

# ***Update on Use of Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funding***

**Presented to:  
House Appropriations Committee**

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# ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF (ESSER) FUNDING - OVERVIEW

- ESSER I, II, & III funds provided to states under three separate federal acts: CARES, CRRSA, ARPA
- 90% of funds required to be allocated to “LEAs” (i.e., school divisions) based on Title I formula; 10% of funds available for state set-aside awards and state administration
- ARPA ESSER III requires 20% of divisions’ formula funds be reserved to address learning loss
- School divisions filed local plans with VDOE outlining their use of ESSER I, II, & III funding. Plans are revised when significant spending changes are proposed and approved by VDOE (e.g., facilities upgrades)
- ESSER III local plans are publicly posted

# ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF (ESSER) FUNDING - OVERVIEW

- This presentation provides an update on uses of ESSER funds, LEA reimbursements made to date by VDOE, and VDOE expenditures of state set-aside funds
- Reimbursement/expenditure information is as of September 1
- In many cases, divisions have obligated their ESSER funds (e.g., PO's, contracts, payroll, etc.) and/or spent them, but have not yet filed for reimbursement with VDOE
- Divisions may file for reimbursement using VDOE's online grant system for payment on a weekly cycle
- After each September 30th obligation deadline for ESSER I, II, and III funds, final reimbursements will be processed by VDOE by December 31 each year

# ESSER FORMULA FUND SPENDING

LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY (LEA) REIMBURSEMENTS - AS OF SEPTEMBER 2022

	AWARDED TO LEAs	EXPENDED/ REIMBURSED	BALANCE	PERCENT REMAINING
ESSER I FORMULA	\$214,739,273	\$194,284,708	\$20,454,565	9.5%
ESSER II FORMULA	\$845,352,520	\$371,833,916	\$473,518,604	56%
ESSER III FORMULA	\$1,899,890,002	\$284,741,923	\$1,615,148,079	85%
TOTAL	\$2,959,981,795	\$850,860,547	\$2,109,121,248	71%

# ESSER LEA FORMULA FUNDS - % USE BY CATEGORY

USE OF FUNDS	ESSER I	ESSER II	ESSER III
Technology and Support for Digital Instruction	33%	14%	9%
Sanitization/Physical Health and Safety	12%	14%	7%
Operational Continuity	1%	1%	14%
Extended School Programs	<1%	12%	12%
Meeting Students' Academic, Social, Emotional and Other Needs	4%	9%	13%
Mental Health Supports	3%	2%	3%
*Other	38%	48%	42%
Equitable Services for Nonpublic Schools	9%	N/A	N/A

\*"Other" includes salary and benefits, hazard pay, and pay for additional duties. For ESSER I, continuity of operations was also included in this category during initial categorization of expenses. Indirect costs are also included.

Source: Online Management of Education Grant Awards (OMEGA) spending reports

# ESSER LEA FORMULA FUNDS - % OF FUNDS REIMBURSED BY REGION

REGION	ESSER I % REIMBURSED	ESSER II % REIMBURSED	ESSER III % REIMBURSED
1 - CENTRAL VIRGINIA	94%	43%	15%
2 - TIDEWATER AND EASTERN SHORE	84%	41%	6%
3 - NORTHERN NECK AND MIDDLE PENINSULA	82%	47%	17%
4 - NORTHERN VIRGINIA	93%	42%	20%
5 - BLUE RIDGE AND VALLEY	88%	46%	24%
6 - WESTERN VIRGINIA	98%	53%	17%
7 - SOUTHWEST	93%	49%	18%
8 - SOUTHSIDE	98%	45%	15%

*Virginia school divisions are listed by region on the [VDOE website](#).*



# ESSER STATE SET ASIDE SPENDING

## STATE EDUCATION AGENCY (SEA) EXPENDITURES BY VDOE AND LEA/IHE REIMBURSEMENTS - AS OF SEPTEMBER 2022

	AWARDED/ BUDGETED	EXPENDED/ REIMBURSED	BALANCE	PERCENT REMAINING
ESSER I	\$23,859,919	\$19,705,228	\$4,154,691	17%
ESSER II	\$93,928,058	\$36,695,714	\$57,232,344	61%
ESSER III	\$211,098,889	\$11,164,181	\$199,934,709	95%
TOTAL	\$328,886,866	\$67,565,122	\$261,321,744	79%

# ESSER I STATE SET ASIDE USES OF FUNDS

ESSER I SET ASIDE USE OF FUNDS	AWARD/ BUDGET	EXPENDED/ REIMBURSED	BALANCE
<i>Awards to LEAs (includes spec. ed. services/supports, cleaning supplies/PPE, facilities upgrades, summer school, instructional delivery, mental health &amp; SEL supports, regional program grants)</i>	\$15,874,789	\$12,531,725	\$3,343,064
LASER Data Analytics Project	\$2,079,602	\$1,847,599	\$232,003
Virtual Virginia Content Expansion	\$2,810,000	\$2,810,000	\$0
VDOE Continuity of Operations, Translation of Resources, Technology Training and Instructional Access	\$670,107	\$670,107	\$0
SOL Remote and Local Growth Assessments	\$1,232,515	\$666,051	\$566,464
VDOE Administration	\$1,192,907	\$1,179,747	\$13,160



# ESSER II STATE SET ASIDE USES OF FUNDS

ESSER II SET ASIDE USE OF FUNDS	AWARD/ BUDGET	EXPENDED/ REIMBURSED	BALANCE
Awards to LEAs <i>(extended school year, *addressing learning loss, bus driver incentives, *add. yr. HS for spec. ed., early childhood provisional teachers)</i>	\$58,614,127	\$22,515,843	\$36,098,284
LASER Data Analytics Project	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000
Virtual Virginia (content expansion & LMS)	\$14,355,671	\$7,934,043	\$6,421,628
*SOL Through Year Growth Assessments	\$8,750,000	\$4,483,482	\$4,266,518
Social Emotional Learning Supports	\$500,000	\$45,963	\$454,037
Teacher Recruitment, Retention, and Principal Support	\$1,091,000	\$1,091,000	\$0
Professional Learning and Microcredentialing (Planned)	\$900,000	\$0	\$900,000
Library of Va. online homework assistance (Homework HelpNow) and YMCA Partnership for Petersburg - Before/After School Care (New)	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000
Student Growth Measure RE Learning Loss (New)	\$4,220,857	\$0	\$4,220,857
VDOE Administration	\$4,696,403	\$625,383	\$4,071,020

*\*General Assembly-directed use*

# ESSER III STATE SET ASIDE USES OF FUNDS

ESSER III SET ASIDE USE OF FUNDS	AWARD/ BUDGET	EXPENDED/ REIMBURSED	BALANCE
Awards to LEAs (address <i>learning loss, before/after school, summer school, *teacher recruitment/retention, *additional yr. HS for special education</i> )	\$119,028,693	\$10,242,850	\$108,785,843
LASER Data Analytics Project	\$1,037,269	\$0	\$1,037,269
SOL Through Year Growth Assessments	\$17,500,000	\$0	\$17,500,000
SOL Assessments	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$4,000,000
Virginia Tiered Systems of Support (VTSS)	\$525,000	\$0	\$525,000
Teacher Recruitment & Retention and Principal Support Statewide Initiatives	\$12,300,000	\$781,346	\$11,518,654
Statewide Tutoring Program (New); Instructional & Office of School Quality Staffing	\$28,341,179	\$139,985	\$28,201,194
Early Childhood Curriculum, PALS, VKRP Expansion & Integration	\$8,952,000	\$0	\$8,952,000
Support for Extracurricular Activities (New)	\$3,450,000	\$0	\$3,450,000
Childcare for Teachers (New)	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$1,500,000
YMCA Partnership for Petersburg - Before/After School Care (New)	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
Student Growth Measure RE Learning Loss (New)	\$3,659,804	\$0	\$3,659,804
VDOE Administration	\$10,554,944	\$0	\$10,554,944

*\*General Assembly-directed use*

# PROSPECTIVE ESSER FUNDING ISSUES/OBSERVATIONS

- Observations on ESSER program limitations:
  - given current conditions, federal requirements could have directed a greater percentage of LEA/state set-aside funds on addressing learning loss, teacher shortages, and teacher quality needs
  - multi-year timelines for using funds can slow implementation of interventions
  - limited requirements for using evidence-based interventions and evaluation
- Going forward, the Commonwealth could prioritize/encourage use of remaining ESSER funds (LEA & state set-aside) around:
  - high-quality teachers (e.g., evidence-based professional development and mentoring)
  - recruitment/retention (e.g., hiring/retention incentives, compensating teachers for extended learning time, developing local teacher pipelines, support for meeting licensure requirements, Gov's. recent Exec. Directive 3)
  - addressing learning loss (e.g., high dosage tutoring, before/after school-weekend-summer-intercession programs, scaling-up evidence-based reading interventions)
  - accelerating student learning (e.g., parental engagement strategies, mental health supports, community schools models, credit recovery interventions)

# PROSPECTIVE ESSER FUNDING ISSUES/OBSERVATIONS

- Later this fall, school divisions will provide the reporting required in Chapter 2 on their obligated and planned/intended uses of their remaining ESSER II and III formula funds, and timing for doing so. VDOE will compile the collected information in a report submitted to HAC/SFAC