

SAU 20

ESSER II and III Funds

Recommended Allocations August 20, 2021

Background

Governor Chris Sununu declared a state of emergency on March 13, 2020 and ordered all K-12 schools to be closed for in person learning as of March 15, 2020. That closure required us to immediately pivot and provide education in ways unimaginable just a few days earlier.

SAU 20 responded quickly and within a week had devices in students' hands, schedules for food delivery established, and developed systems for delivering education remotely. As schools worked to reopen for the 2020-2021 school year, challenges and additional costs associated emerged. In response, the federal government allocated funds through the ESSERI - CARES/SPSRF, ESSERII -CRRSA, and ESSERIII-ARP. The two largest allocations, ESSERII (CRRSA) and ESSERIII the American Rescue Plan. These funds are to be used to address needs specifically resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and meet specific requirements. These allocations will provide SAU 20 schools with resources needed as it responds to challenges resulting from the pandemic over the next three years.

This document is intended as an overview of SAU 20s proposed expenditures of ESSERII and ESSERIII funds.

Definitions

- **CARES Act:** Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act; federal relief measure signed into law March 20, 2020. Funds must be allocated by September 30, 2022.
- **CRRSA Act:** Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act; federal relief measure signed into law on December 27, 2020. Funds must be allocated by September 30, 2023.
- **ARP:** American Rescue Plan; federal relief measure signed into law March 11, 2021. Funds must be allocated by September 30, 2024.
- **ESSER:** Elementary and Secondary Schools Educational Relief, which could refer to any one of the three funds allocated to by the CARES Act (ESSER I), CRRSA Act (ESSER II) and ARP (ESSER III or ARP ESSER)
- **SPSRF 1:** Supplemental Public School Response Funds; Designated to provide relief and support for unanticipated costs associated with the safe opening and operation of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **SPRF 2:** Application for COVID-19 expenses in excess of \$200 per pupil that had not been reimbursed by other available sources.
- **LEA:** Local Education Agency; specific to New Hampshire, this is the school district

- **SEA:** State Education Agency, specific to New Hampshire this is the state Department of Education

ESSER Allocations

- CARES Act (ESSER I): _____
- SPSRF 1: _____
- SPSRF 2: _____
- CRRSA Act (ESSER II): \$688.60
- ARP (ESSER III): \$1,020.69 * Anticipated

What can these funds be used for?

Approved uses of funds vary between ESSER II and ESSER III (see Appendix 1 ESSER comparison). In general, though, ESSER funds can be used for:

- Educational technology purchases including Internet connectivity, hardware, devices, software, etc.
- Supplies and services to enable remote learning
- Mental health services and supports
- Diagnostic assessment tools to gauge students' knowledge and skills as well as potential gaps in learning
- Professional development opportunities for district staff to increase capacity around high quality instruction, assessment, and learning environments
- Supplies and services to sanitize district facilities and provide access to personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Planning and coordinating systems for addressing long-term closures including how to provide meals, technology for online learning, carrying out legal requirements, and providing educational services
- Procedures to coordinate systems to improve district preparedness and response to COVID-19
- After/before school enrichment programming beyond what is currently provided
- Access to tutoring and programming outside of school days and hours
- Addressing loss of opportunities to learn
- School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to

reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards and support student health needs

- Inspecting, testing, maintaining, repairing, replacing, and upgrading projects to improve indoor air quality in school facilities including HVAC systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement

What CAN'T these funds be used for?

- Building new school facilities
- Substantially reducing local support for public K-12 education
- Expenses that are not specific to preventing, preparing, or responding to the impact of COVID-19

RECOMMENDATIONS

Over the past 18+ months, we have navigated the unique challenges of providing education during a pandemic. We continue to respond in a flexible manner that is aligned to our strategic plan. We have learned much from this experience and as a result education will never look quite the same as it did in March of 2020. While the availability of vaccines provided hope, we continue to experience a summer surge of cases which tells us this pandemic is not yet over. We know that the academic and social emotional impacts of this pandemic will continue into the future. Therefore, this plan has been developed to leverage the available resources to address identified needs now and respond to those that are discovered in the future. This plan should, and will, change as we respond to the new conditions and needs of our students.

PRIORITIES

1. Increase student growth and achievement by providing high quality learning experiences through which students develop mindsets, character, communication, and thinking skills necessary for them to achieve regardless of the pathway chosen while addressing losses in opportunities to learn
2. Support teacher effectiveness through high quality professional development tailored to individual goals and needs
3. Provide access to reliable technology to minimize interruptions to learning and expand learning opportunities available to students

4. Engage with our community to partner in supporting our students and remove barriers to learning
5. Provide and maintain safe and healthy facilities for all students and staff

Percentage of ESSERII and ESSERIII Funds Allocated by Priority Area

ESSER II - **100% student growth & achievement**

ESSER III - **100% student growth & achievement*** (Anticipated)

STUDENT GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT

Being able to document both growth and achievement over time is critical to the success of our students. We know that the pandemic has increased gaps in learning and has negatively impacted many students' opportunities to learn. Therefore, funds are allocated in this plan to support personalized learning experiences, expand access to learning experiences outside of the traditional school day and year, and increase enrichment offerings for students.

We propose utilizing these funds over a three-year period. Under that proposal, the largest portion would be used during the 2021-2022 school year, with reduced amounts in subsequent years

- 2021-2022 School Year - **100% of funds will be used**
- 2022-2023 School Year - _____
- 2023-2024 School Year - _____

SNAPSHOT OF STUDENT GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT BUDGET

Total Amount Allocated to this Priority: **\$1,709.29**

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Links to documents from NH DOE site

[NH DOE Emergency Funding For Schools](#)

US Department of Education Fact Sheet - American Rescue Plan of 2021

https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/FINAL_ARP-ESSER-FACT-SHEET.pdf

If you have feedback or comments regarding this plan, please contact: David Backler, Superintendent of Schools, SAU 20