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 2/3 of this allocation, and must submit an application to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) for the remaining 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

• 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
• 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
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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)


- 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
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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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