



COVID-19 Federal Relief and Recovery

Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been three separate federal relief and recovery packages. Each came with education funding for States and public schools

Terms:

- **LEAs** - Local education agencies, including public district and charter schools
- **Federal Recovery Dollars or ESSER** - total monies given to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) through all three federal COVID-19 relief packages
- **ADE ESSER Project Funds** - activities funded by ESSER funds at the discretion of ADE - also, referred to as set aside funds. Example: ESSER III Set Aside
- **ESSER I** - includes grant monies allocated to eligible LEAs. These funds come from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES).
- **ESSER II** - includes grant monies allocated to eligible LEAs. These funds come from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA)
- **ESSER III** - includes grant monies allocated to eligible LEAs. These funds come from the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

For eligible public district and charter schools:

Eligible LEAs have been allocated ESSER I, II, and III funds, and notified how to apply for and utilize these funds. View eligible LEAs and awards at azed.gov/ESSER

Eligible Expenses

These highly flexible dollars can fund any activity allowable under ESSA or any other Federal Education Act linked to local COVID preparedness, response, prevention, and recovery.

For ESSER III, 20% of the award must be reserved to address "learning loss" through evidence-based interventions to address academic and social-emotional learning loss.

Important Dates

ESSER I

- First completion report due by 12/30/21
- Funds may be expended through 9/30/2022.

ESSER II

- Applications for funds are due now.
- Funds may be expended through 9/30/2023.

ESSER III

- LEAs who have applied and received funds must upload their Safe In-Person Learning plans once every six months. The first plan was due by 11/24/2021
- Applications for funds are due 2/1/2022.
- Funds may be expended through 9/30/2024.

Data Collection Requirements

The U.S. Department of Education has new requirements for eligible public schools to provide comprehensive data regarding their usage of federal recovery dollars – ESSER I, II, and III.

Visit azed.gov/esser-data for more resources. If you have questions about data reporting, please reach out to peter.laing@azed.gov.

For the Arizona Department of Education:

ADE ESSER Project funds (money from ESSER I, II, III) are used to support statewide recovery efforts. View funded projects at azed.gov/ESSER-Setaside

Eligible Expenses

ADE aims to allocate federal recovery dollars strategically and equitably to reach students and communities. Where possible, ADE has taken the opportunity to leverage these funds alongside existing investments.

Eligible organizations, including LEAs, can now apply for ESSER III set aside funds by completing a competitive application through the Arizona Procurement Portal website at app.az.gov.

Important Dates

Application for ESSER III set aside funds is due by December 10, 2021, at 5:00 pm (MST).

ADE ESSER I, II, and III set aside funds must be expended on the same timelines as LEA ESSER grant programs. View all announced investments at azed.gov/ESSER-Setaside

Application Considerations

ADE has identified three focus areas for the competitive application for ESSER III set aside funds:

- Enrichment & reinforcements for learning
- Mental, behavioral & physical health support for students & educators
- Student & family re-engagement and support for critical transition periods.

If you have questions about the ESSER III Set Aside application, email procurementinbox@azed.gov. More information at: azed.gov/esser-arp-application.