



Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) Informational Document

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The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA), was signed into law on December 27, 2020 and provides an additional \$54.3 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II Fund). On January 5, 2021, Secretary DeVos [announced](#) the release to State Education Agencies (SEAs). These funds are in addition to the \$13 billion provided under the CARES Act.

ESSER II Fund awards to SEAs are in the same proportion as each State received funds under Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, in federal fiscal year 2020 (2020-2021).

The legislative text (5500+ pages) for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 is available [here](#). The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund starts on page 1866 (section 313).

Allocations

[UPDATED 2/22/2021] Alaska received \$159,719,422. Of that amount, DEED must distribute \$143,747,480 to school districts. DEED may retain up to \$798,597 for administrative purposes and up to \$15,971,942 for emergency needs. US ED updated its [ESSER webpage](#) to include the new [ESSER II allocation table](#) and [fact sheet](#). Alaska school district allocations are posted on the DEED COVID-19 webpage.

The U.S. Department of Education (US ED) ESSER II Fact Sheet

This chart outlines the primary differences between the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act enacted on March 27, 2020, and the ESSER II Fund under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260, enacted on December 27, 2020. **Please note:** fiscal year references in the US ED table below are federal fiscal years.

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Topic	ESSER I Fund (CARES Act)	ESSER II Fund (CRRSA Act)
Authorizing Legislation	Section 18003 of Division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act	Section 313 of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, 2021
Period of Funds Availability	May be used for pre-award costs dating back to March 13, 2020, when the national emergency was declared. Available for obligation by State educational agencies (SEAs) and subrecipients through September 30, 2022.	Same as ESSER Fund (CARES Act): May be used for pre-award costs dating back to March 13, 2020, when the national emergency was declared. ¹ Available for obligation by SEAs and subrecipients through September 30, 2023.
SEA Deadline for Awarding Funds	SEA must award the funds within one year of receiving them, which will be April through June 2021, depending on an SEA’s award date.	SEA must award the funds within one year of receiving them, which will be January 2022.
Definition of “Awarded”	For the 90 percent of funds for local educational agencies (LEAs), funds are generally considered “awarded” when the SEA subgrants the funds to an LEA. For the SEA reserve (see section 18003(e) of the CARES Act), funds are “awarded” when the SEA awards a contract or subgrant, or when it retains funds to provide direct services.	Same as ESSER Fund (CARES Act): For the 90 percent of funds for LEAs, funds are generally considered “awarded” when the SEA subgrants the funds to an LEA. For the SEA reserve (see section 313(e) of the CRRSA Act), funds are “awarded” when the SEA awards a contract or subgrant, or when it retains funds to provide direct services.
Uses of Funds	The CARES Act includes allowable uses of funds related to preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19. Note that the “additional” LEA allowable uses of funds under the CRRSA Act already were permitted under the CARES Act.	Same as ESSER Fund (CARES Act): Note that the “additional” LEA allowable uses of funds under the CRRSA Act (addressing learning loss, preparing schools for reopening, and testing, repairing, and upgrading projects to improve air quality in school buildings) already are permitted under the CARES Act.

¹ DEED will be creating a CRRSA Act Application in GMS for the current fiscal year – FY2021. If a district has allowable FY2020 (March 13, 2020 – June 30, 2020) expenses, the district should reach out to DEED directly by emailing DEED.CARES@alaska.gov to discuss potential options.

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Topic	ESSER I Fund (CARES Act)	ESSER II Fund (CRRSA Act)
Equitable Services	An LEA that receives ESSER funds under the CARES Act (Section 18005) must provide equitable services to non-public school students and teachers in the same manner as provided under section 1117 of Title I, Part A of the ESEA.	The CRRSA Act includes a separate program of Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools for which eligible non-public schools may apply to an SEA to receive services or assistance. Consequently, LEAs are not required to provide equitable services under ESSER II.
Maintenance of Effort (MOE)	Under the CARES Act, a State that receives ESSER funds must maintain support for elementary and secondary education and State support for higher education in each of federal fiscal years (FY) 2020 and 2021 at least at the level of such support that is the average of the support for elementary and secondary education and higher education provided in the three fiscal years preceding the date of enactment of the CARES Act (federal FYs 2017, 2018, 2019).	Under the CRRSA Act, a State that receives ESSER II funds must maintain support for elementary and secondary education and higher education in federal FY 2022 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 federal FYs 2017, 2018, and 2019.
Reporting	Under the CARES Act, each SEA that receives ESSER funds must meet the reporting requirements of section 15011 of the CARES Act, which are satisfied through the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) reporting, and other reporting as the Secretary may require (Annual Reporting).	Under the CRRSA Act, each SEA that receives ESSER II funds must meet the CARES Act reporting requirements that apply to ESSER funds and submit a report to the Secretary within six months of award that contains a detailed accounting of the use of ESSER II funds, that includes how the State is using funds to measure and address learning loss among students disproportionately affected by the coronavirus and school closures, including: low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care.
Tracking of Funds	ESSER funds must be tracked separately from ESSER II funds.	ESSER II funds must be tracked separately from ESSER funds.

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Use of Funds

Districts may use their ESSER II funding on the following allowable activities –

1. Any activity authorized by the ESEA of 1965, including the Native Hawaiian Education Act and the Alaska Native Educational Equity, Support, and Assistance Act (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) (“IDEA”), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) (“the Perkins Act”), or subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney- Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.).
2. Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.
3. Providing principals and others school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools.
4. Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population.
5. Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.
6. Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
7. Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including buildings operated by such agency.
8. Planning for, coordinating, and implementing activities during long-term closures, including providing meals to eligible students, providing technology for online learning to all students, providing guidance for carrying out requirements under the IDEA and ensuring other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements.
9. Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and children with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.
10. Providing mental health services and supports.
11. Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.
12. Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency, including by—
 - a. Administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately assess students’ academic progress and assist educators in meeting students’ academic needs, including through differentiating instruction.
 - b. Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students.
 - c. Providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment.
 - d. Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education.

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13. School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.
14. Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.
15. Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies and continuing to employ existing staff of the local educational agency.

Application

[UPDATED 2/22/2021] Districts will budget for the ESSER II funding in the [Grants Management System](#) (GMS). This will be a separate application in FY2021 from its predecessor, the CARES Act. This application will be called “CRRSA Act”. This application has three additional tags in the budget to account for the new allowable costs. The CRRSA Act application will not have a program details page.

Initial awards will have a period of availability through 6/30/2021. Any balance will be carried over to FY2022 and available through 6/30/2022. Any remaining balance at that point will be carried over to FY2023 and available through 6/30/2023. Carry forward will continue until the entire grant is spent, or until 9/30/2023, when the grant period ends.

In FY2022, the CRRSA Act and the CARES Act application will be combined into one application. The U.S. Department of Education recently notified DEED of the flexibility for districts to consolidate administrative funds under ESSER I (CARES Act), GEER I (CARES Act), and ESSER II (CRRSA Act). GMS does not have the capability to allow for consolidated administration if the CARES Act and CRRSA Acts are two separate applications. In an effort to distribute CRRSA Act funds in a timely manner, this change will not be implemented until FY2022. Once the FY2021 Final Expenditure Reports (FER) for CARES Act and CRRSA Act applications are DEED approved, carryover will follow the fund source despite the combining of the two applications. See further details about Consolidated Administration Funds section below.

[NEW 2/22/2021] [Consolidated Administrative Funds](#)

Districts may consolidate the administrative funds they receive under other programs designated by the U.S. Secretary of Education. To date, the Secretary has designated the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) and the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) as also being eligible for consolidated administration.

There are three key benefits to consolidating administrative funds:

- Gives districts more spending options because consolidated administrative funds can be spent on more activities than non-consolidated administrative funds,
- Can make it easier for staff to work on multiple programs and coordinate with each other and with other district staff, and
- Can reduce some of the paperwork required of staff who work on federal programs.

Administrative activities designed to enhance the effective and coordinated use of funds that are part of the consolidated pool, such as:

- Coordinating consolidated programs with other federal and non-federal programs,

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- Disseminating information about model programs and practices,
- Technical assistance under any consolidated program,
- Training personnel engaged in audit and other monitoring activities,
- Implementing cooperative audit resolution,
- Implementing fiscal support teams that provide technical fiscal support assistance, which includes evaluating fiscal, administrative, and staffing functions, and any other key operational function.

Consolidated administration is treated as one “program” for time and effort purposes. Employees working on consolidated administrative activities are not required to separately track the time they spend on each consolidated program.

Equitable Services

Districts **will not** be required to reserve funds to provide equitable services to non-public schools. Instead, the CRRSA provided a set-aside from the Governors Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund for non-public schools.

Contact Information

Please email DEED.CARES@Alaska.gov with any additional questions.