

# Arizona Department of Education (ADE)



**Kathy Hoffman**  
Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction

## CARES Act Update

**GPEMC Combined Meeting**  
**May 15, 2020**



# ESSER Fund

## SEA Application

- ADE submitted the SEA ESSER Fund application on May 8, 2020
- **ED approved ADE's application on May 11, 2020**
- ED released guidance (and an emailed response for guidance) indicating the **initial obligation date for ESSER Funds is March 13, 2020** – the date the President announced the COVID-19 National Emergency
  - *ADE and grant subrecipients **may charge pre-award, allowable costs back to this date***



# ESSER Fund

## Equitable Services Requirements

- The CARES Act requires districts receiving ESSER (*and GEER, as applicable*) Funds to provide equitable services to non-profit private schools in the same manner as provided under ESEA Section 1117 (Title I-A)
- **However**, ED released guidance interpreting this requirement to apply *differently* to ESSER and GEER Funds:

Title I-A (ESEA Section 1117)	ED ESSER and GEER Fund Guidance
<b>How to Determine Proportionate Share?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Determine the total number of children from <b>low-income</b> families <u>residing in each participating public school attendance area</u> who attend public and non-profit private schools</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Determine the total number of children for <u>all children</u> who attend <b>all public and non-profit private schools</b> <u>within the district's boundaries</u></li></ul>
<b>Who is Eligible to Receive Services?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Students residing in the district</b> and in a participating Title I public school attendance area</li><li>• <b>Low-achieving students</b> and their teachers</li></ul>	<u>All students and teachers</u> in a non-profit private school



# ESSER Fund

## Equitable Services Requirements

- A few states have indicated that they will not follow ED's recent guidance (*such as Indiana*)
- CCSSO has sent a letter to ED on behalf of their membership, and has been engaged with Congress regarding the addition of language to the HEROES Act (*which may be considered on Friday*) to further clarify the original CARES Act citation to follow ESEA Sec. 1117 (Title I)
- CCSSO has indicated that litigation may be likely from impacted entities
- There are risks in not following ED's guidance – to include audit findings that may result in LEAs paying CARES Act monies back to ED, depending on ED's enforcement actions



# ESSER Fund

## LEA Allocations Update

- 90% of Arizona's ESSER Funds are required to be allocated to 'Title I LEAs' based on the proportionate share of Title I funds they received last year (FY20). ED released new guidance on 5/8/20 on how to determine these allocations:
  - ED has **redefined what is meant by Title I funds received in FY20**. This requires calculating a new version of FY20 Title I allocations to derive a new 'ESSER Fund' FY20 total amount received for Title I
  - ED is now **requiring SEAs to set aside funds from the 90% 'Title I LEA' pot to fund SY20-21 (FY21) new and expanding Title I charter LEAs** – even though these LEAs did not receive FY20 Title I funds. ED provided guidance on how this reservation and allocation calculations should be made
  
- We are recalculating ESSER Fund allocations for the 'Title I LEA' cohort based on this new guidance. Final ESSER Fund allocations for the 'Title I LEA' cohort will still land within a general range of 70-75% of what an LEA actually received (in GME) in original FY20 Title I funds – though there could potentially be individual variations that could fall outside of that range due to ED's new guidance (*FY19 and FY20 New and Expanding Charter LEA cohorts*)



# ESSER Fund

## LEA Grant Application Update

- Grants Management is finalizing the grant application in GME (for the Title I and Non-Title I cohorts). We believe we are on track to launch soon in Mid-May, per our timeline
- The Grants Team has worked to incorporate an 'equitable services' page in the application, based on a provided excel template aligned to ED's current guidance, that will streamline and automate the calculation process for districts
- Guidance and technical assistance resources are being finalized to support LEAs in both cohorts with the application and planning process, to include:
  - CARES Act General Guidance
  - **For each cohort:**
    - ESSER Fund LEA Application Guidance
    - Recorded webinars, to include a walkthrough of the GME Application process



# ESSER Fund

## Communications and Outreach Update

- **Outreach sessions have now been held with:**
  - ADE and AZ Education Organizations
  - ADE External Stakeholders Group
  - ASBA & AASBO
  - Arizona Charter School Association
  - ESEA Title I Community of Practitioners (COP)
  - Arizona Association of County School Superintendents
  - AASBO
  - GPEMC
  
- **A new website** has been launched: [www.azed.gov/CARES](http://www.azed.gov/CARES)
  - The site includes a landing page for ESSER:
    - [www.azed.gov/CARES/ESSER](http://www.azed.gov/CARES/ESSER)
  
  - [Questions@azed.gov](mailto:Questions@azed.gov) is being used as the general inbox for CARES Act questions, for now



# ESSER Fund

## Estimated Timeline

When	Action Steps
April 23, 2020	USED releases ESSER Fund Applications to SEAs
April 27 – May 7	ADE solicits stakeholder feedback, sets up internal operations, and completes application
Week of May 8 <sup>th</sup>	ADE submits application to USED *Promised a three-day application turnaround
May 8 <sup>th</sup> – Mid May	ADE provides LEAs with ESSER Fund grant guidance and resources to support local planning
Mid May	ADE opens ESSER Fund LEA grant applications *Funds released once application is approved

