

Pennsylvania ARP ESSER State Plan Highlights

Total ARP ESSER allocation for Pennsylvania: \$5,000,509,384

ARP ESSER funding released to Pennsylvania on March 24, 2021: \$3,331,302,101

ARP ESSER funding released to Pennsylvania on August 5, 2021: \$1,669,207,283

2020-2021 Preliminary Statewide Enrollment: 1,704,396

Top Priorities within Pennsylvania plan:

- Developing student and educator and staff mental health supports
- Strengthening connectivity and equity of access in remote learning and addressing instructional and learning inequities
- Addressing human capital challenges, including staffing shortages

Highlights of Pennsylvania Plan:

- **Returning to In Person Learning in 2021:** The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) expects the vast majority of schools will resume in-person instruction at the start of the 2021–22 school year.
- **Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining Safe Operations:** PDE, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency collaborated with Intermediate Units and other education partners this spring to offer COVID-19 vaccinations to school employees and contracted staff as quickly as possible. Many schools offered vaccinations to educators and eligible students last spring. PDE has also partnered with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to vaccinate migrant students and families over the summer.
- **Addressing the Academic and Other Impacts of Lost Instructional Time:** The Pennsylvania state budget allocated the ARP ESSER reserve for evidence-based interventions to address the academic and other impacts of lost instructional time as subgrants to school districts and other schools eligible to receive Title I-A funding. PDE will provide a list of vetted evidence-based interventions through its Evidence Resource Center. PDE is emphasizing the use of ARP ESSER funds for social, emotional, and mental health supports; professional development and technical assistance to educators, school support staff, school leaders, and school health professionals; and reading support and improvement for students. Subrecipients will be required to use at least 30 percent of the required State set-aside for addressing the academic impact of lost instructional time to support students' social, emotional, and mental health needs. PDE has developed guidance and planning tools to support subrecipients in evaluating and addressing the pandemic's disproportionate impact on vulnerable students and communities using ARP ESSER funding.
- **Investing in Summer Learning and Expanded Afterschool Programs:** PDE will allocate summer enrichment and comprehensive afterschool formula grants to school districts, available through the period of ARP ESSER funding. Interventions will include activities such as learning academies, 1:1 tutoring, socialization, and development of social-emotional skills and growth mindsets. School districts will be required to target funds to student groups disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.
- **When Pennsylvania LEA Use of Funds Plans will be Due:** Districts are encouraged to apply by September 2, 2021.