

**Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act
Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Fund:
Quick Reference Guide – Fund Code 115**



The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, 2021 was signed into law on December 27, 2020 and provides supplemental funding for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II Fund) to help K-12 educational entities prevent, prepare for, and respond to impacts of COVID-19.

ESSER II Fund: General Information

Although ESSER II funds are distributed to districts based on Title I, Part A allocations, they are not Title I, Part A funds. ESSER II is its own program intended to help with the COVID-19 response. ESSER II Funds may support any allowable activity listed in the CRRSA law itself, as well as any allowable activity authorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA). ESSER II funding will remain available through September 30, 2023.

ESSER II Funds ALLOWABLE Activities:

The purpose of the ESSER II fund is to provide districts with emergency relief funds to address the impact COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools that are providing educational services. ESSER II is intended to help school districts safely reopen schools, and measure and effectively address significant learning loss. Funds may be used for a wide variety of purposes, including but not limited to:

- Educational technology (connectivity, hardware, devices, software, technology support services, etc.)
- Supplies and services that enable remote learning (printing, telephonic support, translation services, etc.) for students.
- Maximize capacity for coordination to connect students to behavioral and mental health supports and services **NOTE: A minimum of \$10,000 must be committed to student mental health services and supports**
- Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children, students with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including outreach and service delivery
- Diagnostic intake assessments to gauge students' knowledge and skills (i.e. [early literacy screening](#), etc.)
- Assessing and addressing learning gaps to inform teaching
- Address learning loss, including through assessment, evidence-based activities, parent engagement, tracking attendance, and improving student engagement
- Planning and implementing summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs
- Providing principals and other school leaders with resources to address individual school needs
- Training and professional development for district staff on any topic from effective remote learning strategies to sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious disease when school resumes
- Supplies and services to sanitize district facilities
- School facility repairs and improvements, such as efforts to improve indoor air quality to reduce risk of airborne virus transmission
- Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures, including how to provide meals, technology for online learning, guidance for carrying out IDEA requirements, and providing educational services consistent with applicable requirements
- Procedures and systems to improve district preparedness and response efforts to COVID-19
- Coordination of preparedness and response efforts to COVID-19
- Other activities necessary to maintain district operations and services and to continue to employ existing district staff.

Please note: This is not an exhaustive list. [Contact](#) our office for more specific, situational, and fiscal guidance as needed.

Mental Health Services and Supports

To build capacity of public-school districts and communities to facilitate integrated coordination of school and community-based resources, DESE is providing an additional \$10,000 to each district for student mental health services and supports.

A minimum of \$10,000 must be committed to student mental health services and supports.

Equitable Services for Private Schools

Districts are not required to provide equitable services to private schools under ESSER II.

The CRRSA Act includes a separate program to provide emergency assistance for private schools.

Supplement not Supplant

The CRRSA Act ESSER II fund does not have a supplement not supplant requirement.

Reporting Requirements for ESSER II

Under the CRRSA Act, each State must submit a report to USED that contains a detailed accounting of the use of ESSER II funds. To accomplish this reporting, DESE will need to know from districts:

- How funds are being used to measure and address learning loss among students disproportionately affected by the coronavirus and school closures.
- Other ESSER II spending details, which will be collected via an annual supplemental survey.

CARES Act Fiscal Waivers

In addition to providing ESSER and ESSER II funds, the U.S. Dept. of Ed. has **waived** certain fiscal requirements for **ESSA** grant programs:

- **The carryover limit for 2019-2020 (FY20) Title I, Part A Funds.** Districts are not limited in how much FY20 Title I, Part A funds they carryover from 2019-2020 to 2020-2021.
- **The period of availability to spend 2018-2019 (FY19) funds** for the following ESSA programs. Districts have an extra year (until September 30, 2021) to spend the FY19 funds. The programs covered by this waiver are:
 - Title I, Part A (Improving Basic Programs),
 - Title I, Part C (Migrant Education),
 - Title I, Part D, Subpart 1 (Neglected and Delinquent),
 - Title II, Part A (Supporting Effective Instruction),
 - Title III, Part A (English Language Acquisition)
 - Title IV, Part A (Student Support and Academic Achievement),
 - Title IV, Part B (21st Century Community Learning Centers),
 - Title V, Part B Subpart 2 (Rural and Low-Income School Program), and
 - McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program

Title IV, Part A flexibility

- **The requirements for districts that receive \$30,000 or more in Title IV, Part A funds** to conduct a needs assessment. Districts will not have to amend the needs assessment conducted in 2020-2021.
- **The requirement for districts that receive \$30,000 or more in Title IVA funds to spend funds in three areas (well-rounded education, activities to support safe and healthy students, and effective use of technology).** This waiver allows districts to spend any FY19, FY20, and FY21 funds on any allowable Title IVA activity rather than having to spend across all three areas.
- **The limit on spending TIVA funds on technology infrastructure.** Districts are not limited on how much they spend on technology infrastructure.

Please contact your [DESE federal grants liaison](#) for further guidance on CARES Act ESSA waivers.