Legislative Interim Committee on School Finance

Federal COVID Recovery
Funding for Education Update

August 24, 2021

Kate Bartlett, CDE Executive Director of School District Operations
Jennifer Okes, CDE Chief Operating Officer
PURPOSE
To provide an update on Federal funds that have been allocated to Colorado school districts to assist with COVID response and recovery.

AGENDA
● Overview of funding
● Allocations
● Uses of funds
● Questions
Overview of Federal Funding
Overall Purpose of All ESSER Funds
To address the impact that COVID-19 has had on education

Priorities of Each ESSER Funding Stream

- **CARES Act: ESSER I – Crisis Response**
  - To provide schools, staff and students with the *technology and infrastructure to accommodate remote learning environments* caused by COVID-19.

- **CRRS Act: ESSER II – Resuming/Sustaining In-Person Instruction**
  - To provide schools staff and students with the resources and equipment to *safely return to in-person learning environments* for students.

- **ARP Act: ESSER III – Recovery**
  - To support schools, educators and students with resources and programming that *address learning loss* caused by COVID 19 and remote learning environments.
## Total ESSER Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total State Allocation</strong></td>
<td>$120,993,782</td>
<td>$519,324,311</td>
<td>$1,167,153,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Allocation to LEAs</strong></td>
<td>$108,894,404 ($120.81 per pupil)</td>
<td>$467,391,880 ($518.70 per pupil)</td>
<td>$1,050,438,565 ($1,164.93 per pupil)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90% of total funding Title I formula</td>
<td>$120.81 per pupil</td>
<td>$518.70 per pupil</td>
<td>$1,164.93 per pupil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State Reserve</strong></td>
<td>$12,099,378 (10% of total funding (0.5% for admin))</td>
<td>$51,932,431 (10% of total funding (0.5% for admin))</td>
<td>$116,715,396 (10% of total funding (0.5% for admin))</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ESSER Funding Directly to Districts

**ESSER I:**
~$109M
90% Allocation

- Applications due December 31, 2020
- Funds must be spent by **September 30, 2022**

**ESSER II:**
~$467M
90% Allocation

- Applications due September 30, 2021
- Funds must be spent by **September 30, 2023**

**ESSER III:**
~$1B
90% Allocation *

- Initial applications due May 23, 2021
- Final application due March 24, 2022
- Funds must be spent by **September 30, 2024**

*At least 20% of ESSER III funding must be used to address the learning impacts of COVID-19 through interventions, summer programming, and after-school opportunities.
Additional Federal Funds for Education

Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (~$44M)
- Included in the first stimulus bill

Coronavirus Relief Funds for Education (~$550M)
- Included in the first stimulus bill

Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (~$57M)
- Funding available for non-public schools in the second and third stimulus bills
Additional Federal Funds for Education

- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Funding ($41.5M)
- Library Services and Technology Funds ($3.7M)
- Funds to Support Homeless Children & Youth ($11.9M)
- Emergency Costs for Child Nutrition Program ($9.9M)

Included in the third stimulus bill

Included in a separate stimulus bill
Allocations
Per Federal statute, the allocation of all ESSER funds followed the formula of allocation for Title I funds.

- Districts that received little or no funding based upon the Title I allocation received distributions from ESSER state set-aside funds.

- **Coronavirus Relief Funds** were distributed on a per-pupil basis that utilized factors from the school finance formula.
Colorado school districts have received $2.17 billion from the formula allocations of Federal COVID recovery funds (CRF & ESSER) to be spent for allowable uses between March 2020 and September 2024.

- To put that in perspective, the total school finance (local and state share) allocation for 2021-2022 is projected to be $7.99 billion.

- Total ESSER & CRF formula allocations range from:
  - $113,138 to Kim School District (50 funded pupils)
  - $395,482,816 to Denver Public Schools (89,785 funded pupils)

- The average district CRF & ESSER total allocation is $12.13 million.
Ten Largest Total ESSER & CRF Allocations

Ten Largest Total Allocations (CRF & ESSER I, II, III)
Uses of Funds
### Allowable Uses of District ESSER Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESSER I</th>
<th>ESSER II</th>
<th>ESSER III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Addressing the impact of COVID-19 on schools, such as:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Same as ESSER I with emphasis on:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Same as ESSER I with a requirement to direct at least 20% of funding to address the learning impacts of COVID-19 through interventions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Coordination with public health departments</td>
<td>● Addressing learning loss</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>● Purchasing educational technology</td>
<td>● School facility repairs and improvements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Planning for long term closures</td>
<td>● Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Training and supplies for sanitation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>● Mental health support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Summer school and afterschool programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Funds for principals to address local needs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Other activities to continue school operations and employment of existing staff</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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All ESSER funds may be used for activities allowable under ESEA, IDEA, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Perkins CTE Act, or the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, in response to COVID-19.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Uses of ESSER Funds in Colorado</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purchasing educational technology</strong> for students and staff, including both software and hardware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Remote learning supports</strong> including electronic media curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preparedness and response</strong> activities and supplies, including PPE and sanitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Repairing/improving school facilities</strong> to reduce health hazards including air-filtration and ventilation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mental health supports</strong> for students, including counselors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Instructional support</strong> to counter learning loss, including curriculum purchases and intervention; tutoring; and intervention staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer learning and supplemental after-school programs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Augmenting staff salaries</strong> including extra duty pay or stipends for supplemental instructional time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other activities to maintain the operation and continuity of services</strong> including hazard pay for teaching in-person and salaries to maintain staff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Uses of ESSER Funds in Colorado to Date

USES OF FUNDS (AS OF JULY 23, 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>ESSER I</th>
<th>ESSER II</th>
<th>ESSER III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other Needs Due to the Pandemic</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote Supports</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing for In-Person Safety</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Technology</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESEA Allowable Activities</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Loss</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Programming</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Supports</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## ESSER State Set Aside Funds (9.5%)

### ESSER I: $11.5 Million

- **Funding Gap Support** (~$3.2 M)
- **Provide Broadband** (~$1.3 M)
- **Statewide Capacity Building** (~$5 M)
- **Expand Learning Opportunities** (~$2 M)

### ESSER II: $49.3 Million

- **Funding Gap Support** (~$16.8 M)
- **Other Allowable Activities** (~$21.4 M)*
- **Statewide Capacity Building** (~$650K)
- **Expand Learning Opportunities** (~$10.5 M)

### ESSER III: $110.8 Million

- **Evidenced-Based Interventions for Learning Loss** (~$58.3 M)*
- **Other Allowable Activities** (~$29.2 M)*
- **Summer Programming** (~$11.7 M)*
- **After School Programming** (~$11.7 M)*

*These items are before the State Board of Education for decision-making today at 12:30pm*
ESSER III State Set-Aside Input Process

CDE contracted with Keystone Policy Group to conduct a community input process

- Focus groups with parents, educators, students, community organizations, school leaders, district administrators, educator preparation programs and CDE staff
- Statewide survey
- Other input received, including a special listening session with legislators

The process occurred during the month of July
Esser III State Set-Aside Input Themes

- Student Academic Recovery
- Student Well Being
- Educator Support and Development
- Educator Well Being
- Technical Resources
Questions?