



ESSER III Update

Summary of New LEA Plan Requirements

Education Leaders Weekly Call

May 5, 2021



NEW LEA ESSER III Plan Requirements

- USED released a **new Interim Final Rule (IFR) for ESSER III** on 4/22/2021, and has released more information and guidance regarding this IFR in the last week
- The IFR provides more detail regarding the requirement for LEAs to develop a “**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan**”
- The IFR also outlines new **local ESSER III plan requirements** that would need to be addressed by LEAs for their use of ESSER III funds

NEW: ESSER III

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

- **All LEAs receiving ESSER III funds must develop and make publicly available on their website, not later than 30 days after receiving an ESSER III allocation, a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan would need to be created in an approachable format for parents and the community**

The plan must address the following sections:

- I. How it will **maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff** and the **extent to which** it has **adopted policies, and a description of any such policies**, on regarding **safety recommendations established by the CDC** (*such as Universal and correct wearing of masks; Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing; Handwashing and respiratory etiquette; Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; etc.*)
- II. How it will **ensure continuity of services**, including but not limited to services to address **students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs**, which may include **student health and food services**
- III. The plan must be **updated regularly - at least every 6 months**, or more often depending on updates in CDC guidance – **through September 30, 2023. Public input must be sought** when revisions are made
- IV. If an **LEA already developed a plan** prior to enactment of the American Rescue Plan Act that meets the statutory requirements, **but does not address all the requirements** on the previous slide, the **LEA must revise and post its plan no later than 6 months after receiving its ESSER III funds** to meet these requirements



NEW: ESSER III

LEA ESSER III Plan Requirements

- There are **new requirements** for LEAs to develop **local plans** for their use of **ESSER III** funds. While these elements will be included as part of the GME ESSER III application, the plan would also need to be **publicly available on the LEA website** and created in an approachable format for parents and the community

The plan must include the following elements:

- How the LEA will spend its **80% discretionary funds**
 - How the LEA will use the new **20% required set-aside** funds to increase **learning opportunities for vulnerable populations of students**
 - How the LEA will ensure that the interventions it implements, **including but not limited to the 20% required set-aside interventions to address the academic impact of lost instructional time, will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly for our most vulnerable populations of students**
 - The extent to which and **how the funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies** that are, to the greatest extent practicable, **consistent with the most recent CDC guidance** on reopening schools, in order to **continuously and safely open and operate** schools for **in-person learning**
- LEAs must engage in **meaningful consultation with stakeholders** (defined in the IFR), and **provide the public the opportunity to provide input and take such input into account** in the development of their plan



NEW: ESSER III

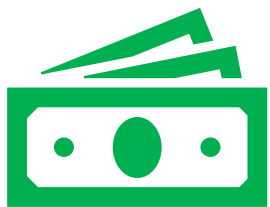
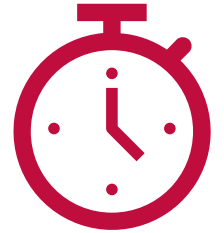
General Timeline & Sequencing

- **Notice of ESSER III Allocations and Opening of LEA Application by May 24, 2021**
- **Safe Return for In-Person Instruction Plan**
 - **If no plan was in place, then it would need to be created by July 2, 2021**
 - **If a plan was already in place, then the plan would need to be revised to address the new requirements to be in place for the first day of the next school year (SY21-22)**
 - **Update at least every 6 months, or more often depending on updates in CDC guidance – through September 30, 2023**



Arizona Department of Education COVID-19 Recovery Funds: CARES, CRRSA and American Rescue Plan (ARP) Acts

\$277M	ESSER I	September 30, 2022
\$19M	GEER I (Acceleration Academies)	September 30, 2022
\$1.14B	ESSER II	September 30, 2023
\$54.4M	EANS I	September 30, 2023
\$54.4M	EANS II (ARP EANS)	September 30, 2023
\$4.2M	ARP Homeless Children and Youth Fund - I	September 30, 2024
\$12.7M	ARP Homeless Children and Youth Fund - II	September 30, 2024
\$2.6B	ESSER III (ARP ESSER)	September 30, 2024



Arizona is projected to receive a total of \$4 billion through Education Stabilization Fund (ESF) programs to support local and statewide COVID-19 recovery efforts



Next Steps & Key Takeaways

- ✓ ESSER III includes **new required set asides** for both ADE and LEA. These will help guide state and local decision making for leveraging these new funds to **accelerate and enrich learning** and **increase learning opportunities** – *particularly for our most vulnerable populations*
- ✓ ADE has created a **strategic planning and budgeting** process grounded in **stakeholder engagement and collaboration** to identify how to best leverage SEA set aside funds to support statewide recovery needs in alignment with our agency's strategic plan, mission and vision
- ✓ ADE is committed to working **collaboratively** to support schools to use **local, state and federal entitlement and recovery funds effectively and strategically** to meet **immediate needs** and to make **thoughtful, sustainable investments** in support of **ongoing** local recovery efforts
- ✓ ESSER (I-III) and ARP Homeless funds represent a **generational opportunity** to make **strategic, sustainable investments** to help **address systemic inequities** and **unleash innovation and creativity** to **transform** teaching and learning to realize our agency's shared vision of

Equity for All Students to Achieve their Full Potential

