# Northwest BOCES
# ESSER III

Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) are an important and vital part of the public educational system in Colorado. BOCES services are those needed by children, their families, and school personnel, which can be more efficiently provided across school districts — examples include services to support special education needs and professional development for educators. Colorado's BOCES (or Educational Services agencies) are unique in that they are an extension of the local member school districts. A BOCES in Colorado exists at the discretion of its members and provides only those programs and services authorized by its members.

## Federal Stimulus Funding for Northwest BOCES

| **How much funding was allocated to Northwest BOCES?** | **ESSER III Additional Information**<br>**Expenditures allowed through Sept. 30, 2024** |
|---|---|
| **CRF: $0**<br>**(Definition provided in glossary)** | On March 11, 2021 the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was signed into law. The ARP ESSER III funding from the ARP Act provides support for K-12 schools to help safely open and sustain the safe operations of schools and address the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students. Although the ARP ESSER III uses of funds are similar to those for ESSER I and II, there are important distinctions between ARP ESSER III, ESSER II, and ESSER programs. ESSER III required:<br>• 20% of funds are used for addressing academic impact of lost instructional time<br>• An LEA Use of Funds Plan<br>• An LEA Safe In-Person Plan<br>• Maintenance of Equity<br>The decision on how to spend federal pandemic recovery resources is **inherently and intentionally local** as the pandemic's effects varied substantially across Colorado. School communities were best equipped to identify and address their most urgent local needs. **The top uses of ESSER III funds for Northwest BOCES are provided in the explanation below.** |
| **ESSER I (CARES Act): $0**<br>**Addressing the immediate crisis**<br>**Expenditures allowed through Sept. 30, 2022** | |
| **ESSER II (CRRSA Act): $100,065**<br>**Providing stability and managing the health crisis**<br>**Expenditures allowed through Sept. 30, 2023** | |
| **ESSER III (ARP Act): $117,602**<br>**Recovery and acceleration**<br>**Expenditures allowed through Sept. 30, 2024**<br>**Use of Funds Plan** | |
| **Other: $0**<br>**(includes GEER and Rapid Request — definitions provided in glossary)** | |

**Includes ESSER supplemental funds provided to districts. An acronyms glossary is available below.**

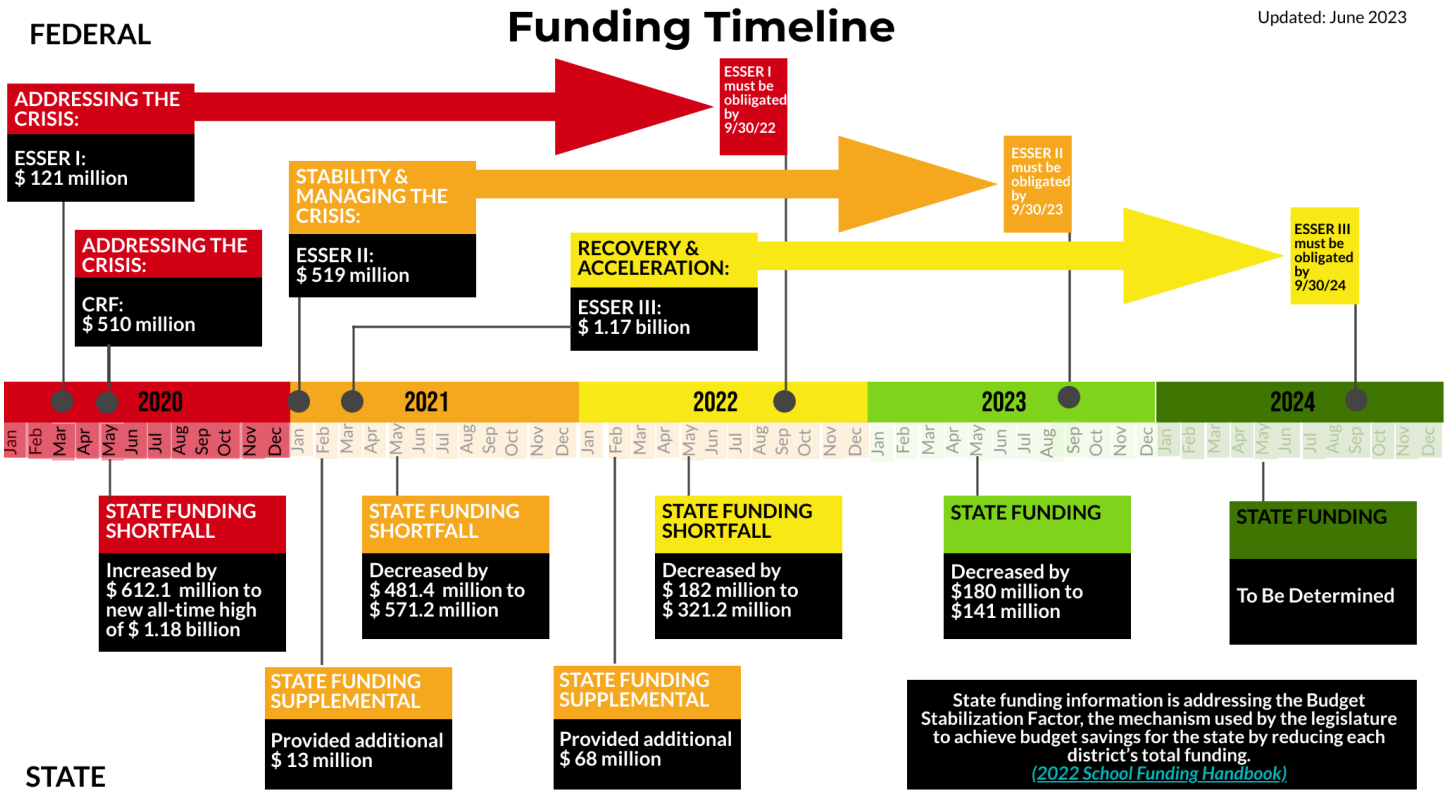
### How are students being supported through the use of federal stimulus dollars?

**The federal stimulus dollars are a once-in-a-generation opportunity to support our students and to address the multi-year effects of the coronavirus pandemic.** The decision on how to spend federal pandemic recovery resources is

inherently and intentionally local as school communities are best equipped to identify and address their most urgent local needs in order to:

- **Create safe and healthy learning environments**
- **Address disrupted learning time**
- **Meet mental health needs of students and staff**
- **Support educators and staff stability and well-being**

**Education received [4.6% of all federal stimulus funds] in Colorado. While all the one-time federal stimulus dollars will expire by September 30, 2024, they have supported local students and communities weather the effects of the multi-year pandemic.**




## ESSER III — Recovery and acceleration

### Expenditures allowed through Sept. 30, 2024

On March 11, 2021 the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was signed into law. The ARP ESSER III funding from the ARP Act provides support for K-12 schools to help safely open and sustain the safe operations of schools and address the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students. Under ESSER III, Colorado was allocated $1,166,328,632.

Although the ARP ESSER III uses of funds are similar to those for ESSER I and II, there are important distinctions between ARP ESSER III, ESSER II, and ESSER programs, including the period of funds availability, equitable services to non-public schools, maintenance of effort, and a report on efforts to measure and address learning loss. States are instructed to use all remaining ESSER funds before making use of the ESSER II funds, given the shorter remaining period of availability.

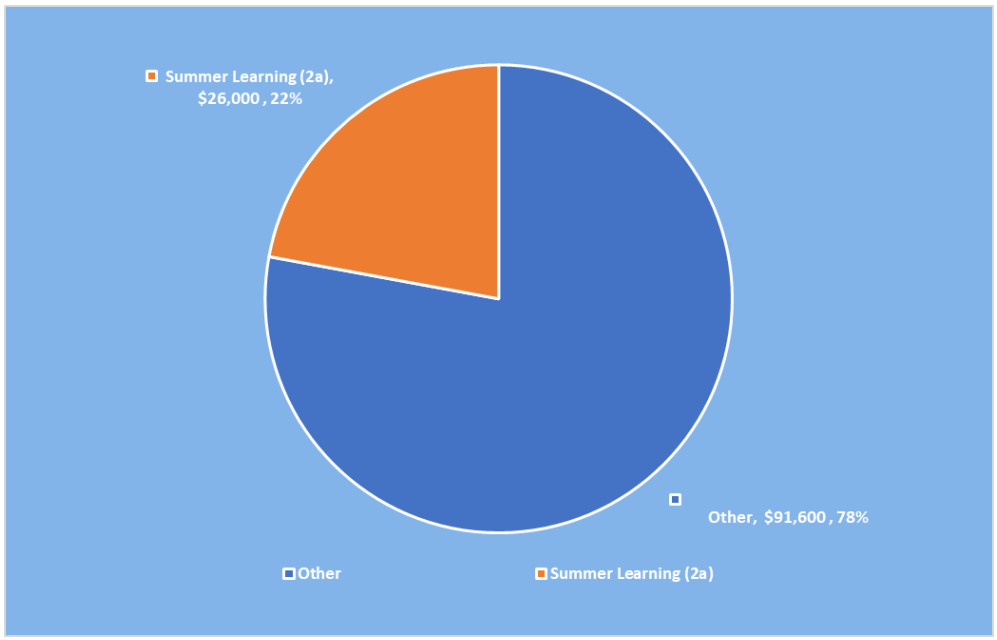
**Due to the requirement from the U.S. Department of Education for states to allocate funds within 60 days of receipt, districts had a very short time frame to turn in applications.** Districts were also required to develop and seek public comment on plans for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. This information must be made publicly available on the local educational agency's website no later than 30 days after receiving the allocation of funds.

**ESSER III funds were distributed according to the same process as the ESSER I and II funds with 90% flowing to local education agencies based on their federal Title I formula, which is intended to provide additional resources to schools in communities with higher poverty levels.** ESSER II funding for **Northwest BOCES** was based on its **Title I allocation** and an **ESSER II supplemental** made by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). View CDE's Federal COVID Education Funding website for additional details.

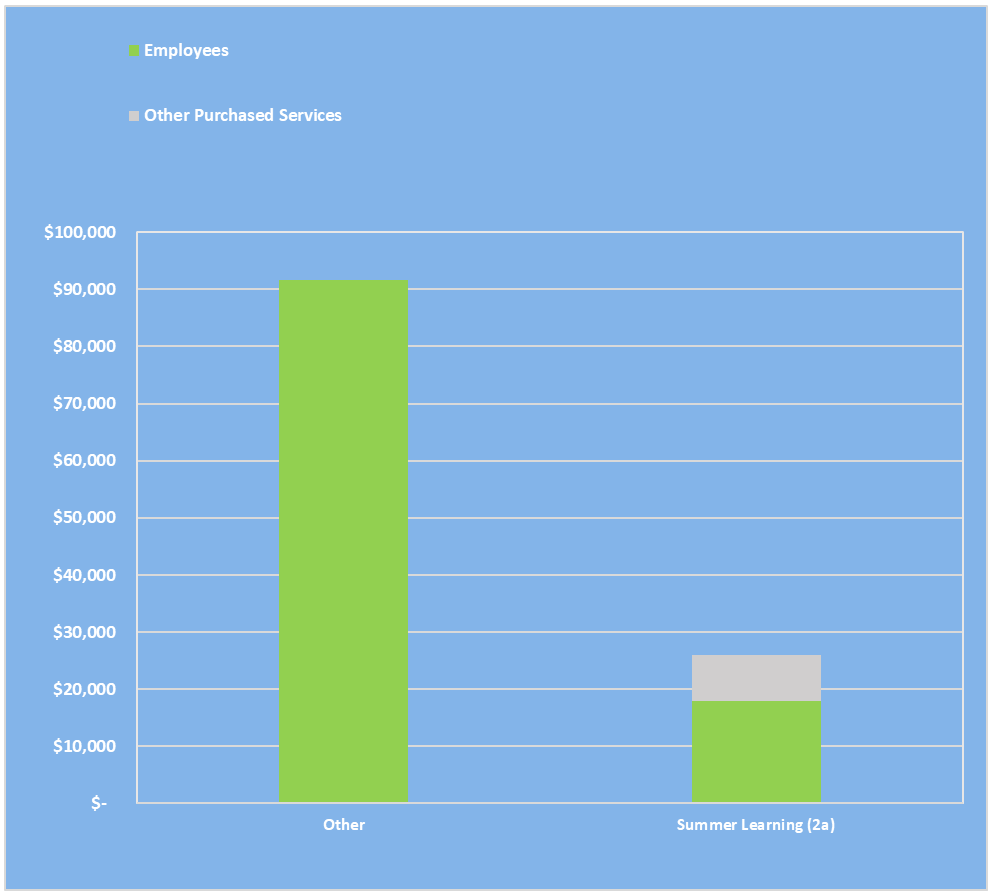
It is also important to recognize that the decision on how to spend federal pandemic recovery resources is inherently and intentionally local as the pandemic's effects varied substantially across Colorado. School communities were best equipped to identify and address their most urgent local needs. The following information demonstrates the largest ESSER III investment priorities for Northwest BOCES based on May 2023 CDE data and ***is subject to change as local priorities evolve to meet student needs.***

When looking at **Northwest BOCES's** ESSER III investments, the following categories reflect the activities for all investments. All allowable activities for districts include: activities, air quality, assessments, attendance, closures, discretionary, disrupted learning, ed tech, ESEA, facilities, IDEA, mental health, other, Perkins, prepare, remote PD, remote supports, summer learning, supplies, and training. The CSFP website provides a description of each allowable activity and the classification system to help explain all the various investment priorities.

For **Northwest BOCES,** the largest investment activities are identified below in the pie chart.




The following chart reflects the makeup of the costs within **Northwest BOCES's** top investment priorities. The CSFP website provides a description of each category in the chart.




***You can access ESSER I fact sheets on the website. A future fact sheet will be available to provide additional details on ESSER III funding. You can also find additional information and resources on the Colorado School Finance Project ESSER website.***

## Additional Information on Northwest BOCES

**NW BOCES is committed to offering professional learning that is meaningful, flexible, personalized, and effective to meet the needs of the educators in our member districts. The NW BOCES believes high-quality professional learning directly impacts student learning and growth.**

**Services Provided:** Special Education; Professional Learning; Alternative Licensure; Induction; Gifted Education

**Member Districts:** East Grand; West Grand; North Park; Steamboat Springs; Hayden; South Routt; Moffat County RE No 1

**Students served by member districts:** 7,069

*Preschool student numbers are no longer reported as part of the District enrollment. Preschool student numbers will not be available at this time.*

## Other Funding Facts

**Since 2009-10, the state has not been able to fully meet its constitutional obligation to equalize funding for school districts and the loss in state share has been tracked by the Budget Stabilization Factor (formerly known as the Negative Factor).**

- **Loss in state share for the 2020-21 school year: -$8,949,841**
- **Loss in state share for the 2021-22 school year: -$4,385,586**
- **Loss in state share for the 2022-23 school year: -$2,802,228**
- **Loss in state share for the 2023-24 school year: -$1,052,412**
- **Cumulative loss in state share since 2009-10: -$89,186,929**

**Learn more at the Northwest BOCES website: https://www.nwboces.org/**

## ACRONYMS GLOSSARY

| Acronym | Description |
|---|---|
| ARP | American Rescue Plan Act |
| CARES | Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act |
| CRF | Coronavirus Relief Fund |
| CRRSA | Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act |
| EANS | Emergency Aid for Non-public Schools |
| ESSER | Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund |
| GEER | Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund |
| HCY | Homeless Children and Youth |
| IDEA | Individuals with Disabilities Education Act |
| LEAs | Local Education Agencies |
| LSTA | Library Services & Technology Act |



## Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)

The CARES Act established the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) to support states with expenses due to the public health emergency with respect to the COVID–19 incurred from March 1, 2020, to Dec. 30, 2020. In May 2020, Gov. Polis directed the transfer of $510 million from the State of Colorado's CARES Act CRF to CDE to be awarded to school districts, the Charter School Institute, the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind and facility schools on a per pupil basis. Additionally, each BOCES in the state received $25,000.

## Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER)

The CARES Act included $3 billion for a Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund. Colorado was allocated more than $44 million from the GEER fund. The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2020 added $4.05 billion for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund. GEER II included $2.75 billion for emergency assistance to nonpublic schools through the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) grants of which $28,433,931 has been allocated to Colorado.

## ESSER I Rapid Request

All ESSER I funds expired on September 30, 2022 and any funds unobligated on September 30, 2022 would have to be reverted to the federal government. There are some unobligated funds from the 10% portion that could not be used by current grantees. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) wants as many of these funds to go to Colorado grantees as possible, and have therefore created a simple ESSER I Rapid Request grant program to determine if any grantees have activities or costs that could have been funded with ESSER I funds, but were not. Learn more on the CDE website.