

Maryland ARP ESSER State Plan Highlights

Total ARP ESSER allocation for Maryland: \$1,952,539,087

ARP ESSER funding released to Maryland on March 24, 2021: \$1,300,757,868

ARP ESSER funding released to Maryland on October 14, 2021: \$651,781,219

2020-2021 Preliminary Statewide Enrollment: 882,527

Top Priorities within Maryland's Plan:

- Accelerating the return to in-person instruction across the state
- Addressing the mental health and social-emotional learning needs of students, particularly among underserved students most impacted by the pandemic, and of educators
- Addressing the impact resulting from the disruption to learning since the beginning of the pandemic

Highlights of Maryland's Plan:

- **Returning to In-Person Learning in 2021:** The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) supported all districts to return to full time, in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year.
- **Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining Safe Operations:** MSDE works closely with the Maryland Department of Health and other State agencies to promote vaccination opportunities for school staff and eligible students. In March 2021, Maryland local school systems reported that more than 97 percent of all eligible staff members (teachers, administrators, and support staff) who had requested a vaccine had been vaccinated.
- **Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time:** MSDE will focus on acceleration strategies that support students by providing more time in class, more dedicated attention in class, and exposure to grade-level learning. Most school systems are using a tiered approach to support all students, offering varying levels of support to students based on identified need. Students are identified for the type of support they will receive by school system using data. All funds reserved under this section will be allocated to districts based on the Title I formula. Districts will implement strategies including: high intensity structured tutoring, extended day/year programming, summer school programs, acceleration academies, formative assessments, and early childhood programs.
- **Investing in Expanded Afterschool Programs:** MSDE released an afterschool program request for proposal in July 2021 to solicit grant applications from districts and community-based agencies to develop or enhance afterschool programs. MSDE will grant awards to support the creation of afterschool learning centers to provide academic enrichment opportunities during afterschool hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. Community-based organizations and school districts will provide academic and enrichment services over a three-year period to ensure students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs are being addressed.
- **Supporting Students' and Educators Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs:** MSDE will use a portion of ARP ESSER emergency needs funds to support students' social emotional

needs, including \$10 million in funds to support the regional Maryland School Mental Health Response Program teams, and \$3.2 million to address adverse childhood experiences.

- **Supporting Students Most Impacted:** The MSDE Task Force on Achieving Academic Equity and Excellence for Black Boys (AAEEDB) has developed several evidence-based recommendations to address the inequities experienced by Black boys in eight LEAs across the state. Grant funding will be allocated to districts to implement the recommendations of the task force's report, focusing on: 1) social-emotional and behavioral supports; 2) recruitment and training of effective teachers and administrators; and 3) curricula and instruction. Examples of evidence-based recommendations include: de-escalation and intervention training for all school staff, providing financial incentives to recruit and retain diverse teachers and administrators, and coordinating structured mentoring programs for black boys in grades K-12 with adult males and peers.
- **When Maryland's LEA Use of Funds Plans were due:** July 20, 2021