

ESSER LEA Funds Update

Jill Briggs Campbell, COVID-19 Federal
Emergency Funds Program Manager

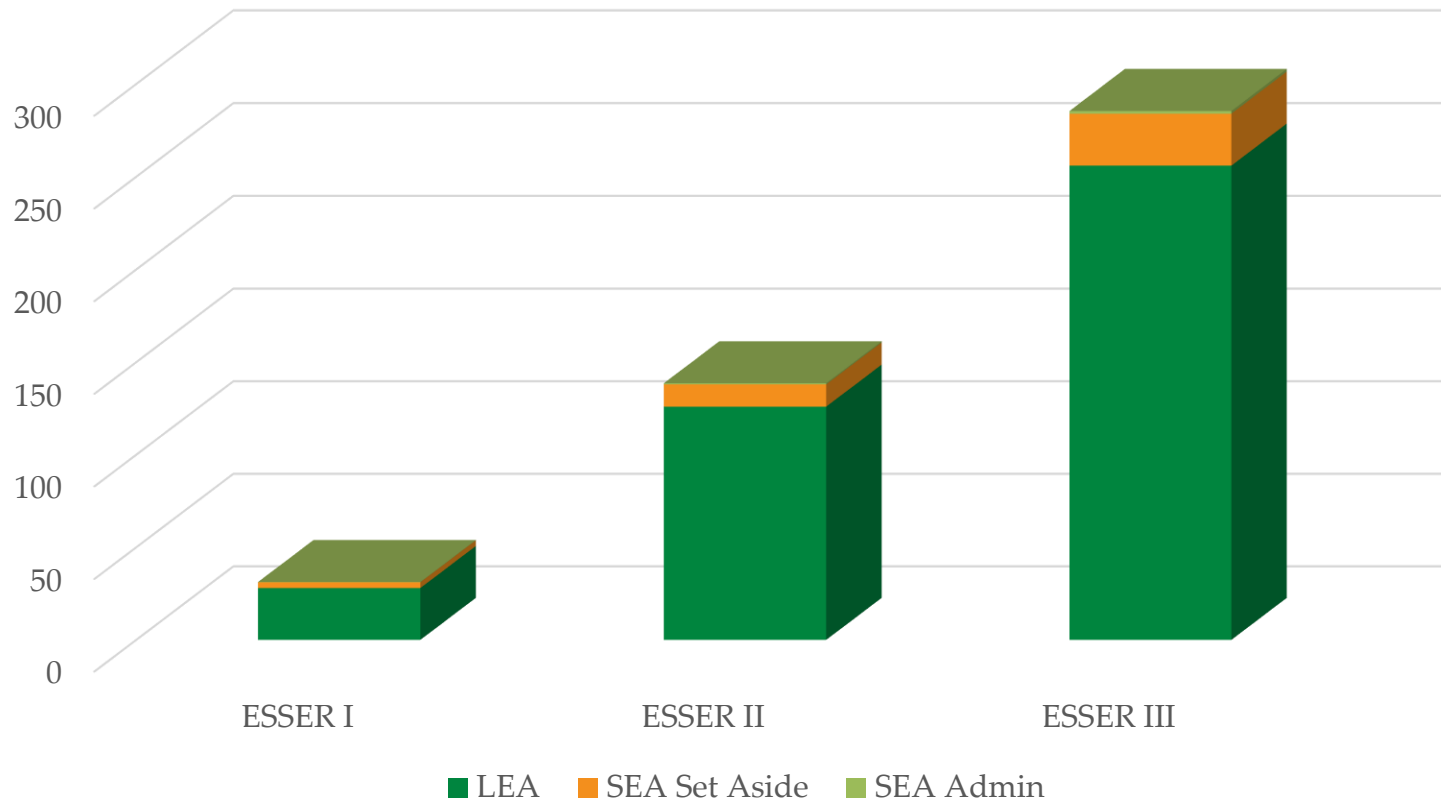
Common Terms

- ESSER: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief fund
- LEA: Local Education Entity (in Vermont, this is our Supervisory Unions and Supervisory Districts (SU/SDs))
- Period of performance: the period of time in which an LEA needs to obligate or encumber its funds. Any funds not obligated must be returned to the federal government

Transparency Dashboards

- The AOE has created two transparency dashboards on the [Education Recovery and Revitalization website](#)
- [ESSER and GEER LEA dashboard](#)
- ESSER State Level funds dashboard

ESSER I, II and ARP ESSER



	LEA	SEA Set Aside	SEA Admin
ESSER I	\$28,033,524	\$2,959,095	\$155,741
ESSER II	\$114,276,027	\$12,062,469	\$634,867
ESSER III	\$256,701,073	\$27,096,224	\$1,426,117
Totals	\$399,010,624	\$42,117,788	\$2,216,725

Summary of LEA-level ESSER I

- Period of performance ended September 30, 2022

Awarded	Paid	Remaining Funds
\$28,096,135.95	\$25,916,594.71	\$2,179,541.24

The majority of the remaining funds have been expended by LEAs. The AOE has until January 30, 2023 to pay out the remaining reimbursement requests and close this grant program.

Summary of LEA-level ESSER II

- Period of performance ends September 30, 2023

Awarded	Paid	Remaining Funds
\$114,275,365.87	\$72,395,123.34	\$41,880,242.53

Summary of LEA-level ARP ESSER

- Period of performance ends September 30, 2024

Awarded	Paid	Remaining Funds
\$239,904,904.20	\$25,488,211.97	\$214,416,692.23

How are SU/SDs using their ESSER funds?

Big Takeaways

- SU/SDs are spending their ESSER dollars
 - ESSER I grants are in closeout and are almost 100% expended
- SU/SDs are focused on using ESSER funds to support student learning and the impacts of the pandemic (53% of total spending)
- SU/SDs are using ESSER funds to invest in Safe and Healthy Schools (23% of total spending)
 - Direct pandemic needs (nurses, PPE)
 - Investments in facilities (HVAC, outdoor learning spaces, etc)

SU/SDs Identify Needs

- In June 2021 SU/SDs were required to submit Education Recovery Plans, based on needs assessments conducted in winter and spring of 2021. In June 2022 they submitted Outcomes and Next Steps reports that they were able to use in developing their ARP ESSER applications and Continuous Improvement Plans.
- The AOE requires that ARP ESSER (and encouraged ESSER II) investments are aligned with the Education Recovery pillars of:
 - Student Engagement,
 - Socioemotional and Mental Health,
 - Academic Achievement and
 - Safe and Healthy Schools
- National NAEP data on math and literacy scores became available in October 2022 to help inform areas of need.

ESSER Highlights

- In Burlington, BSD is heavily investing in Academic Interventions and Instruction and Restorative Practices by purchasing screening tools, hiring specialist staff and providing professional development opportunities (\$4.5 million)
- Southwest Vermont SU is investing ESSER funds in updating HVAC systems in all schools(\$10 million) and in expanding access to high quality summer and afterschool programs (\$2.3 million)

ESSER Highlights (continued)

- In Rutland county, the Greater Rutland SU is targeting academics by investing in math and literacy interventionists, screeners and professional development (\$1.2 million)
- They are also investing in 21st century learning spaces through technology in the classrooms and by expanding access for families through the purchase of computers and mobile hotspots and routers (\$1 million)

Challenges and Opportunities for SU/SDs

- Capacity in schools to manage funds, make space for strategic planning and implement programs in a short timespan
- Challenges in finding highly qualified contractors and vendors to carry out critical work (facilities/construction, professional development, supply chain delays)
- Planning for the FY 25 budget when ARP ESSER funding ends → identifying what works and how to support student needs and outcomes after September 2024.