
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.*

COLORADO SCHOOL FINANCE PROJECT

Support Children - Support The Future

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

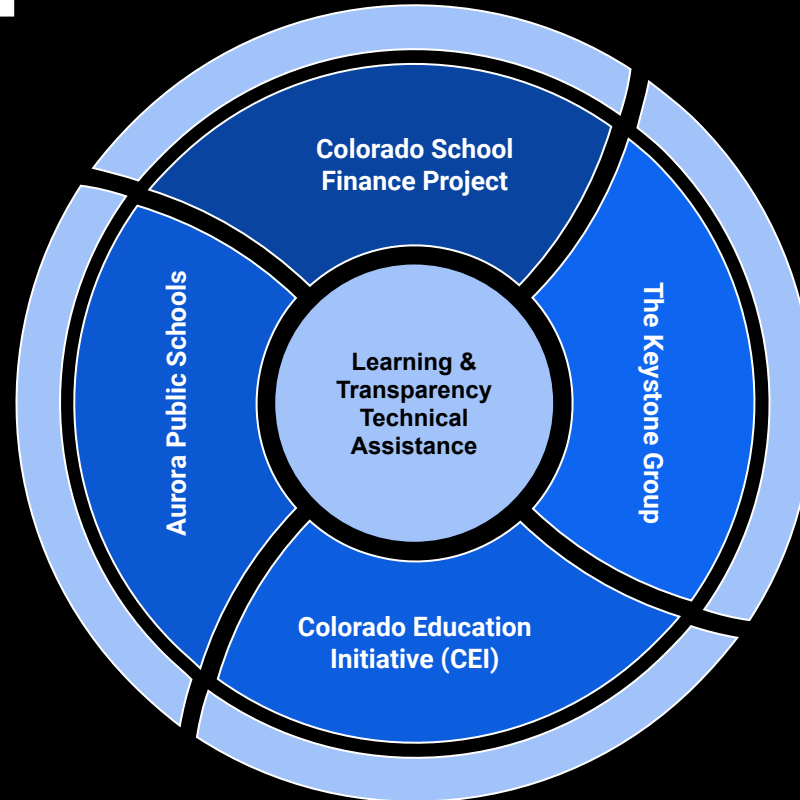
Began March 1, 2022 and will conclude on September 30, 2024

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



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

Creating Safe & Healthy Learning Environment



Addressing Lost Instructional Time



Meeting Mental Health Needs of Students & Staff



Supporting Educator & Staff Stability and Well-Being



Meeting basic needs



Accelerating learning



Supporting mental health for students & staff



Stabilizing educator workforce



Providing safe & inclusive learning environment



Ensuring access to & use of technology



Supporting educator & staff well-being



Using data to target resources



Addressing resource inequities

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



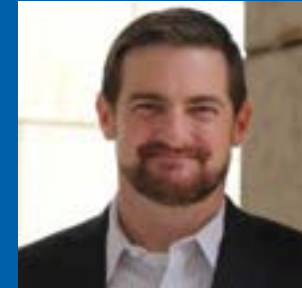
Frank Reeves
Field Manager



Glenn McClain
Field Manager



George Welsh
Field Manager

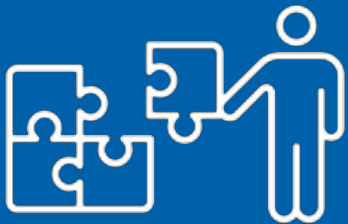


Justin Silverstein
CEO, Augenblick, Palaich & Associates

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.

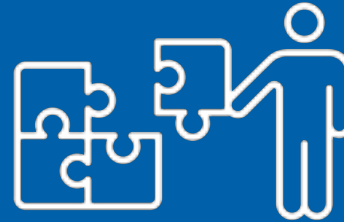
Supports Include



**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

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

2022

2023

2024

July-September 2022

Field Service support and technical assistance given to school districts
 Monthly communications
 Trainings

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.

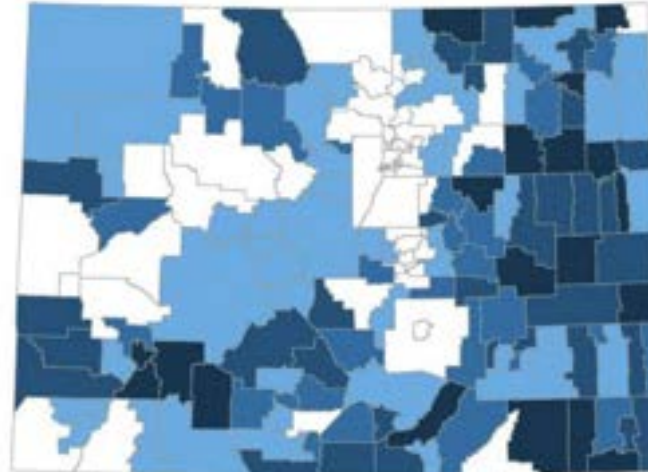
Colorado Education Pandemic Relief Funds

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress passed three stimulus bills that include funding for education. Find information about each of the 178 Colorado school districts and the Boards of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) below by selecting the district or BOCES name.

BOCES

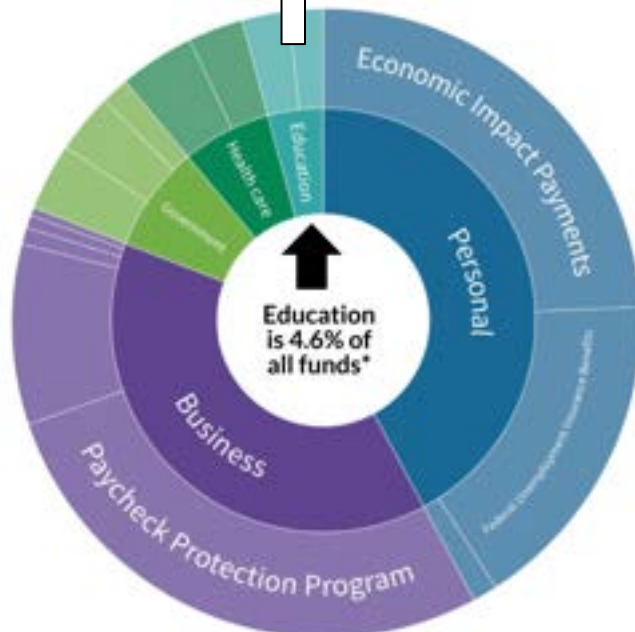
Adams County
Centennial
Colorado River
East Central
Expeditionary
Front Range
Grand Valley
Mountain
Mt. Evans
Northeast
Northwest
Pikes Peak
Rio Blanco
San Juan
San Luis Valley
Santa Fe Trail
South Central
Southeastern
Uncompahgre
Ute Pass

Colorado School Districts

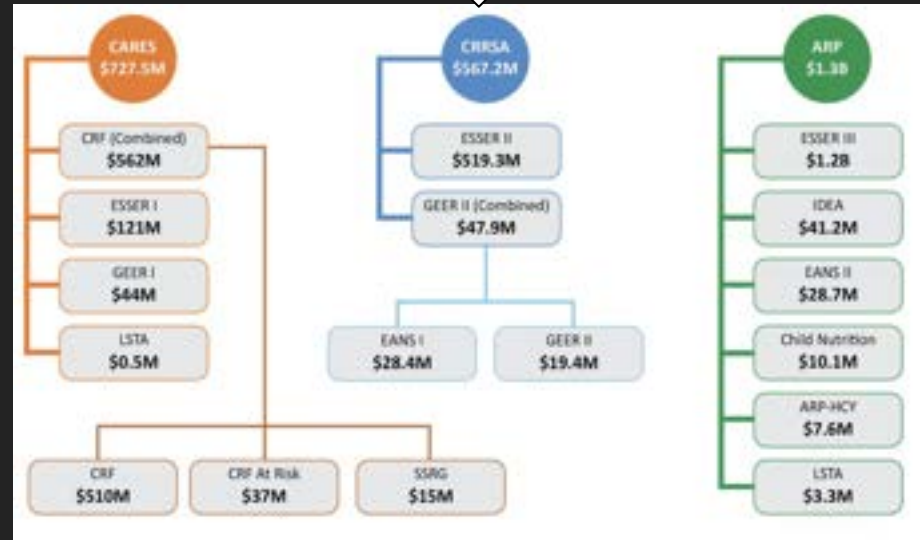


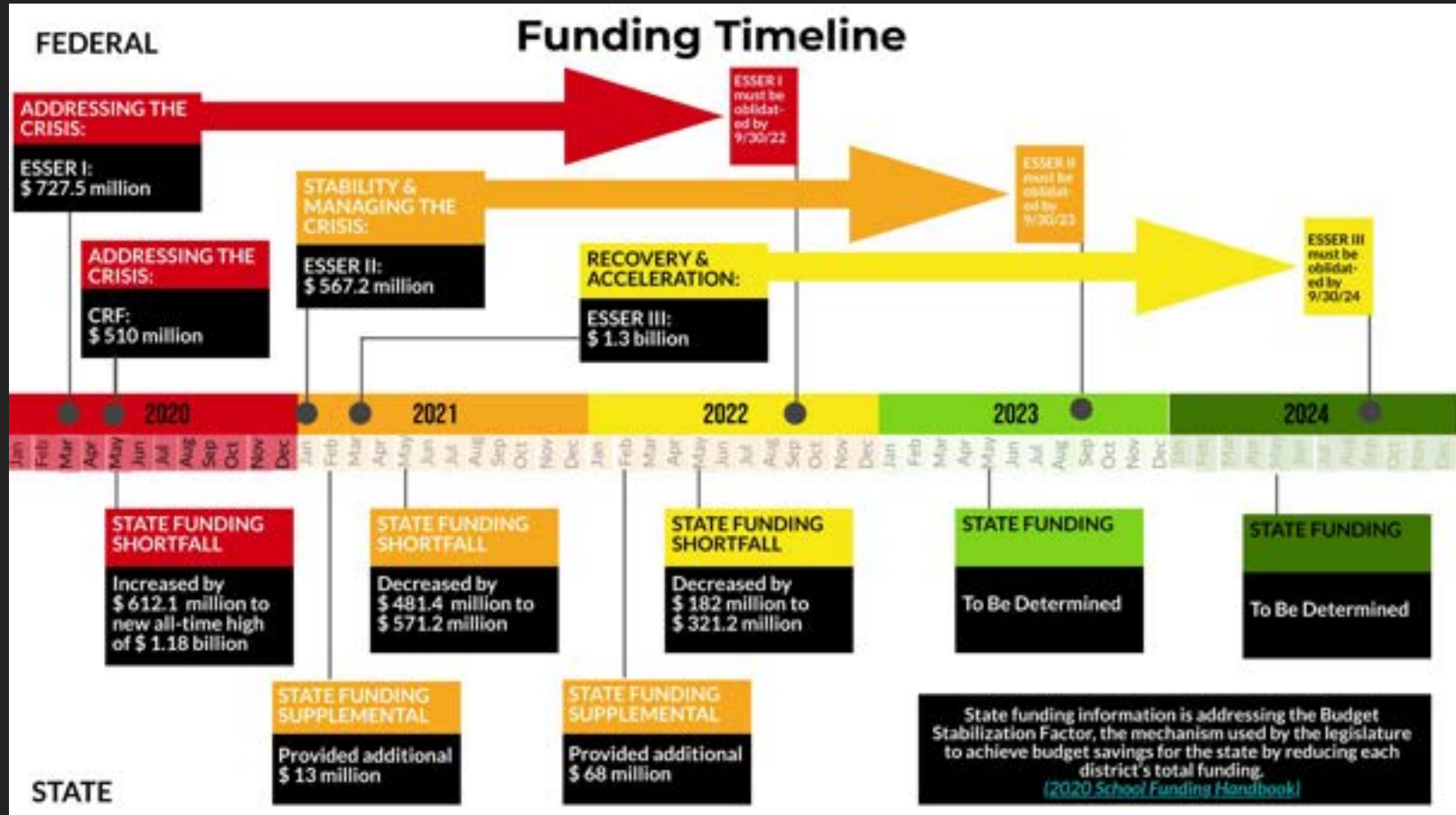
How much in federal stimulus funding went to Colorado schools?

Context will be provided on federal stimulus dollars.



*Source: The Big Payout: Colorado received close to \$66 billion in pandemic aid. We tracked where that money went. The Denver Post, April 14, 2022





East Grand 2 School District

Federal Stimulus Funding for East Grand 2

How much funding was allocated to East Grand 2?	ESSER I Additional Information Expenditures allowed through Sept. 30, 2022
CRF: \$683,800	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
ESSER I (CARES Act): \$94,148.00 Addressing the immediate crisis Expenditures allowed through Sept. 30, 2022	
ESSER II (CRRS Act): \$395,412.00 Providing stability and managing the health crisis Expenditures allowed through Sept. 30, 2023	
ESSER III (ARP Act): \$888,668.00 Recovery and acceleration Expenditures allowed through Sept. 30, 2024 Use of Funds Plan	
GEER (Other): N/A	

Includes ESSER supplemental funds provided to districts. An [acronym 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:

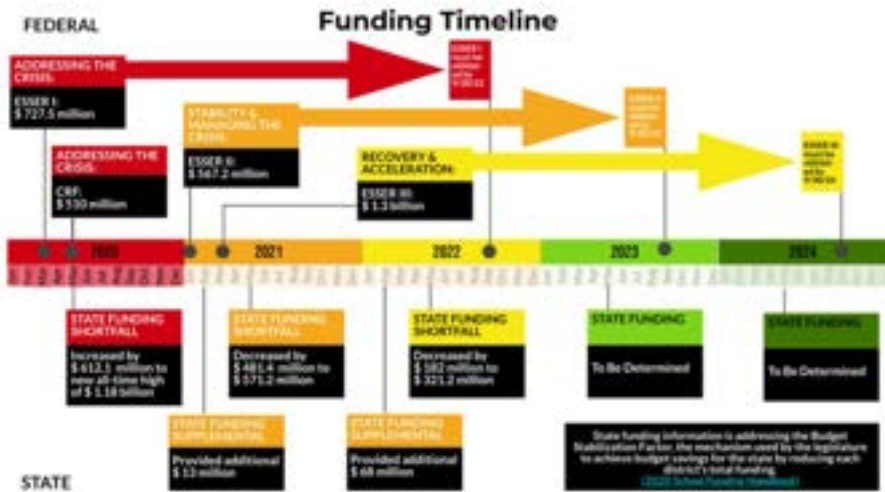
- Create safe and healthy learning environments
- Address lost instructional time
- Meet mental health needs of students and staff
- Support educators and staff stability and well-being

In addition to mitigating the effects of the pandemic, the shortfall in state funding to Colorado schools

ESSER FACT SHEETS

Help districts meet **transparency and communication** requirements

Build understanding of ESSER and federal stimulus funds with basic information



ESSER I — Addressing the immediate crisis

Expenditures allowed through Sept. 30, 2022

In March 2020, the CARES Act established the Education Stabilization Fund, which initially provided funding for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) I Fund. ESSER I Fund dollars were appropriated to states based on the 2019-20 Title I shares with 90% allocated to local education agencies (LEAs) that received a Title I allocation in the most recent fiscal year and the remaining 10% for a state reserve fund. ESSER I funding for **East Grand 2** was based on its [Title I allocation](#) and an [ESSER I supplemental](#) made by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). View CDE's [Federal COVID Education Funding website](#) for additional details.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, CDE administered the district and charter needs inventory from late March to early April. Statewide, the top four education supports identified as the top priorities across all regions of the state were: student emotional support; technical support for delivering remote learning; online instructional support for teachers; and family engagement practices. While there was variability in the top community need identified across regions, **Internet connectivity** and **food access** were the two community needs that commonly appeared as a top need in most regions across the state.¹ The following chart summarizes the percentages of districts selecting the following education supports as top needs during March and April 2020.

ESSER FACT SHEETS

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



Source: Colorado Statewide District Needs Inventory, April 17, 2020

It is also important to recognize that 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 following information demonstrates the top ESSEr I investment priorities for East Grand 2 based on March 2022 CDE data and is subject to change as local priorities evolve to meet student needs.



INVESTMENT PRIORITY 1: Meeting basic needs: providing school meals regardless of educational setting

Healthy eating is important for child and adolescent growth, development, well-being, and academic performance. According to the April 2020 Colorado District Needs Inventory, while there was variability in the top community needs identified across regions, food access was rated as one of the highest rated community needs across the state.

Our district prioritized the following as one of our top investments made with ESSEr I funding: **Nutritional services personnel (\$25,000)**. Due to COVID 19 we have the need to use our funds on nutritional services personnel from March 13 until the end of school as it was important for the continuity of providing our students with a nutritional lunch for the days we were providing distance

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 (\$36,360). 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

COLORADO SCHOOL FINANCE PROJECT

Support Children - Support The Future