

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)

ESSER I

The ESSER Grant Program, part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (March 27, 2020), provides funds to help LEAs respond to changes in student needs due to COVID-19.

The DPI has awarded more than \$158 million in ESSER funds directly to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) through grants.

The grant performance period is 3/13/20-9/30/22. DPI consultants will review applications in the order they are received. LEAs can claim funds as soon as their applications are approved.

Click [here](#) for more information.

ESSER II

President Trump signed into law the second COVID stimulus package on December 27th. The package includes grant funds for schools, known as the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II). The ESSER II allocation is four times what was awarded under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER I) under the prior stimulus package last spring (\$686,056,238). Districts will be able to spend their ESSER II award for expenses through September 30, 2023. The DPI submitted a plan for approval to the Joint Committee on Finance on January 26th, which would provide at least \$395 per pupil to every district (\$100,000 minimum per district).

On February 11, the Joint Finance Committee altered DPI's recommendation. The committee's action would keep the pot of nearly \$2.4 million for the minimum grants of \$100,000 per district and charter school. The remaining \$65.5 million would be divided up based on a formula that accounts for the hours of in-person instruction in the 2020-21 school year, and only the 172 districts that were originally in line for the funds under the DPI plan will be eligible. The amount of the grants wouldn't be known until the end of the school year when in-person instructional hours are reported.

Click [here](#) for more information.

ESSER III

President Biden signed The [American Rescue Plan Act](#) (ARPA) into law on March 11. ARPA includes another round of ESSER (III), as well as money for internet connectivity for schools and libraries, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and an extension of the Pandemic EBT food program for students.

The ARPA allocates around \$1.4 billion for Wisconsin. This money will be available for use by local education agencies (LEAs) through September 30, 2024. Ninety percent of the funds are again required to be allocated using the Title I formula. If you received funds under ESSER II, the DPI is estimating you will receive twice that amount under ESSER III.

Click [here](#) for more information.