

# **COVID-19 Federal Emergency Funding Overview**

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# Major COVID-19 Federal Relief Bills

- **CARES** (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act)- March 27, 2020
  - Includes ESSER, GEER, CRF
- **CRRSA** (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act)- December 27, 2020
  - Includes ESSER II, GEER II and GEER EANS, extension of CRF, and Child Nutrition Emergency Assistance and P-EBT administration grants
- **ARPA** (American Rescue Plan Act)- March 11, 2021
  - Includes ESSER III, GEER EAN II, IDEA supplement

# CARES Act Family Tree

## Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)

- US Department of Education
- Funds directly to LEAs and AOE
- \$28 million to LEAs
- \$3 million to SEA
- Broad range of uses
- Goes through 9/30/22

## Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)

- US Department of Education
- Funds to Governor's Office with AOE as administrator
- \$4.48 million to CTE centers
- Broad range of uses
- Goes through 9/30/22

## Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)

- US Department of Treasury
- \$103 million allocated by Vermont State Legislature to education entities through Acts 120 and 154
- 5 grants administered by AOE
- Limited range of uses
- Originally through 12/30/20, extended through 12/31/21
- \$15 million in unused funds

# CRRSA Family Tree

**Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II**

- US Department of Education
- Funds directly to LEAs and AOE
- \$114 million to LEAs
- \$13 million to SEA
- Same broad range of uses as ESSER I
- Emphasis on learning loss
- Goes through 9/30/23

**Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)**

**GEER II**

- US Department of Education
- Funds to Governor's Office with AOE as administrator
- \$1.9 million
- Broad range of uses
- Goes through 9/30/23

**GEER Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic Schools (EANS)**

- US Department of Education
- Funds to Governor's Office with AOE as administrator
- \$4.8 million to nonpublic schools
- Goes through 9/30/23

**Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)**

- Deadline for use of funds extended through December 20, 2021
- AOE proposes to use the \$15 million in unused funds to continue the Indoor Air Quality grant through 2021

# ARPA Family Tree

## Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III

- US Department of Education
- Funds directly to LEAs and AOE
- \$156 million to LEAs
- \$28 million to SEA
- Broad range of uses, but with specific mandates for how some funds must be used
- Goes through 9/30/23

## GEER Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic Schools (EANS)

- US Department of Education
- Funds to Governor's Office with AOE as administrator
- \$4.48 million to CTE centers
- Broad range of uses
- Goes through 9/30/22

# Updates on AOE COVID-19 Funding Work

- 3/20/21- ESSER I applications closed and all but 11 (in review) have grant awards, totaling \$26,554,399
- 3/22/21-
  - ESSER II application released
    - Office Hours/technical assistance sessions for ESSER II are planned as part of the Recovery Plan process in April and May
  - ESSER II guidance
  - ARPA overview memo
  - Federal Funding Planning Guidance
- 3/23/21-GEEREANS application released for independent schools
  - Office Hours sessions scheduled for 3/30 and 4/12
- 3/23/21- ESSER III Allocations released to the field for planning

# **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) I, II and III**

# ESSER Family Tree

- Funded through US Department of Education: CARES, CRRSA, ARPA
- Allocation to LEAs based on Title I formulas (not part of Title I program)
- NOT a competitive grant
- Broad range of allowable costs as determined by federal statute → AOE cannot tell LEAs how to spend their funds, only offer guidance and oversight

## ESSER I

- Part of CARES Act passed 3/27/20
- \$28 million to LEAs
- \$3.1 million to SEA
- Equitable Services to Independent Schools
- Broad range of uses
- Goes through 9/30/22

## ESSER II

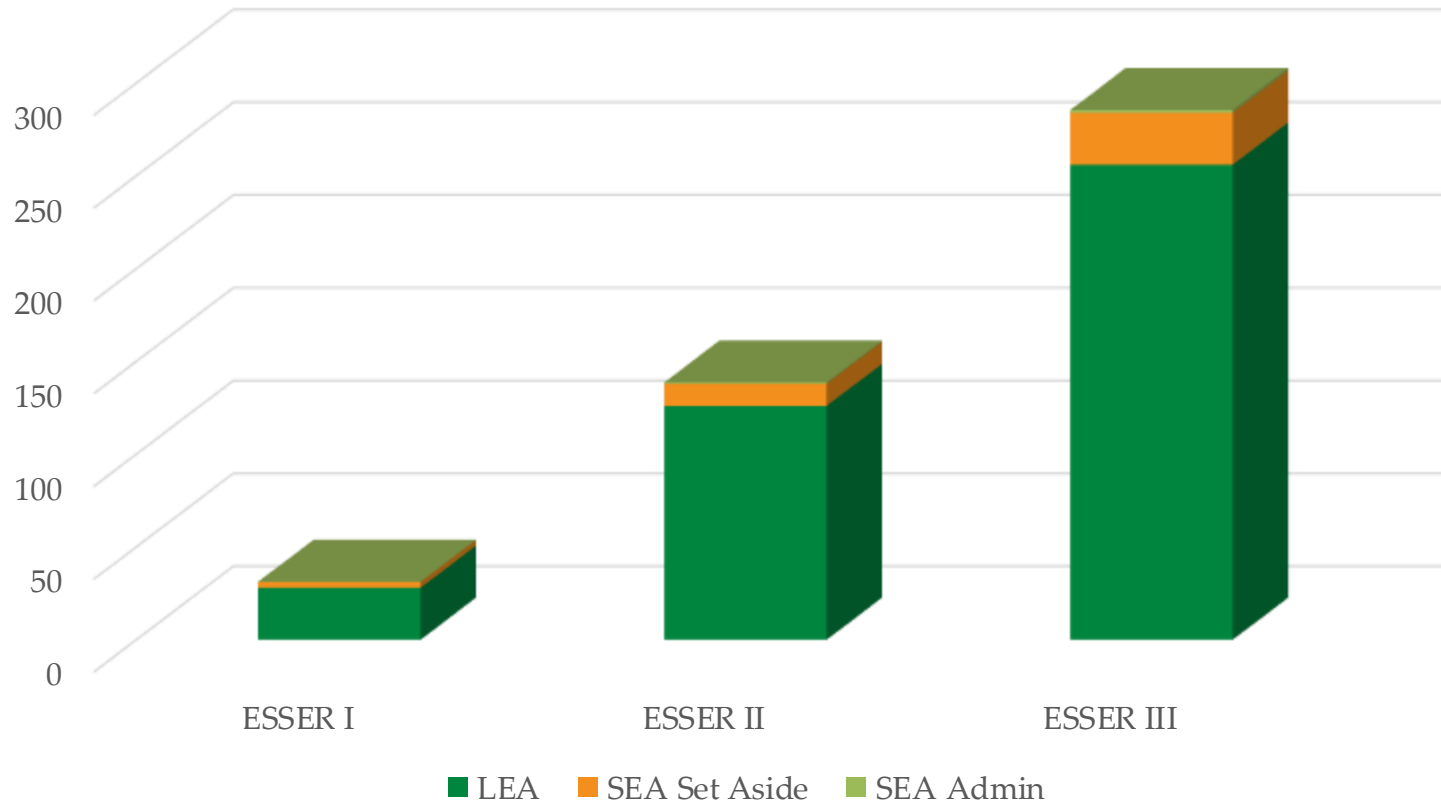
- Part of CRRSA passed 12/27/20
- \$114 million to LEAs
- \$12.6 million to SEA
- No Equitable Services
- Broad range of uses
- Application opens in late March 2021
- Funding Support for Recovery Plan
- Goes through 9/30/23

## ESSER III

- Part of ARPA passed 3/11/21
- \$256 million to LEAs
- \$28 million to SEA
- No Equitable Services
- Broad range of uses
- Comes with specific mandates for use of funds
- Goes through 9/30/23



# ESSER I, II and III



	LEA	SEA Set Aside	SEA Admin
ESSER I	\$28,033,524	\$3,114,836	\$155,741
ESSER II	\$126,973,363	\$12,062,469	\$634,867
ESSER III	\$256,647,724	\$28,516,414	\$1,425,821
Totals	\$411,654,611	\$43,693,719	\$2,216,429

# ESSER I (CARES Act)

- Application released July 2020
- As of 3/22/21
  - 47 LEAs have approved grant awards
  - 7 in review process
  - Total of \$26,554,399 awarded
  - \$1,655,276 reimbursements made to LEAs
- LEAs had until March 20, 2021 to submit their applications to AOE → unawarded funds will be returned to federal government on April 29, 2021
- LEAs have until September 30, 2022 to obligate these funds and can make amendments to adapt to new or changing needs

# ESSER II (CRRSA)

- Application planned to be released in late March 2021
- ESSER II funds must be tracked separately from ESSER
- Period of Performance: pre-award costs back to March 13, 2020-September 30, **2023** (additional year past ESSER)
  - All funds must be obligated in an approved grant award by 1/5/2022
- No Equitable Services requirement
- Maintenance of Effort requirement “based on the **proportional share** of the State’s support for elementary and secondary education and higher education relative to the State’s overall spending averaged over FYs 2017, 2018, and 2019.”
- Same Allowable Costs as ESSER: specific emphasis on measuring and addressing learning loss
- Reporting - Required report at 6 months after award explaining how state is using funds to measure and address learning loss for student populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19

# ESSER III (ARPA)

- Total estimate for Vermont: \$285,164,000
  - LEAs- \$ 256,647,724
  - SEA set aside- \$28,516,484 (of which a maximum of \$1,426,000 may be used for administration)
- Same allocation formula and uses as ESSER I and II.
- No Equitable Services (additional funding for GEER Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools (GEER EANS) program)
- Period of performance from 3/13/20-9/30/23

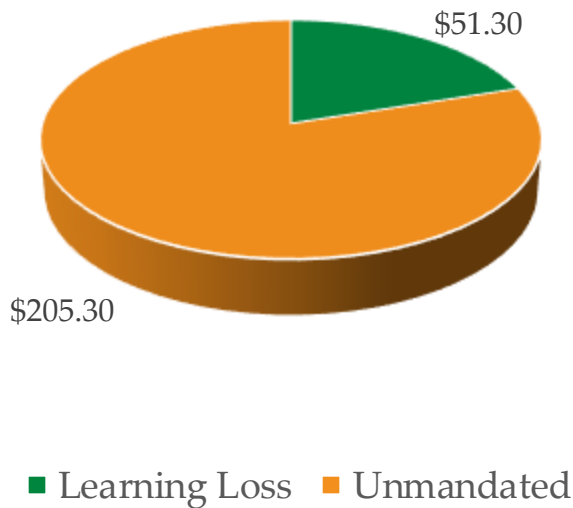
# ESSER III: Spending Mandates

Specific restrictions on use of funds to address student learning loss

- LEAs (Total Allocation- \$256,647,724 million)
  - 20% (or \$51,329,544) set aside by LEAs for “activities to address learning loss through evidence-based interventions such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year programs.”
- SEA Set Aside (Total Allocation- \$28,516,484)
  - \$14.28 million set aside by SEAs to carry out through grants or contracts “activities to address learning loss through evidence-based interventions such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year programs.”
  - \$2.8 million to carry out, directly or through grants or contracts, the implementation of evidence-based summer enrichment activities.
  - \$2.8 million to carry out, directly or through grants or contracts, the implementation of evidence-based comprehensive afterschool programs.

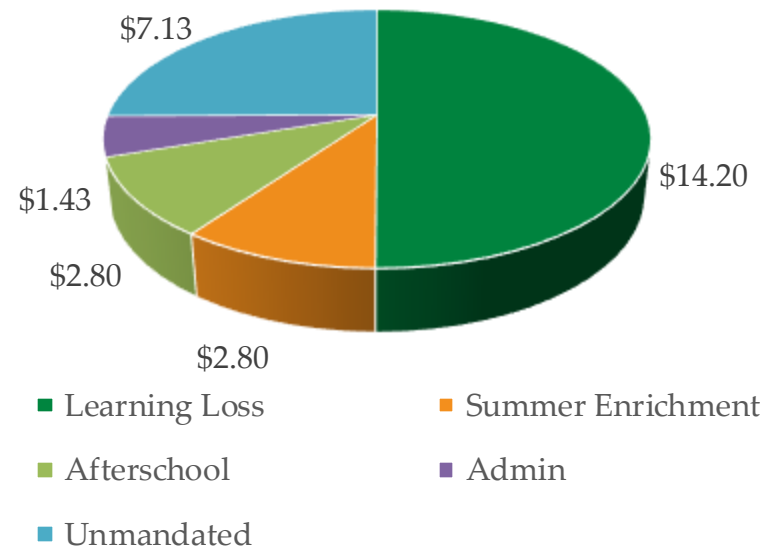
# ESSER III Spending Mandates

## LEA Spending Mandates



	LEAs
Learning Loss	\$51,329,544
Unmandated	\$205,,318,179

## SEA Set Aside Spending Mandates



	ESSER III SEA Set Aside
Learning Loss	\$14,258,000
Summer Enrichment	\$2,852,000
Afterschool	\$2,852,000
Admin	\$1,426,000
Unmandated	\$7,129,000

# ESSER AOE Set-aside Prioritization

“With funds not otherwise allocated under subsection (c), a State may reserve not more than one-half of 1 percent for administrative costs and the remainder for emergency needs as determined by **the state educational agency** to address issues responding to coronavirus...” - CRRSA (Section 313(e))

## Guiding Principles

- These are one-time funds and should be used in a strategic manner.
- The funds should be focused on education recovery.
- The recovery work in education will take time – these funds extend out into 2023 accordingly.

## Areas for Strategic Recovery Investment

- Improve school facilities, including indoor air quality and other health and safety issues.
- Support integrated service delivery models in all regions.
- Address learning loss through expanding capacity for remote learning.

# ESSER I SEA Set Aside: Budgeted

- Total SEA set aside \$3,114,836 (max of \$155,741 available for administration of program)
- For statewide activities to support the field in their COVID response
- Available through September 30, 2022

Project Name	High-Level Description	Total Cost from FY20-FY22
Edmodo (build out)	Professional Network and K-5 LMS	\$334,000
Salesforce (CRM)	CRM tool to respond to queries from the public and the field related to COVID-19 response	148,000
Salesforce (Symptom Tracker)	Framework for COVID-19 related symptom checking and tracking for schools	\$407,350
Social/Emotional Learning platform	Development and support of a website containing curated materials on best practice for educators to ensure students' social, emotional, and mental health well-being.	\$400,000
<b>Total Already Budgeted</b>		<b>\$1,155,350</b>
Edmodo (Zoom)	Enhanced feature to allow Zoom in Edmodo sessions	\$24,000
Salesforce Helpdesk	Enhanced public-facing platform	\$200,000
<b>Total in Development</b>		<b>\$225,000</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>		<b>Total budgeted as of 3/12/21: \$1,514,350</b>
<b>Funds still available</b>		<b>\$1,600,486</b>



# ESSER II SEA Set Aside: Budgeted

- Total SEA set aside \$12,062,469 (+ \$634,867 max admin)
- For statewide activities to support the field in their COVID response
- Available through September 30, 2023

Project name	High-Level Description	Total Cost
Burlington High School Macy's retrofit	Support the retrofitting of the old Macy's building to accommodate Burlington High School students who are unable to return to in-person schooling due to contamination of the Burlington High School site.	\$3,500,000
Total Costs		<b>Total Budgeted as of 3/12/21 \$3,500,000</b>