

Alaska ARP ESSER State Plan Highlights

Total ARP ESSER allocation for Alaska: \$358,770,937

ARP ESSER funding released to Alaska on March 24, 2021: \$239,138,089

ARP ESSER funding released to Alaska on August 26, 2021: \$119,632,848

2020-2021 K-12 Statewide Enrollment: 126,876

Top Priorities within Alaska's plan:

- Supporting face-to-face instruction
- Expanding social, emotional, and mental health supports
- Implementing strategies to reduce the "learning loss" that occurred during the pandemic

Highlights of Alaska's Plan:

- **Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining Safe Operations:** The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) will provide districts guidance and support through a variety of methods, including providing current CDC guidance on: masks; physical distancing; handwashing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning; contact tracing; diagnostic and screening testing; vaccination efforts; and appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities. DEED will work closely with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services to provide statewide guidance and additional resources and supports on mitigation plans required under the ARP Act.
- **Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time:** DEED will focus on evidence-based strategies for reading and career and technical education. DEED will support districts, community-based organizations, tribal organizations, and other non-profit entities in implementing evidence-based reading instruction for grades K-5, provide educators with professional development in the science of reading, and make high quality instructional resources and activities available to all students statewide. DEED will also create statewide career and technical education programs of study that span elementary to postsecondary education. Lastly, DEED will partner with local communities to design and implement projects involving academic tutoring, work-based learning, and general school improvement efforts.
- **Investing in Summer Learning and Expanded Afterschool Programs:** DEED will establish a grant program for summer and afterschool out of school time that prioritizes students most impacted by the pandemic (students from low-income families, students from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, English learners, students with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, migratory students, and students in foster care) and focus on literacy, career readiness, or work-based learning. The program design must include academic and social-emotional skills, consistent and frequent participation by students, and small staff-to-student ratios. Both school districts and community-based organizations are able to receive grant funding.
- **Supporting Students' Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs:** DEED is using ARP ESSER funds to support in-house school social workers who will assist district staff with social work tasks in rural and remote districts. The social workers will provide professional development on trauma-engaged practices, virtual self-care, training on reducing student stress and depression, support for escalating anxiety of staff and students, social emotional learning, and school mental health related resources.

When Alaska's LEA Use of Funds Plans Were Due: August 23, 2021