

Tennessee ARP ESSER State Plan Highlights

Total ARP ESSER allocation for Tennessee: \$2,489,423,407

ARP ESSER funding released to Tennessee on March 24, 2021: \$1,658,425,387

ARP ESSER funding released to Tennessee on July 15, 2021: \$830,998,020

2020-2021 Preliminary Statewide Enrollment: 985,207

Top Priorities within Tennessee's plan:

- Combatting existing gaps in student achievement and opportunity
- Addressing the needs of rural communities
- Improving early literacy
- Accelerating student academic achievement

Highlights of Tennessee's plan:

- **Returning to In Person Learning in 2021:** For both summer programming in 2021 and for the 2021-2022 school year, the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) plans for districts and schools to be providing in-person instruction.
- **Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining Safe Operations:** The vast majority of districts across the state re-opened with some form of in-person instruction at the start of the 2020-21 school year, with 98 percent offering with an in-person option for at least half of the year and 100 percent operating with an in-person option by early spring 2021. When Tennessee first moved to reopen schools, TDOE focused on ensuring that every district across the state could prepare for the new school year by prioritizing safety and providing in-person learning options for students and families; provided a Reopening Guide to plan for an eventual return to in-person instruction, dozens of toolkits, grant funding, and implemented Continuous Learning Plan policy with the State Board of Education to ensure districts had plans for continuity of instruction. TDOE will continue to work with health experts to develop resources that align with and support CDC recommendations.
- **Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time:** TDOE will use ARP ESSER funds to support high-dosage tutoring using a statewide tutoring model, called Tennessee Accelerating Literacy and Learning Corps (TN ALL Corps). This model will span the next three years, and will provide tutor training and certification, grade-level specific content, high-dosage tutoring, significant guidance and tutoring resources, and a directory of TDOE-reviewed providers. TDOE will offer districts the opportunity to apply for matching grants to fund TN ALL Corps, as well as offer matching grants for community partners to help provide academic acceleration supports for students. TDOE will also continue to invest in reading and early literacy through its statewide Reading360 initiative, launched earlier this year, directing a suite of supports and resources to boost third grade reading proficiency.
- **Investing in Summer Learning and Expanded Afterschool Programs:** Ensuring students and families had opportunities to extend learning beyond classrooms, TDOE developed at-home learning resources and materials in partnerships with Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network (TSIN) that continue today, and recently made available free Reading360 decodable readers for families with young children to focus on strengthening early reading skills. To support new statewide summer programming and tutoring supports for students, TDOE will provide resources for instruction in summer learning camps as well as district and community partner grants to support high dosage tutoring models.

- **Community Engagement and Consultation:** TDOE engaged with over 150 education stakeholders in Tennessee. TDOE organized input to align with TDOE's strategic priorities of academics, student readiness, and educators. Additionally, TDOE developed an ESSER planning guidance document and webpage of additional resources to provide transparency to the public on how decisions are made at the state level and the expected outcomes related to those decisions.
- **When Tennessee's LEA Use of Funds Plans will be due:** August 27, 2021