



# Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funding (ESSER)



**DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY  
& SECONDARY EDUCATION**

# ESSER Funds

- *Prevent, Prepare for, Respond to COVID-19*
- *Reasonable and Necessary*
- Expenditures must show connection to COVID



# ESSER Funds

- Funds are different from other federal funds
  - Can be used broadly (all schools/students) or targeted (specific student needs or groups)
    - i. CARES (**ESSER 1**)
    - ii. Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (**ESSER II**)
    - iii. American Recovery Plan (**ARP ESSER**)
      - *Set-aside to address learning loss*
      - *Maintenance of Equity*



## Broad categories for eligible uses of funds

- **Direct Student Supports/Continuous Learning**
- **Technology**
- **Systemic Procedures**
- **Facilities** (prior approval from DESE)
- **Transportation** (prior approval from DESE)
- **High Quality Instructional Materials**
- **Preventing Learning Loss**
- **Additional Pay** (plan to justify decisions)
- **Maintenance of Equity**
  - \* **Continuity of Operations**
  - \* **Budgetary Shortfalls**



# Emergency Funds Available

To prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID



## Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (March 2020)

- Arkansas received \$128 Million (90% went to districts)
- Commonly referred to as CARES or ESSER I
- State provided:
  - Digital Curriculum Options
  - PPE
  - Formative Assessments for districts
  - Statewide Comprehensive Contact Tracing for Schools
  - Wi-fi program (22,000)
  - COVID Pay for Educators
  - EngageAR
- Districts focus:
  - Reopening of schools
  - Technology for students and staff (many went one-to one)
  - Cleaning and disinfecting supplies
  - PPE



# Emergency Funds Available

To prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID



## Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (Dec. 2020)

- Arkansas received \$558 Million
- Commonly referred to as CRRSA or ESSER II
- State provided:
  - Teaching Academies
  - Yr 2 of Digital Content K-12
  - Yr 2 of Formative Assessments
  - Pre-K curriculum
  - Supplemental funds to districts
- District focus:
  - Air Quality, Facilities, and Transportation
  - Health and safety
  - Hero pay/Compensation for additional COVID-related work
  - Budgetary shortfalls



# SUCCESS in 2020-2021



- Arkansas schools provided FULL YEAR of in-person and remote instruction for 473,000+ students
- Engage AR 66,708 calls made to students; over 4,000 receiving direct support
- Comprehensive Contact Tracing and Data System for schools (ADH partnership)
- Priority testing and vaccinations for educators
- COVID leave for educators
- Ready for Learning Plans and Waivers
- State Provided Digital Content
- State Provided Formative Assessment
- Arkansas AMI (AR PBS partnership)
- 22,000+ Mifi devices distributed



# Modes of Instruction in Arkansas 20-21



- All schools opened for in-person instruction on August 24, 2020
- 2 fully remote or online open-enrollment charter schools in state
- Expansion of district conversion charters providing remote, blended, or online
- 262 districts: Both daily in-person and remote instruction options provided

## Beginning of School Year

- 63% in person
- 37% remote or hybrid

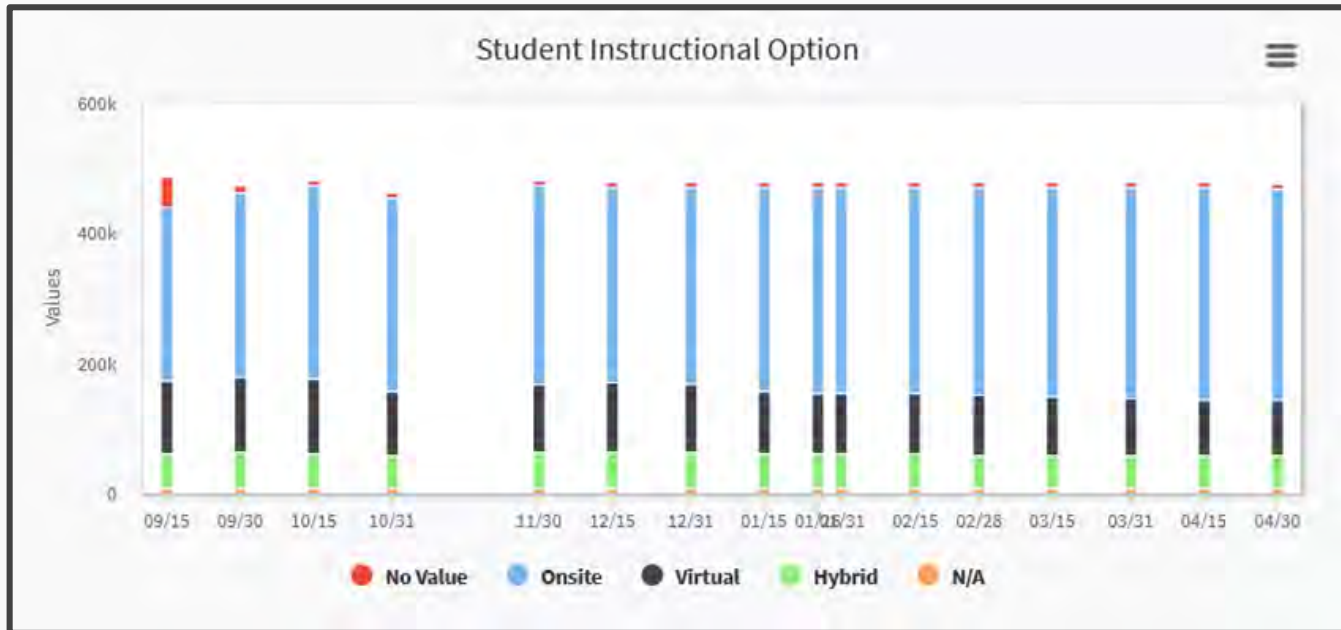
## Current

- 70% in person
- 30% remote or hybrid





# Student Instructional Option: Trending



# CONCERNS for 2021



- Significant decline in enrollment for Pre-K and primary grades in 2020
- Overall enrollment declines and impact on LEA ADM long-term
- Mental health concerns around grief, isolation, and anxiety
- Loss of student enrollment
- Lack of student engagement
- Access to technology and broadband
- Potential of loss credits or student retention

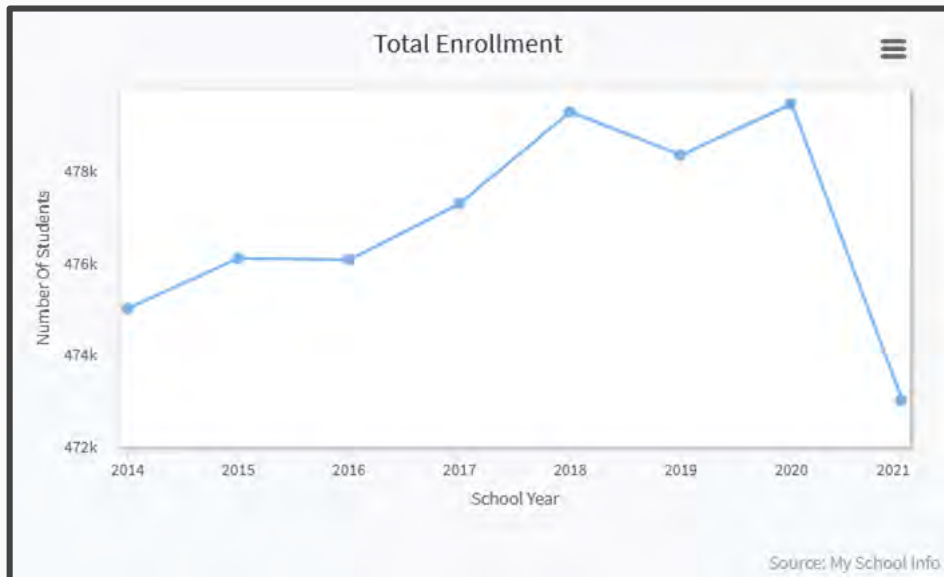
*Now is the time for acceleration, not retention*



# Enrollment Graph: 2014 - 2021



Student Enrollment decline of **6,428** students 2020-2021



School Year	Number Of Students
2014	474995
2015	476083
2016	476049
2017	477268
2018	479258
2019	478318
2020	479432
2021	473004

# American Rescue Plan



To help schools return safely to in-person instruction, maximize in-person instruction time, sustain the safe operations of schools, and address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health impacts of COVID-19



# American Rescue Plan

...maximize in-person instruction time, sustain the safe operations of schools, and address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health impacts of COVID-19



## American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (March 11, 2021)

- Arkansas will receive \$1.27 billion
- Referred to as ARP ESSER
- Interim Rules and Regulations
  - Released April 22nd
  - Requires SEA plan due June 7
  - Requires LEA plan



# American Rescue Plan (SEA)

...maximize in-person instruction time, sustain the safe operations of schools, and address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health impacts of COVID-19



## American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (March 11, 2021)

- AR Dept. of Ed. must submit an application by June 7
  - Requires meaningful consultation by the state
  - Describes educational needs within Arkansas
  - Describes intended uses of ARP ESSER
  - Plan for supporting school districts with their required plans
  - Ensuring school districts have plans that meet requirements
  - Plan for monitoring school districts

# American Rescue Plan (LEA) Local Education Agency Plan



*An LEA's decision about how to use its ARP ESSER funds will directly impact the students, families, educators and stakeholders in the school district.* It is important that the LEA's plans be tailored to the *specific needs* faced by students and schools within the district.

In developing a local ARP ESSER plan, an LEA **must**:

1. Engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders.
2. Provide the public the opportunity to provide input and take such input into account.
3. Engage stakeholders in feedback *during the development* of the plan.
4. Publish the plan, written in an understandable format using state template on the district's website

# Required to PLAN and seek INPUT





# American Rescue Plan (SEA)



...maximize in-person instruction time, sustain the safe operations of schools, and address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health impacts of COVID-19

- Arkansas will receive \$1.27 billion
  - 90% distributed to districts with ARP ESSER accepted plans
  - 10% State use
    - 5% Carry out activities to address the academic impact of lost instructional time
    - 1% Implementation of evidenced-based summer programs
    - 1% implementation of evidence-based comprehensive after school programs
    - 3% Emergency needs determined by SEA
      - Each reservation requires SEA use evidenced-based interventions that respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students, particularly groups of students disproportionately impacted.

# Community Partnerships



SEA looking for community partnerships needed to support providing evidence-based comprehensive summer and afterschool programs.

1% Implementation of evidenced-based  
summer programs

1% Implementation of evidence-based  
comprehensive after school programs

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much"*

*Helen Keller*



# American Rescue Plan



*“With strategic investment, American Rescue Plan ESSER funding can build the capacity of States, LEAs, and schools to sustain meaningful and effective teaching and learning and address the needs of underserved students”*

*Rules and Regulations pg 21197*

# Stakeholder Feedback for ADE Plan



Please provide feedback:

<https://forms.gle/Tbi2bWJXQr7Pekt7A>



# Additional Links

[https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/FINAL\\_ARP-ESSER-FACT-SHEET.pdf](https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/FINAL_ARP-ESSER-FACT-SHEET.pdf)