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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
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September 7, 2021

The Honorable Miguel Cardona, Ed.D.
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Cardona:

Thank you for your review of New Hampshire's American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) State plan, which was submitted by the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE) on June 7, 2021 and approved by the U.S. Department of Education (USED) on August 5, 2021. As required by your August 5, 2021 letter approving New Hampshire's ARP ESSER State plan, NHDOE is providing an update on its progress selecting evidence-based interventions to address learning loss, summer enrichment programs, and comprehensive afterschool programs within 30 days of receipt of your letter or by September 7, 2021.

Since submission of New Hampshire's ARP ESSER State plan, NHDOE has obligated \$7,980,000.00 of its ARP ESSER State reserve for the implementation of evidence-based interventions to address learning loss (\$11,683,387.75 or five percent of New Hampshire's total two-thirds allocation).

Utilizing these funds, NHDOE partnered with Discovery Education—a worldwide education technology leader whose state-of-the-art digital platform supports learning wherever it takes place—to provide all schools, educators, families, and students statewide, with access to its award-winning, high-quality multimedia content, instructional supports, and innovative classroom tools. Connecting educators to a vast collection of high-quality, standards-aligned content, ready-to-use digital lessons, intuitive quiz and activity creation tools, and professional learning resources through New Hampshire's Canvas Learning Management System, New Hampshire joined Nevada, South Carolina, and Arizona in providing statewide access to the Discovery Education platform.

These high-quality instructional materials made available statewide support educators and parents in responding to the 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 and youth in foster care, and migratory students.

To help realize the return on the State's learning recovery and education technology investment, New Hampshire's educators will also receive ongoing professional learning and the support of the Discovery Education Community. This global community of education professionals connects members in school systems and around the world through social media, virtual conferences, and in-person events, fostering valuable networking, idea sharing, and inspiration.

To date, NHDOE has obligated none of the ARP ESSER State reserves for the implementation of evidence-based summer enrichment programs (\$2,336,677.55 or one percent of New Hampshire's total two-thirds allocation) or evidence-based comprehensive afterschool programs (\$2,336,677.55 or one percent of New Hampshire's total two-thirds allocation), both of which also respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs and address the needs of students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NHDOE also has obligated \$177,360.00 of the remaining ARP ESSER State funds (\$5,841,693.88 or two and a half percent of New Hampshire's total two-thirds allocation) to:

- Enter a Memorandum of Understanding with the New Hampshire Department of Administration's Division of Public Works and Construction to provide the support necessary for NHDOE's review of ARP ESSER-funded LEA construction projects;
- Support the collection of data required by USED in *Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act* and Annual Performance Reports through expanding NHDOE's i4See fiscal 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 data collections; and
- Support new functionalities needed in NHDOE's grants management system to support ARP ESSER LEA subgrants.

The NHDOE will update sections D.1.i-iii, D.2.i-iii, and D.3.i-iii regarding the selection of evidence-based interventions to address learning loss, summer enrichment programs, and comprehensive afterschool programs in New Hampshire's ARP ESSER State plan within six months of its initial submission on June 7, 2021 or by December 7, 2021. Additionally, NHDOE received the remaining one-third of its total allocation, and will be able to administer those funds upon approval of New Hampshire General Court's Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee and New Hampshire's Executive Council per its standard process to accept and expend funds.

Finally, as previously shared with USED, data on the mode of instruction and enrollment for all students, disaggregated by student subgroup for the most recent time period available is posted on NHDOE's website within New Hampshire's ARP ESSER State plan (Appendix A, pages 64-66): <https://www.education.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt326/files/inline-documents/arp-esser-nh-state-plan-revised-final-07-28-21.pdf>. Each LEA plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services received by NHDOE is posted on NHDOE's website: <https://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/commissioner/nh-school-reopening-plans>. Likewise, each LEA plan for the use of ARP ESSER funds received by NHDOE is posted on NHDOE's website: <https://www.education.nh.gov/educators/grants-and-funding/emergency-funding-schools/new-hampshire-lea-arp-esser-use-funds-plans>.

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New Hampshire students, families, and educators have demonstrated incredible resilience and dedication throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are excited to return to school safely and in-person this fall. Through innovation and individualized instruction and supports, NHDOE, our schools, and our community-based organizations are leveraging these unprecedented ARP ESSER resources to meet the needs of students in all educational environments. As NHDOE continues to implement New Hampshire's ARP ESSER State plan informed by robust and continued meaningful stakeholder consultation, we are proud of our learner-centered approach to realizing the Granite State's vision for education—'Live Free and Learn.'

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Edelblut". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and "E".

Frank Edelblut
Commissioner of Education