
- ★ Learning loss includes, but is not limited to: **interventions responding to students' academic, social, and emotional needs** as well as **addressing the disproportionate impact of COVID-19** on underrepresented student groups as identified in the LEA's comprehensive needs assessment.
- ★ Important reminders: All procurement rules apply to federal funds spent, all staff charged to ARP ESSER must complete timesheets, and all TPAF (Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund) eligible staff must be included in the TPAF/FICA (Federal Insurance Contributions Act) Reimbursement Report.



**What are allowable uses for ARP ESSER funds? Here is a list of examples:\*\***

- ★ Activities authorized under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, or the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act
- ★ Providing mental health services and support
- ★ Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs
- ★ Providing principals and others school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools
- ★ Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by their local educational agency
- ★ Provide stipends for educators attending professional learning on foundational literacy (RAPID and RAPID Plus)
- ★ Initiate or expand high-impact tutoring programs
- ★ School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards (please note: there may be additional processes to get some repairs/improvements approved)

Please view additional [ESSER resources](#)

*\*\*This is not an exhaustive list of examples.*

**ARP ESSER requires a specific focus on students most impacted by the pandemic:**



Students with Disabilities

Students from Low Income Families

Multilingual Learners

Students of Color

Migratory Students

Children and Youth in Foster Care

Students experiencing Homelessness

**Important Links:**

- ★ [Maximizing Federal Funds](#)
- ★ [United States Department of Education \(USED\) ESSER FAQs](#)
- ★ [NJDOE ARP ESSER Information Page](#)
- ★ For any questions specifically regarding applications or amendments, please contact: [Grants.Vendors@doe.nj.gov](mailto:Grants.Vendors@doe.nj.gov)
- ★ Email any questions to: [ESSER@doe.nj.gov](mailto:ESSER@doe.nj.gov)

If you are curious about how much of the federal funding **your specific county/district has spent**, please check out the [Federal Education Funding Dashboard](#).

