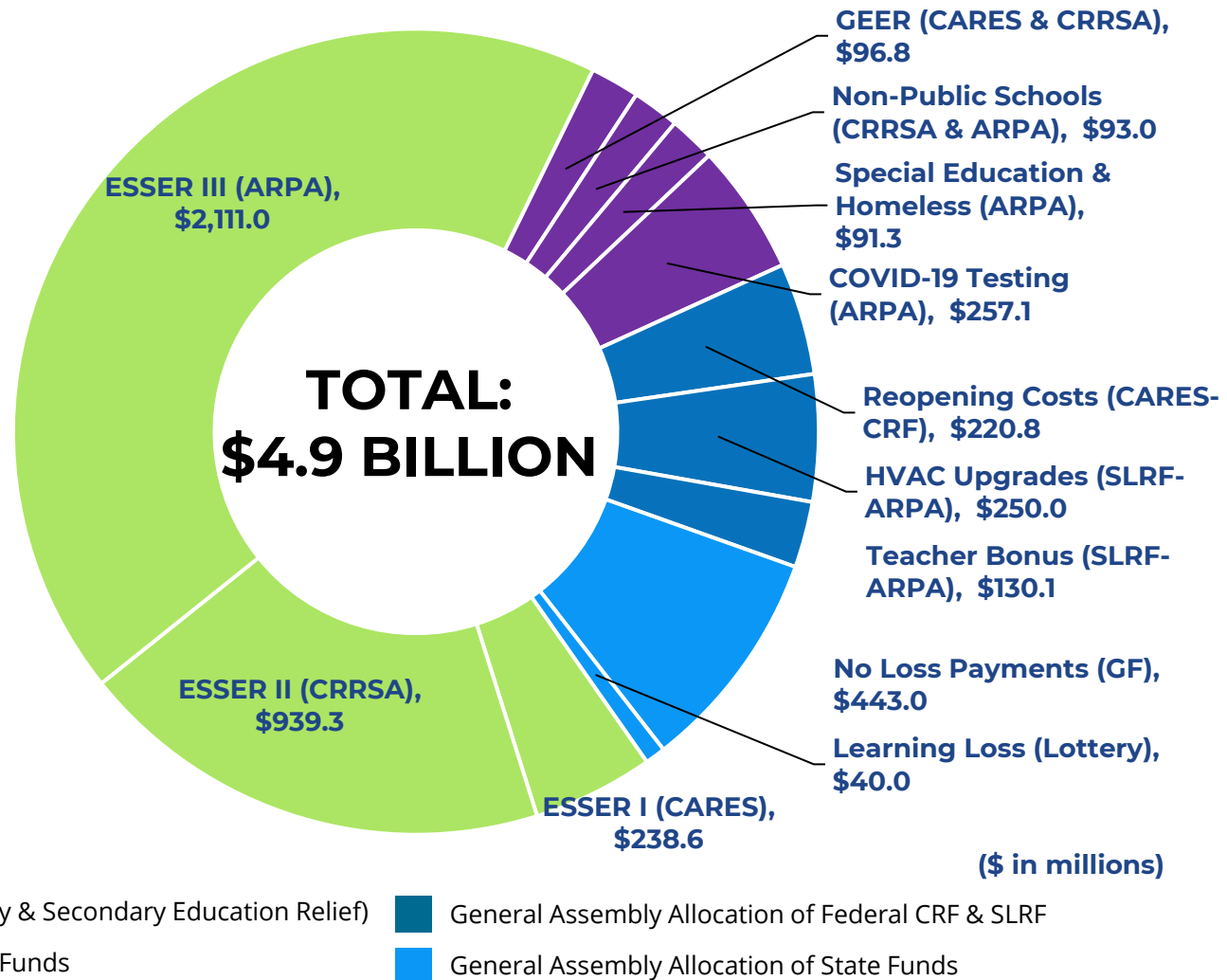


# COVID-19 Relief for Education Has Been Significant

- Across the three major federal relief packages, majority of K-12 relief provided through \$3.3 billion in flexible ESSER funds
- General Assembly also provided K-12 assistance through flexible federal CRF & SLRF funds, and state funds



# ESSER Provided Flexible Relief

- Of the \$3.3 billion in ESSER funds awarded to Virginia:
  - 90% of funds awarded directly to school divisions
    - Distribution based on existing proportion of Title I, Part A funds
  - Remaining 10% retained for statewide initiatives

\$ in millions	CARES ESSER I March 2020	CRRSA ESSER II Dec. 2020	ARPA ESSER III March 2021	TOTAL
State Set-Aside (10%)	\$23.9	\$93.9	\$210.9	<b>\$328.7</b>
Pass-Through to School Division (90%)	214.7	845.4	1,898.5	<b>2,958.6</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$238.6</b>	<b>\$939.3</b>	<b>\$2,110.0</b>	<b>\$3,288.9</b>



# ESSER Funds:

## Mandatory & Discretionary Uses

- Most of the \$3.3 billion may be used for any eligible use; however, a portion of the funds are restricted:

	State Set-Aside \$328.7 million	School Division Pass-thru \$2.96 billion
<b>Mandatory Uses of ESSER Funds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ \$105.6 million to address learning loss</li><li>✓ \$21.1 million for summer enrichment</li><li>✓ \$21.1 for comprehensive afterschool programs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ \$379.7 million to address learning loss</li></ul>
<b>Discretionary Funds: Any Eligible Use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ <b>\$180.9 million</b></li><li>✓ Maximum \$16.4 million for administrative costs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ <b>\$2.58 billion</b></li></ul>



# Eligible Uses of ESSER Funds

---

- Uses permitted under other federal education programs (ESSA, IDEA, Perkins, McKinney-Vento)
- Activities supporting low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, other student subgroups
- Addressing learning loss, summer school & afterschool programs
- Educational technology
- Mental health supports
- COVID-19 preparedness, response, cleaning
- Facility improvements & repairs to support public health
- HVAC maintenance and upgrades
- Stabilizing and supporting educator workforce, including compensation
- Other activities necessary to maintain operation and continuity of services in school divisions and continuing to employ existing staff



# K-12 Workforce & School Facilities

US DOE has provided clarification on use of ESSER funds to support the K-12 workforce and school facility needs

## Hiring & Retaining Effective Educators

Evidence-based short & long-term strategies

Compensation (signing & retention bonuses)

Paying for staff training & licensure in critical need areas

Recruitment, retention, and training of high-quality substitute teachers

Establishing supportive systems (staff mentoring programs, scheduling planning time into work hours)

Increasing availability of qualified personnel to support staff and students (through community, business, and higher ed partnerships, teaching candidates, trained volunteers, additional staff to support mental health needs)

Educator pipeline investments (loan forgiveness, grants, service scholarships for commitments to teach, residency programs)

## Facility Construction & Renovation

Construction and renovation is permitted, but discouraged as it may limit support for other essential COVID-19 needs and limited period of funding availability

Projects must:

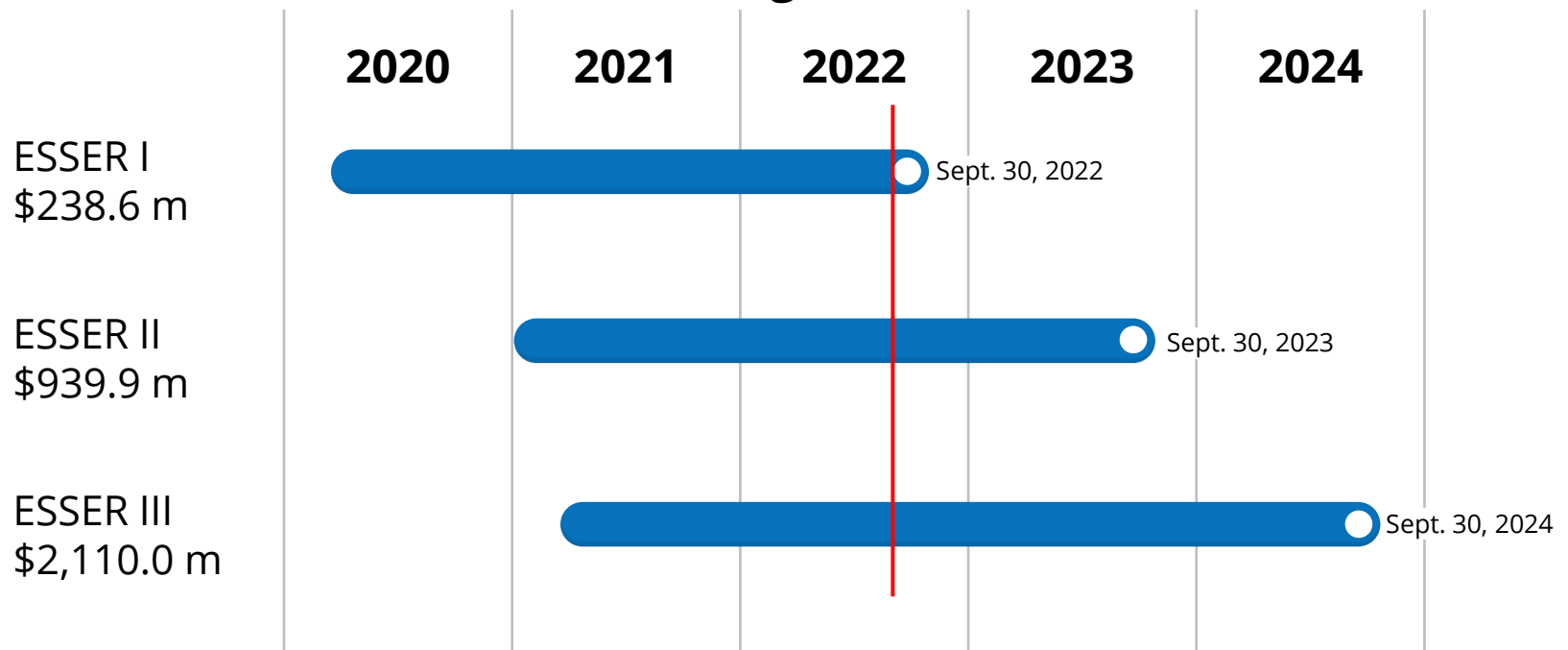
- Comply with various federal requirements including: prevailing wage requirements, environmental & historic property impact assessments
- Meet the overall purpose of the federal relief – “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to” COVID-19
- Receive prior written approval from the state, as state is responsible for ensuring school divisions meet federal requirements



# ESSER Spending Deadlines

- Deadline to obligate ESSER I funds is end of this month; ESSER III funds available for obligation two more years – until September 30, 2024
- After obligation deadlines, school divisions have three additional months to spend funds

## ESSER Fund Obligation Deadlines



# Limited Information Available about Proposed Uses of Funds

---

- State and school divisions required to provide US Dept. of Education a spending plan for ESSER III funds; however, plans provide little specificity or comparability
- Otherwise, no information about use of funds is available until school division seeks reimbursement
- Appropriation Act language will require school divisions to report on planned uses and timing for remaining ESSER funds
  - Report should be available in coming months

