Learning and Transparency Technical Assistance Program Grant

COLORADO SCHOOL FINANCE PROJECT
Support Children - Support The Future

May 5, 2022
Who is CSFP?

✓ Non-profit, non-partisan
✓ Supported by school district contributions
✓ School finance analysis for local and state policy makers since 1995
✓ Governed by a board comprised of national and state experts on school finance

Our Mission: To compile, collect and distribute research-based, non-partisan information and data on topics related to school finance for state and local policymakers.
Today...

What is the grant and why is it needed?

Who are we?

What is our plan?

Where to get more information?
What is the Learning and Transparency Technical Assistance Grant?

Awarded by the Colorado Department of Education

Began March 1, 2022 and will conclude on September 30, 2024

Help school districts offer their families and communities transparency into the COVID relief funding made available to them, how the funds were used, the programs available for students, and how to access them, and the impacts of these programs on COVID-related needs of their students.
Allowable uses of funds include:

- Building upon the stakeholder engagement and posting requirements for the LEA ESSER plans by effectively communicating the needs identified for the LEA and how the LEA is using ESSER funds to address them;
- Ensuring that students and their families -- particularly low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth -- are aware of and know how to access the programs that will best support their students in accelerating and completing interrupted learning;
- Continued engagement around the LEA’s ESSER plan, progress being made, and adjustments to meet the evolving needs of their students and communities;
- Sharing best practices and lessons learned across their schools, communities and other Colorado LEAs to leverage what is working in one school or community to others; and
- Communicating the spending and impact of the strategies implemented through the LEA’s ESSER plan.
4 award recipients

- Aurora Public Schools
- Colorado School Finance Project
- The Keystone Group
- Colorado Education Initiative (CEI)

Learning & Transparency Technical Assistance
Why is there a need for this grant?

The federal stimulus dollars represent an unprecedented influx of funding that have transparency and accountability requirements.

School districts and BOCES are doing the hard work of deploying federal pandemic recovery funds to improve the lives of students they serve. Under resourced schools need help in telling their story.

We are stronger together and by sharing stories, lessons learned, and best practices, we emerge better equipped to help students.
TELLING YOUR STORY

Creating safe and healthy learning environments

Addressing lost instructional time

Meeting mental health needs of students and staff

Supporting educators and staff stability and well-being
Based on: US Dept of Ed COVID-19 Handbook and Federal Data Collection Form
Poll Question...

How important do you think it is that WE are the ones telling our story?
Meet Our Team

Tracie Rainey
CSFP, Executive Director

Susan Meek
Project Manager

Frank Reeves
Field Manager

Glenn McClain
Field Manager

George Welsh
Field Manager

Justin Silverstein
CEO, Augenblick, Palaich & Associates
What will CSFP do?

Assist Colorado school districts and BOCES in carrying out the critical role of transparency and communication with families and communities, continued community engagement, the use of COVID relief funds, and the impact of those funds on addressing the COVID related needs.

Provide technical assistance program to help school districts inform their families and communities about the programs being offered and how those programs are accelerating learning and recovery for their students.
Supports Include

- Field Managers for personalized support
- Communication resources and toolkits
- Technical assistance on impact analysis
- In-person and virtual workshops and trainings
CSFP Will Assist With

- Understanding and meeting federal requirements with ESSER-related funds
- Communicating how school districts and BOCES are using federal pandemic recovery funds
- Communicating how to engage communities in decision-making
- Communicating how to ensure transparency and accountability
PRIMARY GOAL

Help school districts communicate with students, families, and their communities the opportunities available because of ESSER $s
Timeline

March-June 2022
- Grant Kickoff
- Initial reach out to all school districts
- CSFP publishes interactive map with ESSER I data

July-September 2022
- Field Service support and technical assistance given to school districts
- Monthly communications
- Trainings

October 2022 - September 2023
- CSFP publishes interactive map with ESSER II data
- Field Service support and technical assistance given to school districts
- Monthly communications
- Trainings

September 2024
- Final report due and work completed

October 2023-August 2024
- CSFP publishes interactive map with ESSER III data
- Field Service support and technical assistance given to school districts
- Monthly communications
- Trainings
Website will provide one-stop resource.
Context will be provided on federal stimulus dollars.
Funding Timeline

**Federal**

**Addressing the Crisis:**
- **ESSER I:** $727.5 million
- **CRF:** $510 million

**Stability & Managing the Crisis:**
- **ESSER II:** $567.2 million

**Recovery & Acceleration:**
- **ESSER III:** $1.3 billion

**State Funding Timeline:**

**2020**
- **State Funding Shortfall:** Increased by $612.1 million to new all-time high of $1.18 billion
- **State Funding Supplemental:** Provided additional $13 million

**2021**
- **State Funding Shortfall:** Decreased by $481.4 million to $571.2 million
- **State Funding Supplemental:** Provided additional $68 million

**2022**
- **State Funding Shortfall:** Decreased by $182 million to $321.2 million

**2023**
- **State Funding:** To Be Determined

**2024**
- **State Funding:** To Be Determined

*State funding information is addressing the Budget Stabilization Factor, the mechanism used by the legislature to achieve budget savings for the state by reducing each district's total funding.*

*(2020 School Funding Handbook)*
ESSER FACT SHEETS

Help districts meet transparency and communication requirements

Build understanding of ESSER and federal stimulus funds with basic information

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East Grand 2 School District

Federal Stimulus Funding for East Grand 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How much funding was allocated to East Grand 2?</th>
<th>ESSER I Additional Information Expenditures allowed through Sept. 30, 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRF: $683,800</td>
<td>ESSER I funds provided vital resources to districts to address the social and economic disruption caused by the coronavirus outbreak that impacted all school districts starting in March 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSER I (CARES Act): $94,148.00</td>
<td>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. The top uses of ESSER I funds for our district are provided in the explanation below.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addressing the immediate crisis</td>
<td>Expenditures allowed through Sept. 30, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRF: $683,800</td>
<td>Expenditures allowed through Sept. 30, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSER II (CRRS Act): $395,412.00</td>
<td>Expenditures allowed through Sept. 30, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing stability and managing the health</td>
<td>Use of Funds Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crisis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSER III (ARP Act): $888,668.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recovery and acceleration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures allowed through Sept. 30, 2024</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEER (Other): N/A</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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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 lost instructional time
- Meet mental health needs of students and staff
- Support educators and staff stability and well-being

In addition to mitigating the effects of the pandemic, the shortfall in state funding to Colorado schools...
Points that are emphasized:

- Funds are one-time
- Funding cliff exists
- Funds are to address COVID-related issues or challenges
- Decisions on how to spend federal pandemic recovery resources are inherently and intentionally local
ESSER FACT SHEETS

Reminding the public of priorities during ESSER I timeframe

Top 3 Investment Priorities are highlighted

District specific detail pulled from CDE reports
According to the April 2020 Colorado District Needs Inventory, technical supports for delivering remote learning and online instructional supports for teachers were common needs across Colorado. Internet connectivity (e.g., broadband and Wi-Fi access) was the top community need identified by respondents, with 53 percent reporting that this was a key need.

Our district prioritized the following as one of our top investments made with ESSER I funding: Chromebooks ($36,380). 150 Chromebooks, used for virtual learning.

INVESTMENT PRIORITY 2: Supporting equitable access and effective use of technology
Our district prioritized the following as one of our top investments made with ESSER I funding: Instructional Program ($24,424). 100 Chromebooks, used for virtual learning.

Future fact sheets will be available to provide additional details on ESSER II and III funding. You can also find additional information and resources on the Colorado School Finance Project ESSER website.

West Grand 1-JT Student and District Characteristics
Students: 393
Rural: Yes, Small rural
Free and Reduced Lunch: 33%
Special Education: 11%
Gifted and Talented: 1%
BOCES: Northwest BOCES

Other Funding Facts
2019-2020 Total Program Funding: $4,466,541.83 ($10,025.91 Per Pupil Funding)
2020-2021 Total Program Funding: $4,182,166.24 ($9,771.42 Per Pupil Funding)
2021-2022 Total Program Funding: $4,650,491.54 ($11,025.35 Per Pupil Funding)
Local Share: 40%
State Share: 60%
Loss in state share for the 2020-21 school year: $612,232
Loss in state share for the 2021-22 school year: $293,136
Cumulative loss in state share since 2009-10: -$5,196,617

Learn more at the West Grand 1-JT website: www.wgsd.us

ESSER FACT SHEETS

✓ Student and district characteristics are provided
✓ Directing the public to the district's website for additional details
NEXT STEPS?

✅ Reaching out to all school districts in early May

Want more information: Visit cosfp.org and fill out the information form or click here.
QUESTIONS?

➔ Tracie Rainey
t.rainey@cosfp.org

➔ Susan Meek
susan.m@cosfp.org

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