

Louisiana ARP ESSER State Plan Highlights

Total ARP ESSER allocation for Louisiana: \$2,607,344,054

ARP ESSER funding released to Louisiana on March 24, 2021: \$1,736,975,550

ARP ESSER funding released to Louisiana on August 26, 2021: \$870,368,504

2020-2021 Preliminary Statewide Enrollment: 693,150

Top Priorities within Louisiana's plan:

- Addressing unfinished learning
- Improving student engagement and attendance
- Addressing infrastructure shortages, such as those related to Internet access

Highlights of Louisiana's Plan

- **Supporting Students Most Impacted by the Pandemic:** The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) requires Louisiana school systems to develop plans that focus on addressing interrupted instruction for underserved students, including students living in deep poverty, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care. LDOE has provided guidance to school systems on analyzing data to determine students' current needs. School systems have updated reopening plans in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year that are focused on in-person instruction.
- **Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time:** LDOE will allocate ARP ESSER funds reserved for addressing the impact of lost instructional time to school systems through a discretionary grant process that prioritizes students most impacted by the pandemic. The state's plan emphasizes accelerating learning—which connects unfinished instruction to new learning rather than remediation—and includes tutoring in reading and math.
- **Expanding Summer Learning and Enrichment Opportunities:** LDOE intends to award incentive funds to support school systems in implementing summer learning programs that include tutoring and community service opportunities. The summer learning programs will prioritize students most impacted by the pandemic.
- **Expanding Afterschool Programs:** LDOE intends to award incentive funds to support school systems in implementing comprehensive afterschool programs that include elective opportunities, tutoring, and mentorship. These programs will rebuild strong relationships with students and families through mentoring, assisting students' transition back to in-person learning, addressing gaps in learning through one-on-one or small group focused instruction, and engaging students in enrichment activities to foster meaningful experiences.
- **Focusing on Early Literacy:** LDOE will allocate ARP ESSER funds to provide literacy screeners to school systems. The state will also use ARP ESSER funds to support Louisiana's Science of Reading initiative to improve literacy and decrease the number of students "at risk" for reading difficulties.
- **Strengthening the Educator Pipeline:** LDOE will invest ARP ESSER funds to strengthen the educator pipeline through three key initiatives: provide new teacher supports to increase retention; expand pre-educator pathways to build a cadre of aspiring teachers; and increase the number of content leaders who are local educators who have the knowledge, skills, and concrete resources to provide high-quality, content-rich, and curriculum-specific professional development to new and current teachers in their districts.

- **Emphasizing Student Engagement:** LDOE is using ARP ESSER funds to create a new state-level leadership role in the Office of College and Career Readiness to lead state-level efforts to identify and re-engage students who have missed significant amounts of school during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years. This position will also serve as the subject matter authority on child welfare and attendance programs, and develop and manage cross-agency initiatives. LDOE is also partnering with Louisiana State University to re-engage students who have missed in-person instruction or have been disengaged in remote instruction.

When Louisiana's LEA Use of Funds Plans will be Due: September 30, 2021