



Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund

FY21 Grant Application Guidance

ASBA / ASA / AASBO / ACSA Joint Webinar

May 25, 2021



ESSER III Fund – LEA Grant Application

Thank you to our hosts!



ESSER III Fund – LEA Grant Application

Our Presenters:



Peter Laing - *Policy Advisor*

Callie Kozlak - *Associate Superintendent, Policy & Government Relations*



ESSER III Fund – LEA Grant Application

Our Additional Q&A Panelists:



Chris Kotterman *Director of Government Relations - Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA)*



Chuck Essigs *Director of Governmental Relations - Arizona Association of School Business Officials (AASBO)*



Mark Joraanstad *Executive Director - Arizona School Administrators (ASA)*



Jake Logan *President & CEO - Arizona Charter Schools Association (ACSA)*



ESSER III Fund – LEA Grant Application



Welcome !

Please visit

www.azed.gov/CARES/ESSER

for all grant and program
resources and guidance
documents

If you have any questions,
please contact us at:

ESSER@azed.gov



Webinar Agenda



What is the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act?



The Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund



ESSER III Fund Eligibility & Allocations



Determining Local Needs and new LEA ESSER III Plan Requirements



Overview of the FY21 ESSER III Fund Grant Application in GME:

- *Application Elements*
- *Assurances & Requirements*
- *Allowable (and Unallowable) Uses of Funds*



Timeline



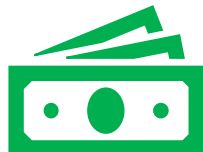
Key Takeaways



Contacts, Resources & Q&A



Timeline for Recovery Funds: ESSER I, II & III



All ESSER Fund grants allow for the reimbursement of allowable expenses included in an approved application back to **March 13, 2020**

\$277M

ESSER I

September 30, 2022

\$1.14B

ESSER II

September 30, 2023

\$2.6B

ESSER III

September 30, 2024



Arizona is projected to receive a total of \$4 billion through the ESSER Fund program to support local and statewide COVID-19 recovery efforts



Breakdown of Arizona's ESSER III Award

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Total ESSER III Award | \$2,582,098,697.00 |
| Total SEA Admin (0.5%) | \$12,910,493.49 |
| Total SEA Activities (9.5%) | \$180,746,908.79 |
| <i>Required SEA Reservation to Address Learning Loss (5%)</i> | \$129,104,934.85 |
| <i>Required SEA Reservation for Summer Enrichment Programs (1%)</i> | \$25,820,986.97 |
| <i>Required SEA Reservation for Comprehensive Afterschool Programs (1%)</i> | \$25,820,986.97 |
| <i>Total Amount for SEA Discretionary Activities (2.5%)</i> | \$64,552,467.43 |
| Total LEA Assistance (90%) | \$2,323,888,827.30 |
| <i>Required LEA Reservation to Address Learning Loss (20%)</i> | \$464,777,765.46 |
| <i>Total Amount for LEA Discretionary Activities (80%)</i> | \$1,859,111,061.84 |

Period of Availability: March 13, 2020 – September 30, 2024



ESSER III Allocations Methodology

ESSER III Allocations Summary

| | Required Allocation | Additional Funds from SEA Reserve | Total Allocation |
|--------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Title I-A LEAs | \$2,323,888,827.30 | \$14,469,338.92 | \$1,043,695,628.69 |
| Non-Title I-A LEAs | | \$29,535,690.00 | \$29,535,690.00 |
| CTED Entities | | \$5,425,830.00 | \$5,425,830.00 |
| TOTAL ALL | | \$49,430,858.92 <i>(~77% of SEA Discretionary Activities Reserve)</i> | \$2,373,319,686.22 |

ESSER III allocations are estimated to be a little more than ~7x a Title I-A LEA's FY21 Title I-A award (prior to adjustments)

Additional funds were provided using the ~77% of the SEA Discretionary Activities Reserve to ensure:

- Non-Title I-A LEAs and CTED Entities receive an award of \$570 per pupil
- Ensure all Title I-A LEAs receive an award of at least \$570 per pupil



NEW: ESSER III SEA and LEA Required Set Asides

ADE Required Set Asides

| | |
|---|----|
| Address Learning Loss | 5% |
| Summer Learning or Summer Enrichment Programs | 1% |
| Comprehensive Afterschool Programs | 1% |



LEA Required Set Aside

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Address Learning Loss | 20% |
|-----------------------|-----|

Activities and interventions may include:

- Summer Learning or Summer Enrichment Programs
- Extended Day Programs
- Comprehensive Afterschool Programs
- Extended School Year Programs

All activities and interventions must be **evidence-based**, respond to students' **academic, social, and emotional needs** and **address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on student populations**, including each major racial and ethnic group, children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, gender, and migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care



Determining Local Needs

- ESSER III Funds are highly flexible, with a **new required set aside (20%) to address learning loss**, and are designed to help address local **recovery efforts** relative to responding to **COVID-19**
- ESSER III Funds can be used **throughout the LEA**, in **all schools** and in support of **all students and staff**
- **Supplement and not supplant** requirements **do not apply** to LEA use of ESSER Fund monies
- LEAs are encouraged to review their **Comprehensive Needs Assessments (CNAs)** through the lens of responding to COVID-19 to identify critical areas of need that can be addressed system-wide and inform local strategic planning and budgeting
- Once local school and LEA needs and activities are determined, the LEA should update their school and LEA **Integrated Action Plans (IAPs)**, using the **COVID funding tag**. This will help to identify opportunities to leverage a braided funding approach, across multiple funding sources, to help support identified local needs and activities systemwide



NEW LEA ESSER III Plan Requirements

- ESSER III has new **LEA ESSER III Plan requirements**. These requirements were announced by USED through an **Interim Final Rule (IFR) that was released on 4/22/2021** and they must be met as a condition of receiving ESSER III funds through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act
- **The new requirements are included as part of the GME ESSER III application. However**, the plan would also need to be made **publicly available on the LEA website** and created in an approachable format for parents and the community

The LEA ESSER III 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 those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic**, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory 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**



NEW LEA ESSER III Plan Requirements

- LEAs must engage in **meaningful consultation with stakeholders** and **provide the public the opportunity to provide input** and **take such input into account** in the development of their plan

Stakeholders must include:

- Students; families; school and district administrators (including special education administrators); and teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions; **and**
- **To the extent present in or served by the LEA:** Tribes; civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); and stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students

The LEA's plan must also be:

- In an **understandable and uniform format**
- To the extent practicable, **written in a language that parents can understand** or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, be orally translated for such parent
- Upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent
- Be made **publicly available on the LEA's website**

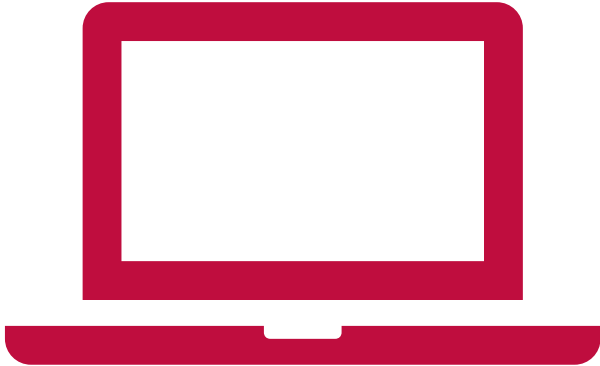


Overview of the Grant Application in GME

The **FY21 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund Grant** application may be accessed through the **ADE Grants Management** system at: gme.azed.gov

You will need to sign into the Grants Management system using your **ADEConnect** login information to access the application. **Access to the Grants Management system may need to be granted to you by your local LEA ADEConnect Entity Administrator**

The Funding Application is named: **“Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund Grant”** under **Fiscal Year 2021**



Complete All Required Sections in GME



| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | FFATA & GSA Verification |
| | FFATA & GSA Verification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Program Information / Instructions |
| | Program Information / Instructions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Contacts |
| | Contact Information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Assurances |
| | Assurance of Application Completion |
| | Program Assurances |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund Grant |
| | Budget |
| | Budget Overview |
| | Required LEA Set-Aside |
| | Program Narrative Questions |
| | Capital Outlay Worksheet |
| | Related Documents |

Overview of the Grant Application in GME



FFATA & GSA VERIFICATION

PROGRAM INFORMATION / INSTRUCTION

CONTACTS

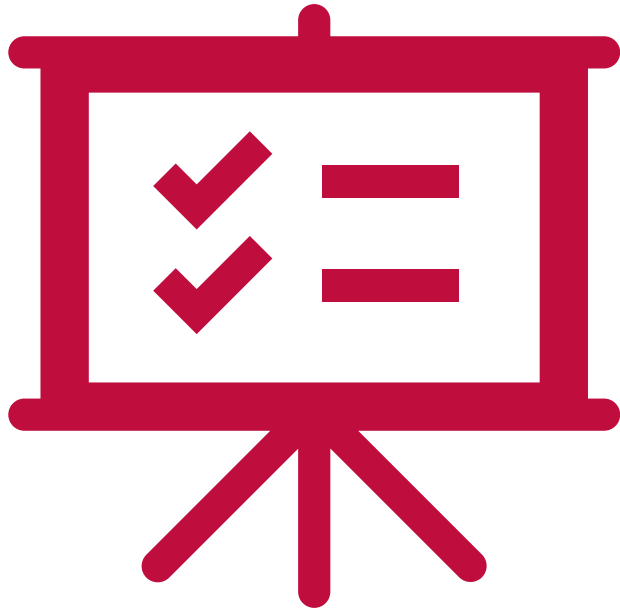
ASSURANCES

REQUIRED LEA SET-ASIDE

PROGRAM NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

BUDGET

FFATA and GSA Verification



- ✓ Be sure to submit your **FY21 General Statement of Assurance** in GME
- ✓ Ensure your **SAM.gov information** is up to date
- ✓ Provide a **short description** of your grant funded project

Contact Information



CONTACT INFORMATION

REQUIRED CONTACTS

| Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund Primary Contact Name | Contact Title | Contact Phone | Contact Email |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| * <input type="text"/> | * <input type="text"/> | * <input type="text"/> | * <input type="text"/> |

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

| Additional Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund Contact Name(s) | Contact Title | Contact Phone | Contact Email |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

Assurances in GME

All assurances are required to be eligible to receive funding through the FY21 ESSER III Fund grant



Each assurance must be checked in this section

Assurance of Application Completion by Verifiable School or LEA Staff Member

By entering the name and title below, the LEA assures the following school or LEA staff member completed this application.

| | | |
|--------|---|----------------------|
| Name: | * | <input type="text"/> |
| Title: | * | <input type="text"/> |

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Fund Grant Assurance(s)

Checking "Yes" assures that the statement is true.

The Local Education Agency (LEA) hereby assures the State Education Agency (SEA) that the LEA:

* Complies with CONTINUED PAYMENT TO EMPLOYEES SEC. 315:

A local educational agency, State, institution of higher education, or other entity that receives funds under "Education contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus.

* Name typed in this box acts as a signature assurance that the above has happened or will happen:



Required LEA Set-Aside

LEA Required Set Aside

Address Learning Loss

20%

Activities and interventions may include:

- Summer Learning or Summer Enrichment Programs
- Extended Day Programs
- Comprehensive Afterschool Programs
- Extended School Year Programs

All activities and interventions must be **evidence-based**, respond to students' **academic, social, and emotional needs** and **address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on student populations**, including each major racial and ethnic group, children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, gender, and migrant status, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care



Required LEA Set-Aside

- The **Required LEA Set-Aside** section is where the LEA will provide brief descriptions regarding planned grant funded activities under the required 20% reservation to address learning loss (increasing learning opportunities) for vulnerable student populations
- Please note the “**Determine Total Required Set-Aside to Address Learning Loss**” section on this page is automatically calculated by GME and will be prepopulated with the total amount of funds that will need to be budgeted the LEA to meet this required set aside:

Determine Total Required Set-Aside to Address Learning Loss

| | |
|---|---------|
| | |
| Total LEA ESSER III Fund Allocation | \$ 0.00 |
| | |
| Required 20% LEA Set-Aside to Address Learning Loss | \$ 0.00 |
| | |



Required LEA Set-Aside

Set-Aside Evidence-Based Activity Categories

- Here is where the LEA should provide a brief summary of budgeted **evidence-based activities** using the 20% required set-aside to **address learning loss (increasing learning opportunities) for vulnerable populations**. *LEAs should only complete sections that apply to their planned grant funded activities*

➤ LEAs are **not required** to budget activities within each major category (such as Summer Learning or Summer Enrichment Programs)

➤ However, LEAs **are required** to budget evidence-based activities (in sum) to address both **Academic and Social & Emotional Needs** for their vulnerable student populations – which could occur across multiple categories

(eg: Academic needs under Summer School and Social & Emotional Needs through Afterschool Programs)

Set-Aside Evidence-Based Activity Categories

Briefly describe the LEA's proposed uses of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III) Grant funds within the following additional set-aside activities categories, as applicable. Enter the total amount budgeted within each category, as applicable. The total amount budgeted must equal the amount calculated above to meet the required 20% set aside requirement.

If a section does not apply, please leave it blank

| | Enter Description of LEA Evidence-Based Activities | Total Budgeted by LEA |
|--|--|-----------------------|
| Summer Learning or Summer Enrichment Programs | | |
| Academic | | \$ |
| Social & Emotional | | \$ |
| <i>Subtotal Summer Learning Programs</i> | | \$ 0.00 |



Required LEA Set-Aside

Set-Aside Evidence-Based Activity Categories

- Here is where the LEA should provide a brief summary of budgeted **evidence-based activities** using the 20% required set-aside to **address learning loss (increasing learning opportunities) for vulnerable populations**. *LEAs should only complete sections that apply to their planned grant funded activities*

- GME will automatically sum the total budget amounts provided within each category
- Please ensure that you have budgeted your full 20% reservation on this page. GME will enforce a validation to ensure this requirement is met

Set-Aside Evidence-Based Activity Categories

Briefly describe the LEA's proposed uses of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III) Grant funds within the following additional set-aside activities categories, as applicable. Enter the total amount budgeted within each category, as applicable. The total amount budgeted must equal the amount calculated above to meet the required 20% set aside requirement.

If a section does not apply, [please leave it blank](#)

| | Enter Description of LEA Evidence-Based Activities | Total Budgeted by LEA | |
|--|--|-----------------------|------|
| Summer Learning or Summer Enrichment Programs | | | |
| Academic | | \$ | |
| Social & Emotional | | \$ | |
| Subtotal Summer Learning Programs | | \$ | 0.00 |



Program Narrative Questions

- The **Program Narrative Questions** section is where the LEA will provide **brief descriptions** regarding **planned grant funded activities** **that are not part of the 20% required set-aside**
- LEAs should only complete sections that apply to their planned grant funded activities

The following are LEA allowable uses of ESSER III Funds to address local COVID-19 related recovery efforts:



Summary of ESSER Fund Eligible Activities

- Any activity authorized by **federal education acts** (eg: *ESEA, IDEA, Perkins, McKinney-Vento, Adult Ed*)
- **Coordination** of COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts
- Training and **professional development** for LEA staff
- Purchasing educational **technology** (including hardware, software, and connectivity)
- Providing **mental health services** and supports, including through the implementation of evidence-based full-service community schools
- Planning and implementing **summer learning**
- Addressing **learning loss**
- **Student attendance and improving student engagement** in distance education
- **School facility** repairs and improvements to reduce risk of virus
- Implementing **public health protocols** in line with **CDC guidance** for the safe reopening and operation of schools
- Other activities necessary to **maintain LEA operations** and **continuity of services** and continuing to employ existing LEA staff



LEA Allowable Uses of ESSER III Funds

Note: Supplement and not supplant requirements do not apply to LEA use of ESSER Fund monies

ESSER funds are subject to the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) and the federal government's Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG), including the requirement that spending be **necessary and reasonable**

ESSER III does not include a local Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement. LEAs are not required to maintain effort to receive ESSER III funds. LEAs must, however, continue to comply with Maintenance of Effort requirements in other federal education laws such as ESEA and IDEA



LEA Unallowable Uses of ESSER III Funds

The following are unallowable uses of ESSER III Funds:

- CARES, CRRSA and ARP Act funds generally cannot be used for bonuses, merit pay, or similar expenditures, unless related to disruptions or closures resulting from COVID-19
- Subsidizing or offsetting executive salaries and benefits of individuals who are not employees of the SEA or LEAs
- Expenditures related to state or local teacher or faculty unions or associations



Program Narrative Questions

- The **Program Narrative Questions** section is where the LEA will provide **brief descriptions** regarding **planned grant funded activities** that are *not* part of the required 20% set-aside
- There are boxes available for ESSA programs, as well as other allowable federal grant programs (such as IDEA and Perkins)
- LEAs should only complete sections that apply to their planned grant funded activities. In this section, if an area does not apply, please leave it blank

Program Narrative Questions

For questions 1 and 2, check applicable boxes and complete narrative response to indicate how the LEA will expend Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund Grant funds under any of the following allowable uses of funds categories per *Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund* Section 18003(d):

1. Please check all **Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESSA)** activities that apply and **briefly** describe the proposed use of funds, as applicable. If you do not see the program authority for your ESSA-allowable intended activity, please check "Other" and site the applicable provision of ESSA for the proposed activity.
If this section does not apply, please leave blank.

Title I: School Improvement

Title II-A

Title V-B, Subpart 1 (Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA))



Program Narrative Questions

- The **Program Narrative Questions** section is where the LEA will provide **brief descriptions** regarding **planned grant funded activities** that are *not* part of the required 20% set-aside
- LEAs should only complete sections that apply to their planned grant funded activities. In this section, if an area does not apply, please enter N/A

Briefly describe the proposed uses of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund Grant funds within the following additional allowable activities categories, **as applicable**.

If a section does not apply, please leave blank.

3. Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

4. Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population.



Program Narrative Questions

- The last section on this page includes a request for **estimated data** based on the LEA's proposed use of ESSER III grant funds
- These data are being requested per USED ESSER III Fund grant reporting requirements
- Please provide your **best initial estimate** for these two elements, **as applicable**

Please provide the following additional information, as applicable, based on the LEA proposed use of ESSER III Funds:

* 1. The estimated number of jobs (FTEs) created by the LEA through the LEA's use of ESSER III Funds:

* 2. The estimated number of jobs (FTEs) retained by the LEA through the LEA's use of ESSER III Funds.



Program Narrative Questions

- The last section on this page is **required** per the new USED LEA ESSER III Plan requirements
- Please provide a **brief summary response** in each box based on the LEA's ESSER III Plan:

Please provide the following brief summary information regarding the LEA's ESSER III Plan:

1. Briefly describe 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:

2. Briefly describe how the LEA will ensure that the interventions it implements, including but not limited to the interventions within the required 20% set aside (under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act) 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 those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students:





Budget Notes

LEAs allocated ESSER III funds have pre-award cost approval for the reimbursement of allowable expenses included in an approved ESSER III application back to March 13, 2020

LEAs may begin to obligate their allocated ESSER III funds as of May 24, 2021. By obligating funds, the LEA is agreeing to adhere to all of the assurances for ESSER III in the grant application

ESSER III funds may be budgeted and expended through September 30, 2024

Be sure to **code all expenses properly** per the **USFR or USFRCS (Charter LEAs)**

Submit **Revisions** for any fiscal or programmatic change

Receive grant approval for revisions **prior** to implementing any change in spending or activities

In accordance with sound accounting practices, LEAs should plan to **request regular reimbursements**

Keep necessary **Time and Effort** documentation

The full Period Availability for ESSER III is March 13, 2020 – September 30, 2024
Funds may not be drawn down until the LEA Application is approved



Prior to Grant Submission

- ✓ Ensure **GSA** is uploaded to GME
- ✓ Verify that the **FFATA *brief summary*** is completed
- ✓ Verify that all **Program Narrative Questions** sections and the **LEA Required Set-Aside Page** have been completed based on your budgeted activities and LEA ESSER III Plan
- ✓ Ensure all proposed **budgeted activities** are **coded properly** per the **USFR or USFRCS** (charter LEAs)
- ✓ Update your **School and LEA IAPs** using the **COVID funding tag**
 - ✓ **NOTE: This is not required for an application to be initially approved** – but should be completed to support the LEA's implementation of their local plans and activities



ESSER III - Timeline Review

Initial Obligation Date for ESSER I, II and III Funds is **March 13, 2020**

Allowable Pre-Award Costs are Approved to this Date

March 13, 2020

Grant Application Opens and ESSER III Allocations Announced May 24, 2021

Target date for initial submission is 90 days (**August 23, 2021**)

Applications will be Reviewed on an Ongoing Basis

May 24, 2021

Initial Project / Budget Term Ends on **September 30, 2023**

September 30, 2023

Funds Obligated During the Initial Project Term Remain Available as **Carryover** until **September 30, 2024**

September 30, 2024

The full Period of Availability for ESSER III is March 13, 2020 – September 30, 2024



Key Takeaways

- ✓ ESSER III includes **new required set asides** for both ADE and LEAs. 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 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) 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



Thank You!



Peter Laing - Policy Advisor

Callie Kozlak - Associate Superintendent, Policy & Government Relations

Please visit
www.azed.gov/CARES/ESSER
for links to all grant and program resources and
guidance documents

If you have any questions, please contact us at:
ESSER@azed.gov

