

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, 2021

February 9, 2021





Agenda

- Education Stabilization Fund
- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II Fund
- Important Links
- Questions/Discussion





Education Stabilization Fund

- Education Stabilization Fund \$81.9 billion
 - ½ of 1 percent for the outlying areas;
 - ½ of 1 percent for Bureau of Indian Education funded programs; then:
 - 5 percent for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER II Fund) = approximately \$4.1 billion;
 - 67 percent for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II Fund) = approximately \$54.3 billion; and
 - 28 percent for the Higher Education Emergency Relief
 Fund (HEER Fund) approximately \$21.7 billion.



Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II Fund

Section 313 of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, 2021







Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II Fund

- Provides \$54.3 billion for ESSER II Fund
- SEA may reserve up to 10%, including .5% of total state award for administration
- "For emergency needs as determined by the SEA to address issues responding to the coronavirus, including measuring and addressing learning loss, which may be addressed through the use of grants and contracts"
- Secretary shall award funds to each SEA with an approved CARES application within 30 days of enactment
- Funds to remain available under statute until September 30, 2023







ESSER II Fund, Continued

- Alaska's ESSER II Fund amount \$159,719,422
 - Minimum District Allocations \$143,747,480
 - Maximum State Reservation \$15,971,942
 - Maximum for State Administration \$798,597
- More than four times the initial awards to State educational agencies under the CARES Act
- Important distinctions between the ESSER II and ESSER I programs
 - Period of Availability
 - No equitable services
 - Expanded list of allowable activities



ESSER II: District Allocations

- ESSER II funds are distributed to districts based on the proportion of Title I-A funds the district received in the most recent fiscal year (FY21)
- https://education.alaska.gov/news/COVID-19/ESSER%20CRRSA%20CARES%20Fund%20Allocat ions%201.15.2021.pdf







ESSER II: Local Spending Options

- Any activities authorized under ESSA, IDEA, Perkins, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act
- Coordinate emergency response
- Support principals and other school leaders
- Addressing the needs of special populations
- Ensure preparedness and coordination
- Training on minimizing spread of COVID-19
- Purchase cleaning supplies to sanitize facilities
- Planning for long-term closures
- Purchase education technology
- Mental health services and supports
- Summer programming for special populations







ESSER II: Addressing learning loss

- Addressing learning loss among students, including lowincome students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency, including by—
 - Administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately assess students' academic progress and assist educators in meeting students' academic needs, including through differentiating instruction.
 - b) Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students.
 - c) Providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment.
 - d) Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education.





ESSER II: School facility repairs and improvements

 School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.





ESSER II: Improving air quality in school facilities

 Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.







ESSER II: GMS Application

- DEED will create a new application in GMS for districts to apply – CRRSA Act
- CRRSA Act Application is expected to go live around February 15th
 - Budget and budget narrative
 - Additional tags
 - One purpose code
 - Location codes not required
 - Assurances page and Assurances packet
 - No program details





ESSER II: Additional Spending Rules and Considerations

- Subject to EDGAR and UGG
- Reasonable and necessary
- Short-term relief funds
- Spend ESSER I before spending ESSER II
- Consider needs of the most vulnerable students





Consolidating Funds

- Last week, the US Department of Education notified DEED of the flexibility for districts to consolidate administrative funds under ESSER I (CARES Act), GEER I (CARES Act), and ESSER II (CRRSA Act).
- DEED is working through the logistics. More information will be forthcoming.





Important Links

- Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 <u>legislative</u> <u>text</u>
- DEED CRRSA Act Informational Document
- CRRSA ESSER II Methodology and Allocation Table
- CRRSA Act Frequently Asked Questions
- ESSER II Fact Sheet
- ESSER II District Allocations





Contact Information

All CARES Act and CRRSA Act questions should be sent to:

DEED.CARES@alaska.gov







Questions/Discussion



