

New Jersey State Plan American Rescue Plan ESSER Fund

New Jersey Department of Education
Spring 2021

Please provide comments via email:

ARPPlan@doe.nj.gov



American Rescue Plan: New Jersey K–12 Education Overview



- NJ's total allocation for the ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER):
\$2,764,587,703
 - NJ has received $\frac{2}{3}$ of this allocation, and must submit an application to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) for the remaining $\frac{1}{3}$.
- NJ's total allocation for ARP Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic Schools: \$70,947,730
- States must submit an ARP ESSER application to USDE by June 7, 2021
 - State Plan will provide an overview of how NJDOE will spend its State Set-Aside, and how NJDOE will support LEAs in implementing ARP ESSER requirements.
 - State must engage stakeholders and allow public input in development of the State Plan.



ARP ESSER: New Jersey Details

NJ's Total ARP ESSER Allocation: \$2,764,587,703

2/3 of Allocation (First Tranche): \$1,843,058,469

1/3 of Allocation (Second Tranche, pending approval of NJDOE application by USDE): \$921,529,234

Total Minimum Direct to LEAs (90%):

\$2,488,128,933

- Develop plan for safe return to in-person
- At least 20% for learning loss activities that address social, emotional, and academic needs and disproportionate impact on subgroups
- Remaining 80% on wide range of activities: special emphasis on implementing public health protocols consistent with CDC guidelines

Total Maximum State Set-Aside (10%):
\$276,458,770

Learning Loss (5%): \$138,229,385

Summer (1%): \$27,645,877

Afterschool (1%): \$27,645,877

Admin (0.5%): \$13,822,939

Other (2.5%): \$69,114,693



ARP ESSER State Plan Template

(1 of 2)



ARP ESSER State Plan Template

- Section A. Describing the State's Current Status and Needs
- Section B. Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining their Safe Operations
- Section C. Planning for the Use and Coordination of ARP ESSER Funds
- Section D. Maximizing State-Level Funds to Support Students



ARP ESSER State Plan Template

(2 of 2)



ARP ESSER State Plan Template

- Section E. Supporting LEAs in Planning for and Meeting Students' Needs
- Section F. Supporting the Educator Workforce
- Section G. Monitoring and Measuring Progress
- Appendix A. School Operating Status and Instructional Mode Data Template





Section A: Describing the State's Current Status and Needs



Section A. Describing the State's Current Status and Needs

1. Describe the State's Promising Practices
 - Targeting federal COVID-19 relief funds
 - Collecting new data points, including Digital Divide, Learning Environment, Interim Assessments, and Start Strong Assessments
 - Promoting sharing of information between LEAs
2. State's Overall Priorities
 - Variation in learning models and return to in-person
 - Unfinished learning
 - Social, emotional, and mental health needs

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Section A. Describing the State's Current Status and Needs

3. Identifying Needs of Underserved Students
 - NJDOE will provide a statewide snapshot of student performance, including subgroup performance, based on the State's [spring assessment data collection](#) (collected this Spring as part of the State's Road Forward initiative)

4. Understanding the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic
 - The following tools may be used to help LEAs understand the impact of COVID-19 on students' learning and well-being:
 - LEA Needs Assessment completed as part of the ARP ESSER application
 - Annual School Plan System (as currently required by ESEA for schools identified for CSI, TSI, and ATSI, and schools implementing Title I schoolwide programs)
 - Start Strong Assessment
 - Other guidance and supports

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Section B: Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining their Safe Operations



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1. LEA Plan for Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

- LEAs will submit this plan to NJDOE via the NJDOE's electronic web-enabled grants management system (EWEG), within the ARP ESSER application by June 24, 2021.
- LEAs must periodically, but no less frequently than every six months through September 30, 2023, review and, as appropriate, revise their Safe Return Plan.

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Section C: Planning for the Use and Coordination of ARP ESSER Funds



Section C: Planning for the Use & Coordination of ARP ESSER Funds

Technical information regarding existing programs; describes ongoing NJDOE initiatives and provides existing data.



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Section D: Maximizing State-Level Funds to Support Students



Section D: Overview

- The following slides summarize the NJDOE's proposal for use of its State set-aside funds (see slide 3).
- The NJDOE is proposing to establish several grants for LEAs that will fund specific activities to address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students and educators.
- Each slide in Section D will summarize a proposed grant, including the types of activities on which districts would be allowed to spend the grants.

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Section D: Maximizing State-Level Funds to Support Students

Use of 5% Reservation for Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time

1. Grant to LEAs: *Acceleration Coach and Educator Support* (\$134,996,987)
 - Support of Intervention and Referral Services, and Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports and Response to Intervention, that expand the LEA's capacity to stand up effective, high-quality learning acceleration activities supported by the Learning Acceleration grant that NJDOE made available in March 2021;
 - Development of positive school climates that promote the social, emotional, and well-being of students;
 - Implementation of social and emotional learning in classroom, schools, and communities;
 - Application of culturally responsive teaching practices.

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Section D: Maximizing State-Level Funds to Support Students

Use of 5% Reservation for Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time

1. Grant to LEAs: *Acceleration Coach and Educator Support* (\$134,996,987) (continued)

- Promoting digital literacy and equitable access to high quality curriculum and instructional technology;
- Using local and state assessment data to improve instruction;
- Engaging educators and parents in the community to prioritize standards and ensure equitable access to grade level standards
- Identifying the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on different student groups
- Supporting other professional learning that will empower educators to better meet the needs of their students.

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Section D: Maximizing State-Level Funds to Support Students

Use of 5% Reservation for Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time (continued)

2. Screener Assessments (\$3,232,398)

- Funds will support NJDOE's implementation of screener assessments that help evaluate and ensure student readiness for learning, including the Start Strong assessment and the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

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Section D: Maximizing State-Level Funds to Support Students

Use of 1% Reservation for Summer Enrichment

1. Grant to LEAs: *Summer Enrichment Activities* (\$27,645,877)

- Support summer activities aligned to those allowed under the NJDOE's previous *Learning Acceleration Grant*, such as:
 - Research-based academic enrichment activities such as summer learning academies and 1:1 tutoring.
 - Activities that support the broader learning ecosystem of students, staff, and families, such as cultivating a growth mindset in students, professional learning for educators in the use of universal screening assessments, and education and training programs for parents and care givers.
 - Target funds to content areas that have been most impacted by COVID-19, such as STEM.

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Section D: Maximizing State-Level Funds to Support Students

Use of 1% Reservation for Afterschool Programs

1. Grant to LEAs: *Beyond the School Day Programs* (\$27,645,877)
 - Support activities taking place outside of traditional school hours (e.g. before school, after school, weekends, and holiday breaks) aligned to those allowed under the NJDOE's previous *Learning Acceleration Grant*, such as:
 - Research-based academic enrichment activities such as summer learning academies and 1:1 tutoring.
 - Activities that support the broader learning ecosystem of students, staff, and families, such as cultivating a growth mindset in students, professional learning for educators in the use of universal screening assessments, and education and training programs for parents and care givers.
 - Target funds to content areas that have been most impacted by COVID-19, such as STEM.

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Section D: Maximizing State-Level Funds to Support Students

Use of 2.5% Reservation for Other Emergency Needs

1. As was done with ESSER I and ESSER II, grants for educational entities that do not receive ARP ESSER allocations (e.g. non-Title I LEAs, State Agencies, and public receiving schools)
2. Grant to LEAs: *MTSS Staff*
 - Support the hiring of staff to develop and implement Tier II and Tier III services in accordance with an MTSS framework that address students' and educators' mental health and social-emotional needs.
 - These funds, in tandem with other federal funds, will help LEAs implement cohesive programs of social, emotional, and mental health supports responses to the needs of students and educators.

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Section D: Maximizing State-Level Funds to Support Students

Use of 2.5% Reservation for Other Emergency Needs (continued)

3. Accelerated Learning Educator Response Team (A.L.E.R.T.)

- In partnership with NJDOE, institutions of higher education (IHEs) and other consultants will serve as “accelerated learning educator response teams” in districts, providing direct learning acceleration supports such as
 - job embedded coaching;
 - accelerated learning toolkits;
 - comprehensive professional learning opportunities; and
 - statewide access to standards-based K–12 digital content in all content areas to strengthen how technology can be used to empower learners.

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Section E: Supporting LEAs in Planning for and Meeting Students' Needs



Section E: Supporting LEAs in Planning for and Meeting Students' Needs

1. LEA Plan for the Use of ARP ESSER Funds
 - LEAs will submit this plan to NJDOE via the NJDOE's electronic web-enabled grants management system, within the ARP ESSER application.
2. NJDOE Monitoring of LEAs' Use of ARP ESSER
 - ARP ESSER funds will be monitored as part of the NJDOE Collaborative Monitoring process.

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Sections F, G, and Appendix A



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