Utah ARP ESSER Application Technical Requirements

June 23, 2021

Sarah Young, USBE

Utah State Board of Education

Overview

- Funding Allocations

- Allowable Use Cases

- Application Requirements

- Timeline for Approvals

- Additional COVID-19 Relief Funding Items

- Questions from the Community

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Resources for ARP ESSER

https://schools.utah.gov/coronavirus

Please note that we will post a copy of this webinar recording and slide deck on this website in addition to the resources we have already posted.

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Funding Allocations

ARP ESSER

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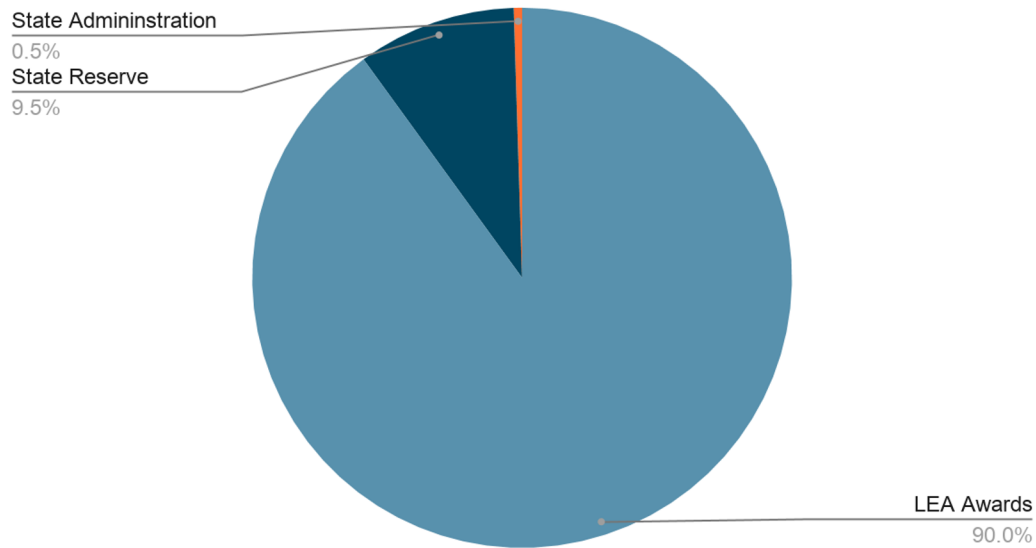
ESSER Awards in K-12

This funding is primarily directed at the local level to be able to support personalized needs and responses due to COVID-19.

ESSER Funding Distribution

State Admininstration
0.5%

State Reserve
9.5%

LEA Awards
90.0%

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American Rescue Plan ESSER

- $615,929,016 in total award to Utah K-12 for ARP ESSER
  - 90% awards to LEAs
- State Reserve $61,592,901
  - 5% for addressing accelerated learning ($30,796,450)
    - Currently, not determined for specific action.
  - 1% for evidence based summer enrichment programs ($6,159,290)
    - Available through competitive grant
  - 1% for evidence based comprehensive after school programs ($6,159,290)
    - Available through competitive grant

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Funding Allocations

March 24, 2021

USBE received access to two-thirds of the total ARP ESSER funds.

The award letter requires that USBE submit a state plan for the total award to the U.S. Department of Education.

- Total award is pending acceptance of our state plan

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Funding Allocations and Plans

- LEAs receiving the 90% distribution through Title I, Part A have received ⅔ of the total award in Utah Grants Management
    - A budget modification will be processed once the full award is available
    - This will only require a revision of your budget table
    - ⅔ and full projections available on USBE Coronavirus Website
- Those receiving the state base have received their full allocation in Utah Grants Management

ACTION: All LEAs should be writing their plans for the full amount for which they are eligible from ARP ESSER.

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ARP ESSER Funding Timeline

- **Period of availability for ARP ESSESR**

    - Expenditures starting from the date of the national emergency 03/13/2020

    - ARP ESSER through September 30, 2024*

        - *That includes the 12-month Tydings Amendment*

- Can spend ARP ESSER prior to full reimbursements of either ESSER I or ESSER II

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Allowable Use Cases

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Needs Assessment

- USBE encourages LEAs to complete a **needs assessment** before determining how their portion of ESSER funds will be used.

- LEAs should follow **existing needs assessment protocols** to determine the most valuable and targeted use of ESSER funds.

- A needs assessment should include a review of the **current state as compared to the desired state**, the **identification of barriers** to reaching the desired state, and an **analysis of the potential sources** of the identified barriers.

ACTION: Application includes a narrative description on "Impacts of COVID-19 on your LEA".

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Questions to Consider

1. What were/are the impacts of COVID-19 on our students, teachers, and schools?
2. What data sets do we already have that help inform the extent of those impacts? *Think of existing data sources that could be compared from before March 13, 2020 and now.*
3. What have we already spent our early COVID-19 response funding on thus far? Did that work or help address the impacts of COVID-19?
4. Looking forward, what is our plan for schools in the future?

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Federal Allowable Use Cases

Generally, in determining whether an activity is an allowable use of funds, a State or LEA must determine:

- Is the use of funds intended to **prevent, prepare for, or respond to the COVID-19 pandemic**, including its impact on the social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of students?

- Does the use of funds fall under **one of the authorized uses of ESSER or GEER funds**?

- Is the use of funds **permissible under the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards** (Uniform Guidance, 2 CFR Part 200)? In particular, is it **necessary and reasonable** for the performance of the ARP ESSER award?

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ARP ESSER Allowable Use Cases

- Full list available in the application document

- Utah K-12 LEAs are able to spend ARP funds in response to COVID-19 is alignment with the federal legislation

    - Allowance have not been limited by state action

    - Does include all previous ESSER I and ESSER II allowable use cases

- [Hunt Institute companion guidance](#) for exemplars from each category

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USBE State Priority Areas

1. Student mental health and social emotional needs including student health foundations and protective factors.

2. Missing or Disengaged Students in K-12

3. Literacy

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Capital Expenditures for ARP ESSER

- Requires it to be in your plan AND to get a letter of approval from USBE.
- The letter request process is still being finalized, but here are some of the main requirements for any capital expenditure requests:
  - Project Description Requirement
  - Project Timeline within the 34.CRF.706.707 full project must be completed by September 30, 2024
  - Expected Budget
  - Alignment to the Allowable Use Cases for Funding Stream
  - LEA procurement policy
  - Require Three Bids for Service in alignment with LEA policy
  - Davis Bacon Compliance Responsibilities of LEA
    - USBE Construction Approvals Process for anything that requires a building inspection/permit from the city/county: https://www.schools.utah.gov/financialoperations/formsapplications

ACTION: If you are planning on capital expenditures, be clear with your team that they will need to plan for this process in their timeline.

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Application Requirements

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Required 20% of LEA Award for Accelerated Learning

- All LEA awardees will be required to commit at **least 20% of their total ARP ESSER award to address accelerated learning** through the implementation of **evidence-based interventions**

    - Ex. Providing intensive or high-dosage tutoring or accelerating learning,

    - Ex. summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after-school programs, or extended school year programs

    - Interventions respond to students' social, emotional, and academic needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups

ACTION: Application includes a narrative and table for how the LEA plans use at least 20% of the total ARP ESSER award to address accelerated learning through the implementation of evidence-based interventions.

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Plan for Remaining ARP ESSER Funding

- A narrative response that details your LEA ARP ESSER plan for the remaining funds in alignment with the allowable use cases.
  - Call out the federal use case language and category number in your response
  - Also include your budget narrative from the Utah Grants Management System
  - New budget table requires alignment to allowable use cases for all expenditures to reduce future reporting on LEAs

ACTION: Narrative with federal use case alignment for remaining ARP ESSER LEA funding.

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LEA Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Commitment

- This is a **federal requirement** for all ARP ESSER awardees
- Application table with required response categories, UDOH school manual references, and example LEA responses for consideration.
- Each LEA will need to **post this response on their public website within 30-days of receiving their award**.
  - Link will be collected in application and provided to the U.S. Department of Education

ACTION: Complete the table and post the LEA responses on your public website within 30-days of award.

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Assurances - Plan Development and Approval Requirements

- The LEA must engage in **meaningful consultation with stakeholders** and traditionally underrepresented subgroups

- The LEA assures that the **public has been provided the opportunity to provide input** to the development of this plan.

- The LEA has taken the **public input into account** in developing this plan.

- The **local school board has adopted the LEA's plan** for the use of ARP ESSER funds in an **open and public meeting**.

ACTION: Stakeholder engagement in plan development and local board approval of plan.

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Assurances: Programmatic Requirements

- LEAs will spend 20% of their award to address "accelerated learning"

- The LEA will only use the ARP ESSER grant Coronavirus Relief Fund to cover costs that:

    - Are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- The LEA will implement evidence-based interventions, as required by section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act

- The LEAs will address the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on underserved students (i.e., students from low-income families, students from racial or ethnic groups, gender, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, and migratory students), as required by section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act

- Publish table for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

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Assurances: Programmatic Requirements continued...

- Equitable services are not required from LEAs for ARP ESSER.

- Press releases, RFPs, other publications need to reference specific details related to federal funding.

- Grantees and subgrantees that receive grant funds under programs of the Department are responsible for maintaining internal controls regarding the management of Federal program funds under the Uniform Grant Guidance

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Assurances Fiscal Requirements

Local Educational Agency Maintenance of Equity for High-Poverty Schools

Section 2004(c) of the ARP Act stipulates that an LEA, as a condition of receiving ARP ESSER funds under section 2001, a local educational agency **shall not**, in fiscal year 2022 or 2023—

- **Reduce per-pupil funding** (from combined State and local funding) **for any high-poverty school** served by such local educational agency by an amount that exceeds—
  - The total reduction in local educational agency funding (from combined State and local funding) for all schools served by the local educational agency in such fiscal year (if any); divided by
  - The number of children enrolled in all schools served by the local educational agency in such fiscal year; or

- **Reduce per-pupil, full-time equivalent staff in any high-poverty school** by an amount that exceeds—
  - The total reduction in full-time equivalent staff in all schools served by such local educational agency in such fiscal year (if any); divided by
  - The number of children enrolled in all schools served by the local educational agency in such fiscal year.

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Assurances: Reporting, Record Keeping, GEPA, etc.

- Reporting: Federal draft criteria, not finalized

- Record Keeping: Keep records and be prepared to share them

- GEPA: Maintain lens of equal access

- Lobbying: Don't use this money to lobby

ACTION: Read the assurances with your program leader and business leaders. There are A LOT in there and it is necessary for the team to understand and comply.

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ADA Compliant 7/15/21

Timeline for Approvals

ARP ESSER

ADA Compliant 7/15/21

Draft Timeline for ARP ESSER

- **OPEN: June 17, 2021**
    - Grants released in the Utah Grants Management System
    - Notification sent to LEA Leaders, Business Administrators, and Title Directors

- **DUE: August 20, 2021**
    - USBE will be reviewing and approving applications as they are received, with outcomes for most applications in 2-3 business days.

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ARP ESSER Award Timeline for Utah K-12

1

Grant Award Notification

U.S. Department of Education awards ⅔ of the funding to USBE

March 24, 2021

2

LEA Spend Report to LFA and GOPB

USBE must report on LEA spend plans to LFA and GOPB prior to release of FY 2022 related to basic funds.

May 18, 2021

3

Award Appropriation Utah Legislature

Award will need to be appropriated to USBE by Utah Legislature in a special session.

May 19, 2021

4

Application for ARP ESSER

USBE will submit an application for the remaining ⅓ of award. June Board Meeting

June 3, 2021

5

LEA Application Approval

USBE will review, provide feedback and approve LEA plans.

June 17, 2021

6

Reimbursement

LEAs may submit for reimbursement for eligible expenses in alignment with the plan.

Once LEA plan is approved (*generally 2-3 business days from submission*)

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USBE Technical Support

July Webinar Overview for LEA Plan Developers:

- Tuesday, July 13, 2021: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
- WebEx to be sent out to LEAHeads and posted on our website.
- Recording to be posted on the UBSE coronavirus website.

ARP ESSER Office Hours for LEAs:

- Thursday, July 15th, 2021: 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM
- Recurring every Thursday through August 20, 2021
- WebEx to be sent out to LEAHeads and posted on our website.
- Recording to be posted on the USBE coronavirus website.

Email individual questions to USBE Sara Harward and Sarah Young

- sara.harward@schools.utah.gov and sarah.young@schools.utah.gov

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Come visit Sevier SD!

From **July 19th - 23rd** and **July 26th - 30th**, Sarah Young's office will be at Sevier School District Office.

You are welcome to schedule time to bring your team up to work through the application in person if that would be valuable.

Superintendent Douglas would love to see you.

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Additional Federal Relief Funding Updates

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State Coronavirus Relief Funds

12 Districts still have remaining balances for state coronavirus relief funds (CRF)

- 20CRF - K-12 CRF for Classroom Supplies, Enhancements or Equipment
- 20CPPE - K-12 Personal Protective Equipment
- 20CDOH - High School COVID-19 testing

June 30, 2021 for all expenditures and for services to be completed and all procured items to be received onsite.

Reimbursements are due in early July 9, 2021.

This is use it or lose it.

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Afterschool and Summer Learning Funding

- USBE has **combined the afterschool and summer learning** state ARP ESSER funds into a single competitive grant opportunity.

- Over **$12M in available grants** to support work through September 30, 2024

- Requires a **partnership** with a community-based organization or local business.

- **Application is competitive** and due to USBE in the Utah Grants Management system on **August 20, 2021 at 5:00 PM**.

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State Transparency Dashboard

- K-12 COVID-19 Relief Funding

- https://schools.utah.gov/coronavirus

- Awards and reimbursements in programs funded by federal relief resources

- USBE will include all future awards from ARP ESSER

- The agency is currently working with our Utah Grants Management system to include reporting by allowable use case for ARP ESSER

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Additional Federal Awards from CRRSA Act

GEER II - Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund

- USBE staff are collaborating on potential needs, which will ultimately be decided by the Governor for Utah K-16
- **ACTION: Seeking verification of draft list of district educational foundations.**
    - Please email any corrections to Sarah Young (sarah.young@schools.utah.gov)

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State Reserve Next Steps

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Principles for State Set-Aside Determinations

- Meets federal guidelines for grant use

- Represents a resource USBE is uniquely positioned to provide (e.g., more efficient, more equitable)

- Most critical and/or most widespread issues facing schools and students

- Provides sizeable payoff/net present benefit

- Incentivizes systems change in light of lessons learned as a result of pandemic

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Timeline for State Set-Aside Determinations

Aug

ARP ESSER LEA plans due

Sep/Oct

Student performance data available

Dec

Deadline to allocate **ESSER II** Set Aside

Feb

Deadline to allocate ARP **ESSER** Set Aside

Gather input and collect data to identify critical needs and opportunities for state support
- LEA leads, constituents, Superintendent's Advisory Councils, etc.
- Analyze ESSER II and ARP ESSER plans
- Analyze student performance data

Solicit/develop proposals; $30m ARP ESSER set-aside for disrupted learning

Allocate resources for time-sensitive needs on an ad hoc basis

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Resources for ARP ESSER

https://schools.utah.gov/coronavirus

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Questions

Thank you for your leadership, I appreciate the mountains you have moved since March 2020.

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