



FY2024 COVID-19 Relief Funding Application Information & FAQs

A Guidance Document to Assist Districts in Planning for FY2024 COVID Relief Expenses

Overview

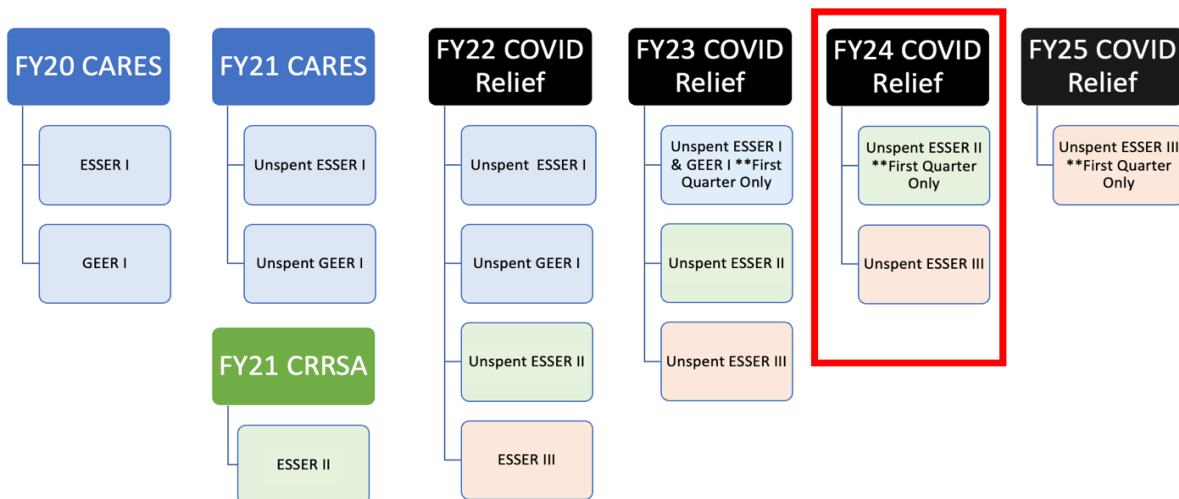
COVID Relief Funding was made available to school districts through three funding packages: the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act; the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act; and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. Each funding package provided specific support to school districts through the establishment of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. Additional funds were made available to the Governor through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund. The CARES Act established the ESSER I and GEER I funds, the CRRSA Act established the ESSER II fund, and the ARP Act established the ESSER III fund.

Purpose

These funds provide vital support to states, districts, and schools as they work to reopen schools safely, maximize in-person instructional time, safely sustain in-person instruction, and address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, educators, and families. These Federal emergency resources are available for a wide range of activities to address diverse needs arising from or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, or to emerge stronger post-pandemic, including responding to students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs.

Spending Timeline

The following graphic showcases the current location in the spending of COVID Relief Funding. CARES Act funding (expired September 30, 2022) is noted in blue, CRRSA Act funding (expires September 30, 2023) is noted in green, and ARP Act funding (expires September 30, 2024) is noted in orange.



An Overview of COVID Relief Funding Applications by Fiscal Year





FY2024 Application

Districts' FY2024 COVID Relief applications will become available automatically in GMS once the district's Final Expenditure Report (FER) for FY2023 is approved. Unspent money will automatically roll over to the FY2024 application and districts will be able to access it at that time.

If your district would like a dollar loaded into your FY2024 application so you can budget/plan in GMS before summer, please reach out to DEED.CARES@alaska.gov.

FY2024 applications are due September 1, 2023.

Expiring Funds in 2023

ESSER II (CRRSA Act) funds expire **September 30, 2023**. Any unspent ESSER II funds from FY2023 will carry over into FY2024 and will only be available for a first quarter reimbursement. Districts were sent a memo from Deputy Commissioner Lacey Sanders dated March 2, 2023, detailing expiring funding amounts. Please email DEED.CARES@alaska.gov for an updated total.

Will there be an extension to spend ESSER II funds?

There will not be any extensions for spending ESSER II funds. The funds must be spent prior to September 30, 2023. Salaries, contracts, and subscriptions may not be prepaid beyond September 30, 2023, using ESSER II funds.

The Department of Education and Early Development does not process reimbursement requests against obligations captured in an encumbrance, payment is made against expenditures only. All funds must be expended by September 30, 2023.

Please see the section titled "[A Needs-Based Approach to Spending Expiring COVID Relief Funding](#)" for additional support.

What happens if a district carries over ESSER II funds into FY2024?

Unspent ESSER II funds will carry over into the FY2024 application but must be spent during the first quarter as those funds expire at the end of the first quarter. Reimbursement requests must be received by October 31, 2023.

Reimbursement requests in FY2024 cannot be processed until an application for FY2024 is approved. Applications for FY2024 are not approvable until the FY2023 FER is processed.

For districts carrying ESSER II funds into FY2024, it is recommended to follow this timeline:



Questions?

Please contact us: DEED.CARES@alaska.gov

Last Updated: 5/22/23



American Rescue Plan Act Requirements (ESSER III)

ARP Act Funds (ESSER III) expire **September 30, 2024**.

Learning Loss Requirements

ARP Act funding has specific requirements districts must meet. Section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act requires a district to reserve not less than 20 percent of its ESSER III allocation to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions (e.g., providing intensive or high-dosage tutoring or accelerating learning). These interventions may be provided through summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs. In addition, districts may also ensure that the interventions implemented respond to students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs, and address the disproportionate impact COVID-19 has had on students from low-income families, students of color, children with disabilities, English learners, migratory students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care. Additional support and guidance regarding learning loss funding may be accessed on DEED's [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Act, Required Learning Loss Set Aside Guidance and Support Document](#).

Please see the memo from Deputy Commissioner Lacey Sanders dated April 6, 2023, detailing outstanding learning loss requirements for your district. Email DEED.CARES@alaska.gov for an updated total.

Tracking Learning Loss Expenditures

Learning Loss expenditures are tracked through budgeting and reimbursement in the learning loss purpose code. It is important to note that learning loss expenditures must be budgeted, tracked, and reimbursed separate from regular ESSER III funds. Please contact DEED.CARES@alaska.gov if you have questions about properly tracking your learning loss expenditures. Corrections for any FY2023 activities must be made prior to completing the FER.

Use of the Learning Loss Purpose Code in FY2024

Districts who have not yet met this requirement will be required to budget all remaining 20% learning loss set aside funds in the learning loss purpose code before the FY2024 application is approved.

Districts who have met this requirement will not be required to use the Learning Loss purpose code in the FY2024 COVID Relief Application.

What happens if a district does not spend all their learning loss funds by September 30, 2024?

Inability to spend 20% learning loss set aside funds may result in audit findings, monitoring findings, and/or possible repayment of funds.

Mitigation Plan Requirements

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires that districts receiving ESSER III funds develop and make publicly available on their website a written mitigation plan for the safe return and/or continuation of in-person instruction and continuity of services. The district must seek public comment on the mitigation plan and take such comments into account in the development and updating of the plan. The district must review and revise, as appropriate, the mitigation every six months.

Does the district still need to update the mitigation plan?

Mitigation plans are required to be updated no less frequently than every 6 months through **September 30, 2023**. Mitigation plans are not required to be updated or reported to DEED after September 30, 2023.

Questions?

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Upcoming Dates & Deadlines for FY2024

July – August 2023	Complete FY2023 COVID Relief FER Submit FY2024 COVID Relief Application
September – November 2023	ESSER II & III district monitoring (selected districts)
September 1, 2023	FY2024 COVID Relief Applications due (sooner if your district has carried over ESSER II funds)
September 30, 2023	ESSER II (CRRSA Act) Funds expire ESSER II funds must be spent on or by this date District Mitigation Plans no longer required to be updated
October 31, 2023	First quarter reimbursement requests due (hard deadline for any district that carried ESSER II funds into FY2024)
January 2024	COVID Relief Annual Report (update on goals and progress)
April - June 2024	Year 4 (School Year 2022-2023) Federal Data Collection for all COVID grants (questions about how funds were spent)

Known Dates for FY2025

July – August 2024	Complete FY2024 COVID Relief FER Submit FY2025 COVID Relief Application (for first quarter expenses only)
September – November 2024	ESSER III district monitoring (selected districts)
September 1, 2024	FY2025 COVID Relief Applications due
September 30, 2024	ESSER III (ARP Act) Funds expire (no extensions) All COVID funding should be spent on or by this date
October 31, 2024	First quarter reimbursement requests due. This closes out reimbursement requests for all COVID funding
January 2025	COVID Relief Annual Report (update on goals and progress)
April - June 2025	Year 5 (School Year 2023-2024) Federal Data Collection for all COVID grants (questions about how funds were spent)

Questions?

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New To COVID-19 Funding?

Check out these resources:

- [DEED's COVID-19 Website: Resources for School Districts](#)
- [An Overview of the Allowable Uses of Funds](#)
- [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Act, Required Learning Loss Set Aside Guidance and Support Document](#)
- [COVID-19 Relief Funding FAQs](#)
- [COVID-19 Relief Funding Webinar For New District Staff Slides](#) (October 2021)
- [COVID-19 Relief Funding Webinar For FY23 Application Slides](#) (May 2022)
- [COVID-19 Relief Funding Webinar For FY23 Recording](#) (May 2022)
- [Federal Supplemental FAQ Providing Clarity on Purpose of Funds](#) (December 2021)

Construction & Renovation Considerations

Districts using Federal funds (such as COVID Relief Funding) for minor remodeling, renovation, repair, or construction contracts over \$2,000 must meet all Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements and include language in the contracts that all contractors or subcontractors must pay wages that are not less than those established for the locality of the project (prevailing wage rates) (20 U.S.C. 1232b Labor Standards).

Support is available from the following offices:

- [Alaska's Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Labor Standards and Safety Division](#)
- [US Department of Labor, Government Contracts Assistance Department](#)

At a minimum, districts should:

- include language in contracts about the requirement to pay Davis Bacon prevailing wages;
- verify the contractor paid prevailing wages weekly;
- verify the contractor submitted certified weekly payroll; and
- keep copies of certified payroll for 3 years after project completion.

If a district has already completed a construction project and has concerns about missing some of the above requirements, please contact DEED.CARES@alaska.gov to further discuss.

A Needs-Based Approach to Spending Expiring COVID Relief Funding

For districts seeking to spend COVID Relief Funds in an effective way prior to expiration of funds, DEED has compiled a list of ideas and resources. The ideas listed are meant to be ways to effectively spend funds before they expire.

Support the Alaska Science of Reading

- [Alaska Science of Reading Resources](#)
- [Alaska Evidence-based Core Program List 2023](#)
- [Alaska Evidence-based Reading Interventions and Supplemental Programs 2023](#)
- [Alaska Evidence-based Reading Digital Instructional Programs 2023](#)

Questions?

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- Purchase high-quality instructional materials (digital licenses, e-books, textbooks)
- Purchase early literacy screeners
- Pay for staff travel to attend training
- Pay fees and stipends for staff time
- Purchase additional reading materials and literacy kits
- Provide literacy kits to pre-k students in the community
- Provide relevant science of reading professional development to all staff
- Purchase books to create/replenish classroom and school libraries
- Purchase eBook subscriptions

Support Other Content Areas

- Purchase science kits, STEM kits, and robotics equipment
- Provide technology upgrades
- Purchase new curriculum, supports, and consumables
- Provide network and infrastructure upgrades to support additional technology devices and demand

Support IDEA

- Purchase supplies, materials, and equipment for students (including preschool children) with disabilities and special education staff who are serving those students
- Make playgrounds accessible to children with disabilities
- Provide specialized furniture such as wheelchair accessible desks and adjustable tables or workstations
- Invest in behavior programs
- Purchase adaptive equipment & assistive technology
- Provide upgrades to computerized IEP system, including documentation from the point of referral for services under the IDEA
- Purchase instructional materials and equipment to support special education staff
- Purchase assessment and evaluation materials for students with disabilities or suspected of having disabilities that are above and beyond what is used for general education students

Support Mental Health for Staff & Students

- Purchase SEL curriculum to support mental health and provide training for all staff
- Create/improve outdoor learning areas
- Create/improve outdoor communal areas
- Improve indoor communal areas
- Purchase and install new playground equipment
- Replenish old/outdated PE equipment & supplies
- Provide supplies for new hobbies & club offerings for students
- Purchase mental health supplies & subscriptions for staff
- Create/improve communal staff areas

Support Career and Technical Education

- Purchase simulators (heavy equipment, CDL, driver's ed, drone piloting)
- Offer summer CTE skill camps
- Partner with existing community CTE programs to provide additional offerings for students
- Replenish materials needed for elective courses
- Purchase new materials for elective courses that you may offer in the future (home economics, cooking supplies, first aid/CPR supplies, beading, wilderness survival, etc.)

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Support School Buildings

- Purchase paint and other materials to refresh outdated and unsanitary surfaces
- Upgrade sinks, soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers, toilets, etc. to automated
- Repair broken and unsafe doors, windows, locks, cabinets, etc.
- Upgrade library and computer lab spaces
- Upgrade seating and table spaces to easy-to-clean surfaces
- Purchase air filtration devices and replacement filters
- Purchase and install security cameras (be sure the district has a camera policy that follows FERPA)
- Upgrade or repair intercom/telephone systems

Support Teachers & Staff

- Provide high quality district-wide in-service
- Provide additional mental health support to teachers and staff
- Provide additional supplies for teachers
- Upgrade work surfaces and seating areas to easy-to-clean materials
- Purchase new copy machines, ink, paper
- Send staff to summer professional development opportunities

Support Students

- Replenish McKinney Vento supply closets
- Purchase hygiene supplies for hygiene supply closets
- Pay outstanding student lunch debt
- Upgrade playground and outdoor play areas
- Upgrade student work surfaces and seating areas to easy-to-clean materials
- Pay tuition for students to attend community and community summer programs

Questions?

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